Welcome

2020 has been a busy year for SaskOutdoors. We launched a podcast, hosted numerous virtual events for participants across the province, offered three separate grant opportunities, and shared and contributed to resources that supported parents and educators through drastic adjustments to our education system.

Beginning in March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic limited the ability to offer our typical in-person events and training workshops. In response, SaskOutdoors transitioned most of our programming to online webinars and online professional development workshops. As restrictions lifted later in 2020, we began to resume in-person programming where safe and appropriate.
Vision of SaskOutdoors

We imagine a province where every person can experience a deep connection with nature, where people play and learn outdoors, and live in harmony with their natural surroundings.

Mission of SaskOutdoors

The mission of SaskOutdoors is to connect people of Saskatchewan to the outdoors and inspire a sense of curiosity and play within our natural environment by passionately delivering programs and services that promote awareness of outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship.
Guiding Principles

The 2020-2022 Strategic Plan has 5 strategic priorities:

1. Facilitating and providing varied outdoor experiences for people.
2. Increasing public awareness and involvement.
3. Building a viable and sustainable organization.
4. Developing partnerships and alliances.
5. Influencing outdoor education policies and curriculum.
Funding Model

SaskOutdoors is a Provincial Recreation Association (PRA) with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA). As a PRA, we receive annual funding for recreation activities. In 2020, SaskOutdoors received $61,685 from SPRA. The money from SPRA is the majority of our operating revenue. We occasionally get other grants (often from SPRA). Other revenues come from membership and registration fees from events.

Relationship with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF)
SaskOutdoors is a Professional Growth Network (PGN) with the STF. We receive a small amount of money from the STF for each STF member who is a member of SaskOutdoors. In order to maintain our PGN status 50% of our board must be STF registered educators.
Facilitating and Providing Outdoor Experiences

- Learn To... Events
- Go Do...Events
- Professional Development Programs
- Outdoor and Environmental Action Grant Program
- Canoe Certification and Remote First Aid
- Connecting Educators
- Lots of Space for Place-Based Map
- Let's Talk Outdoors Podcast
**Learn To...Events:** These workshops taught new outdoor related skills to participants. In 2020 they included: Orienteering For Kids (in person), Day Trip First Aid Webinar, Risky Play Webinar, Emergency Preparedness Webinar, Group First Aid Webinar, Going Outside 101 Webinars, and How to Host Your Own Kids Club Webinar.

**Go Do...Events:** Go Do events engage participants in outdoor activities. In 2020 these events included: Winterful Adventures for Young Explorers and The Get Outside Kids Club in Regina in partnership with Nature Regina and Nature Saskatchewan.

**Professional Development Programs:** Go SaskOutdoors facilitated workshops in Project WET, Below Zero, Project WILD and Growing Up WILD to 154 certified educators from all over Saskatchewan and beyond in both in person and virtual workshops. In partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, we offered a WILD Education Facilitator Training for 22 new facilitators.

**Canoe Certification and Remote First Aid Courses:** SaskOutdoors organized one Paddle Canada Canoe Certification Course where 9 people were certified and two Wilderness First Aid Course where 12 people were certified.
Outdoor and Environmental Action Grant Program:
Due to COVID, our regular March 15 grant application intake was postponed to July 15 (12 grants distributed). We continued with the October 15 intake (6 grants distributed) and offered a Bonus Grant in November (19 grants distributed) as we knew that educators were increasingly creative with their outdoor and environmental education offerings as the pandemic progressed. Examples of funded projects included: support for summer recreational activities, video development, citizen science, nature photography, development of land-based education videos, introduction to bird watching video, crokicurl, snowshoe rental and much more. We are continually impressed with the thoughtful, engaging, meaningful grant applications that we receive! Reports from these grants can be read in the “Our Stories” tab on our website.

Let’s Talk Outdoors Podcast: In the fall of 2020 SaskOutdoors launched the Let’s Talk Outdoors Podcast. The episodes are 30-40 minutes and involve an interview between 2 SaskOutdoors podcast hosts and 1-2 guests. In 2020, there were 1,301 downloads of the 7 episodes released. Season 2 will launch in 2021.
**Connecting Educators:** Connecting became even more important in 2020. SaskOutdoors was able to host a series of forums targeted specifically at educators during the spring/summer of 2020. These webinars provided educators a chance to connect, learn from each other and share. The webinars started with an Educators Forum and from that we learned there was a desire for similar events so we followed up with four additional forums (Early Year, Elementary, Middle Years, High School/Higher Ed). We also hosted a virtual Outdoor Educators Panel with 4 panel guests.

**Lots of Space for Place-Based Map:** During the previously mentioned forums, SaskOutdoors heard there was interest in a map of Saskatchewan where educators could share information about their place based lessons. We asked educators to make a short video that could be posted on the map. We are continuing to collect videos and content for this Place-Based Map and will be sharing and promoting this initiative through 2021.
Increasing Public Awareness & Involvement

**Equipment Rental:** SaskOutdoors has an growing inventory of equipment and supplies that are lent out to individuals and groups throughout the year including a solar oven, a binocular kit, camp cooking gear, tents, tarps, water filter and two films. A full, and expanding list, is available on our website.

**Member Engagement:** SaskOutdoors currently has 153 members and 17 lifetime members. This is an expected decrease from 2019 as all 2019 EECOM conference attendees were given a one-year membership to SaskOutdoors which expired in 2020.

**General Communications:** SaskOutdoors continues to maintain our website and distribute a monthly e-newsletter to 1,108 subscribers. In 2020, we launched a monthly e-newsletter specifically for educators titled the Envisage Teachers Edition which is sent monthly to 479 educators across the province.

We are also active on social media to promote our programs, events and services. Our Facebook page has 3,194 followers. Our Twitter account has 1,155 followers. Our Instagram account has 981 followers. SaskOutdoors is constantly striving to make effective use of all our communication channels.

Follow Us:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SaskOutdoorsSOEEA/
Instagram @saskoutdoors
Twitter @saskoutdoors
Website: https://saskoutdoors.org/
Building a Viable & Sustainable Organization

**Organizational Development:** SaskOutdoors held 10 board meetings and 11 executive meetings in 2020. The Annual General Meeting was held on March 14 at Redberry Lake Bible Camp near Saskatoon. The Board Planning Retreat was held virtually in October. The SaskOutdoors Board of Directors members received professional development funds to participate in opportunities including Project WILD/Below Zero workshop, WILD Education Facilitator Training, Getting Little Feet Wet Workshop, Wilderness First Responders Recertification course, and care packages sent to all board members in advance of our January 2021 Virtual Board Retreat.

**Administration/General Manager**
Effective Administrative practices keep SaskOutdoors running as an efficient, healthy, stable organization while making efforts to reduce our environmental impact. The Board of Directors had 11 members in 2020. SaskOutdoors has a current strategic plan (2020-2022) and a Policy Manual (last updated 2019). SaskOutdoors has a contract bookkeeper who is supporting the General Manager and Treasurer in ensuring all financial records are accurate and up to date. In 2020, SaskOutdoors contracted a Communications Coordinator to help manage graphic designs, social media and other communications.
Member Professional Development
SaskOutdoors initiated a member professional development program in 2019. There was a significant decrease in Professional Development opportunities in 2020. One member received a grant to attend a Remote First Aid Course.

Professional Growth Network
SaskOutdoors continues to be a Professional Growth Network with the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation (STF) and is looking forward to increased opportunities to reach teachers through closer work with the STF.
Partnerships and Alliances

Active Partnerships
Influencing Outdoor Education Policies and Curriculum

**Community Journal:** One issue of the journal Of Land & Living Skies was published in 2020. The title of this issue was *Love Letters to Nature*. The journal is available for free online.

**Outdoor Play Working Group:**
SaskOutdoors is a member of Active Saskatchewan’s Outdoor Play Work Group. Watch for activity from this group in 2021.

**SPEA Project:**
SaskOutdoors worked with the Saskatchewan Physical Education Association to develop a resource to support the outcomes PE20.7/PE30.7 First Nations and Métis Examine First Nation and Métis worldviews regarding learning through physical activities. This document is in the final editing phase and will be released in 2021.
**Awards**

**Melanson Award:**
Lori and Joe Milligan were the recipients of the 2020 Melanson Award.

**Weir Award:**
Ivan Thompson was the recipient of the 2020 Weir Award.

SaskOutdoors would like to acknowledge the passing of Garth Pickard in November, 2020. Garth was an accomplished educator, a Lifetime Member of SaskOutdoors, and a talented outdoorsperson with a deep love for Saskatchewan. He will be missed.
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