

An exciting and productive year at NorthWoods came to an unfortunate close with the total loss of our heating plant building in a late November fire, just as winter temperatures were settling into northern Vermont. Though challenging to staff and operations, the loss offered a reminder of the value of occasional renewal and regeneration—a lesson taught daily in our forest classroom. The outpouring of support in building materials, volunteer labor, and encouragement from a broad network of friends was incredible, and has helped us to not only rebuild, but to improve on past facility design and system efficiency.

The themes of growth and renewal were common at NorthWoods in 2012, never more so than in July, when the Center received a two-year grant from the Canaday Family Charitable Trust to establish a **Forest Stewardship Institute (FSI)** focused on teaching and modeling science-based sustainable forestry practices. At the heart of this Institute is the **Lydia Spitzer Demonstration Forest**, a 1,480-acre tract acquired and donated to NorthWoods with the specific goal of restoring a forest that had been degraded by past land use.

The year also heralded the beginning of plans to develop new facilities on our main campus area, including a long-desired bunkhouse and conservation headquarters, as well as new staff positions, new partnerships, and new programming.

NorthWoods finds itself in a period of dynamic growth and opportunity as we approach our **25th anniversary**, and we are mindful and thankful of the many supporters, project partners, and funders that have helped us to grow, to prosper, and to better serve the ecosystems and communities of our great north woods.

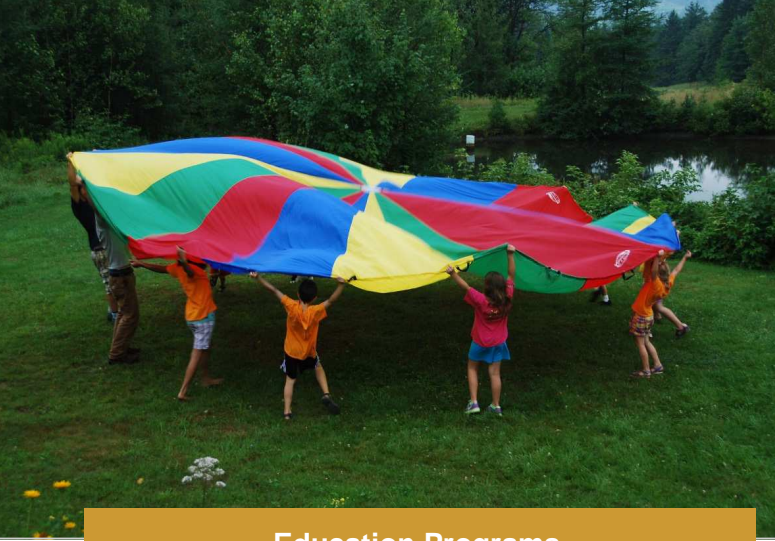


Jayson Benoit  
*Operations Director*



Nancy Engels  
*Board Chair*





## Education Programs

**N**orthWoods hosted **158 education programs** in 2012, working with over **4,000 individuals**. NorthWoods staff hosted half of these programs on-site at our East Charleston campus and visited schools and organizations for the remaining 50%. While NorthWoods facilitates education programs for students of all ages, junior high students in grades 5-8 were our most frequent visitors in 2012.

The most popular program choice included the integration of environmental education, team building and individual challenge programs, and outdoor recreation. This makes sense to us; we find that students, like adults, learn best when they are active and engaged. We are fortunate to have such a rich outdoor classroom and lodge as a stage for facilitating these programs.

In 2012, we continued to find new ways to improve and open access to these learning opportunities—a **new dock** provided easier canoe access to the Clyde River’s unique wetlands, and new demonstration sites in the **Spitzer Demonstration Forest** expanded our ability to connect students with the environment.

NorthWoods completed the **Nulhegan Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative** supported by the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**. Students from **North Stratford** and **Brighton** participated in research and conservation efforts in the Nulhegan

River watershed, including tree-planting projects, surveying native fish populations, and improving woodcock habitat by clearing singing grounds within the **Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge**.

These students were exposed to the resources in their backyard, and were able to explore them with professionals in the fields of conservation and biology. As one North Stratford seventh grader commented, in conservation work, “sometimes you have to plant trees, and sometimes you have to cut them down.”

In 2012, NorthWoods collaborated with the **Vermont National Guard** to create overnight, expedition-based journeys for Guard families. From practicing survival skills, like fire-building and orienteering, to facilitating team-building on these expeditions, National Guard kids paddled and trekked through some of the less visited places of northern Vermont and New Hampshire.

**End of the School-Year** overnight visits from groups across Vermont and New Hampshire kept the NorthWoods campus busy in the spring. From shouts of “Holy Cow” ringing out from the **Ropes and Challenge Course** in the Pine Forest, to the sounds of young “owlers” out for a night walk, the camaraderie, challenge, and learning opportunity of overnight experiences were a highlight for the school year. New education curriculum and hands-on learning focus on forestry education, as students learn the unspoken history of trees through tree cookies, or how to identify trees in winter.

## Public Outreach & Communications

**I**n 2012, the NorthWoods lodge and campus was utilized by individuals and organizations as a space for retreat, learning, and celebration—from wedding weekends, to the month-long visit of the **Kroka Expeditions** VT-NH Semester program.

NorthWoods offered more than **60 public outreach programs** in 2012, connecting **850 interested community members** with recreation, education, and cultural opportunities. Mushroom farming, birding, and recreation expeditions helped connect our human com-





munity with the natural communities around us. The **Ski Touring the Kingdom** series brought skiers to the powdery heights of the **Bolton-Trapps Traverse** on the **Catamount Trail**, and tested their up and downhill speeds at the **Randonnee Rally** at the **Lyndon Outing Club**. The **Historic Hinman Road Ski**, hosted in partnership with the **Old Stone House Museum** brought history to life for participants, who skied the southernmost portion of this ancient Northeast Kingdom road, finding a cemetery and cellar holes along the way.

Our monthly **Kingdom Coffeehouse** featured fine local musicians, including Alan Greenleaf and The Doctor, and the return of favorites Dana and Susan Robinson and The Wind that Shakes the Barley.

A focus on sustainable forestry, supported by the Canaday Family Charitable Trust, highlighted our 2012 Outreach Calendar with **Game of Logging** Chainsaw Safety Workshops, demonstrations of horse and oxen logging, and educational programs on invasive species, like the **Emerald Ash Borer** that threaten our treasured forests.

From cheesemaking workshops to Shed Meets and Craft Fairs, the Outreach offerings represent our continued effort to connect the community with our work here at NorthWoods, both indoors and out, through each of our program areas.

NorthWoods also continues to partner with local community groups to further the reach of our programs and expertise. In 2012, NorthWoods partnered with the **Memphremagog Watershed Association**, the **Seymour Lake Association** and several other local lake associations to offer the **Northeast Kingdom Healthy Waters Initiative**, which provided opportunities for the public to participate in workshops on invasive species, surveying local waters, identifying macroinvertebrate species, and sharing information on the importance of vegetated buffers on shorelines.

Additional Outreach programming included presentations with **OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute**, the **Northern New England Recreation and Parks Conference** in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, the **Vermont Works for Women-Women Can Do Conference**, and a family nature series at **Burke Mountain**.



## Camps and Expeditions

In 2012, NorthWoods offered one week of **Winter Day Camp** and seven weeks of **Summer Camps**. The NorthWoods camp experience focuses on the integration of outdoor recreation, environmental education, cultural appreciation, and team and leadership development. By offering hands-on positive experiences in a safe and nurturing setting, NorthWoods provides youth with access to diverse resources and opportunities—in our own backyard and beyond.

In the Summer of 2012, campers trekked the summits of local peaks in **Nature** and **Survival Day Camps** and explored the alpine zone in the Presidential Range during the overnight **White Mountain Hiker** expedition.

NorthWoods continued to partner with the **Northern Forest Canoe Trail** to offer discounted week-long expeditions where campers followed the ancient canoe routes of the Abenaki on the Clyde and Connecticut Rivers. There is nothing like catching a rainbow trout and sharing it over a campfire breakfast to inspire a young camper to continue to explore, appreciate and protect our local waterways.

During the **Eco Experience Teen Research Camp**, budding biologists joined researchers in the field to study the effects of climate change on migratory birds, monitor small mammals, and remove invasive species from the Clyde River wetlands.

**Campership** funds made possible by the generous support of the Agnes M. Lindsay Trust, Vermont Community Foundation, and Passumpsic Savings Bank made the NorthWoods camp experience accessible for all kids and families, regardless of income.



Northern Explorers Canoe Camp; left inset: Tree planting with Stratford Elementary students; right: Little paddlers from Barton Graded School





## NorthWoods Conservation Corps

**T**he **NorthWoods Conservation Corps** completed its 18th season of conservation service work in 2012. While the NorthWoods Corps model continues to evolve, its success is rooted in the founding principle of local youth working on local projects. Since its early days, the Corps has grown substantially in size and scope, and it takes pride in serving northern youth and communities.

A significant outgrowth of the original youth crew model is the addition and expansion of ‘off-season’ professional crews that complete advanced conservation projects in the spring and fall ‘shoulder’ seasons. In 2012, NorthWoods crews completed eight months of field work, spanning three distinct spring, summer and fall seasons from April to November.

Due to favorable planting conditions, spring projects focus almost exclusively on riparian restoration and habitat enhancement projects—tree planting—along local rivers and streams. A spring crew (consisting primarily of NorthWoods staff and returning crew leaders) completed over six weeks of stream restoration work, planting nearly 7200 trees and shrubs on 24 acres of former agricultural land in the **Connecticut River** and **Lake Memphremagog basins**.

The **Fall Crew** completed 15 weeks of project work between August and December, primarily focused on trail building and maintenance work in northern Vermont and New Hampshire. High-quality projects like those completed at the **Nulhegan River Trail** in Brunswick, the **Connecticut River Paddlers Trail** boat launch in Canaan, the **Kingdom Trails** bike bridges in Darling State Park at Burke Mountain, and the **Cohos Trail** in the Connecticut



Lakes Region of New Hampshire underscore the value of NorthWoods’ professional services. Our ‘Pro Trail Crew’ fills an important niche by offering technical expertise and skilled conservation services to communities throughout the region.

The Corps’ flagship youth **Summer Crew** program also continues to provide critical services to local communities while providing young people with valuable training, education and career skills. The 2012 Corps featured three crews in northern Vermont, three in northern New Hampshire and one each in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Our 2012 work area spanned 410 miles from the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters to the mouth of the Connecticut River in Long Island Sound.

Highlights of the summer season include wildlife management and habitat improvement projects in six **National Fish and Wildlife Refuge** areas, including the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Nulhegan, Pondicherry, Blueberry Swamp, and Fort River Divisions; the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge; and the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge.

Two local ‘Kingdom Corps’ crews completed projects on public and private conservation lands here in the North-east Kingdom, including trail development work on the **Middle Mountain** and **Tripp Hill Trails** (Spitzer Demonstration Forest) and trail maintenance work on the **Gore Mountain Trail** and the **Mount Pisgah South Trail**.

All told, the **NorthWoods Conservation Corps** employed 48 youth crewmembers and 18 leaders in 2012 and completed 12,000 hours of conservation work and 1400 hours of training and education—fulfilling our unofficial motto: *putting local youth to work in local communities!*



### NorthWoods Receives Statewide Honors

NorthWoods was recognized by our peers in the Vermont trails community at the **2012 Vermont Trails Symposium**. NorthWoods—and partners Green Mountain Club and Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation—was presented with the distinguished **Project of the Year** award for our work developing the new **Middle Mountain Trail** in Avery’s Gore. In addition, **Cody Sayers**, NorthWoods’ Crew Leader and Conservation Assistant was awarded the coveted **Muddy Boot Award** for her outstanding leadership, on-the-ground trail work and environmental ethics in the NorthWoods Conservation Corps. Kudos!

*Moose Flowage, Connecticut Lakes State Forest; left inset: Kingdom Trails bridge, Darling State Park*



## Forest Stewardship Institute

**A** two-year grant received from the **Canaday Family Charitable Trust** in July created a new Forest Stewardship Institute (FSI) at NorthWoods, combining our Land Management and Science programs and adding new facilities and initiatives. The grant also supports a new **Forestry Specialist**, Sam Perron, a graduate of Warren Wilson College with forestry and land trust experience.

*Lydia Spitzer Demonstration Forest*— A banner project of the FSI program, this forest encompasses 1,480-acres owned by NorthWoods and located adjacent to our facility. Seven areas on the property were identified to demonstrate applied sustainable forestry methods, and initial survey and management work were completed in four of these. In its debut year, the Forest was toured by hundreds of students, landowners, and forestry professionals, including members of the **Forest Guild**, **VT Coverts**, and **Lyndon State College's** Wildlife Management class. Other work included new parking areas, signage, and trails (completed by our **Conservation Corps** fall crew).

*Foresters for the Birds Collaboration*— In 2012, NorthWoods joined a small number of sites in Vermont demonstrating forestry to improve both bird habitat and timber quality. Working with **Audubon Vermont**, the **Vermont Land Trust**, and the **Natural Resources Conservation Service** this project includes pre and post harvest forest surveys, to gauge the effects of the treatments and maximize educational value. Equipment used included a cut-to-length tree harvester and forwarder operated by **Lafoe Logging LLC**.

*Landowner Services and Workshops*— Our **forestry and ecological consulting** services continued to expand in 2012, involving 25 landowners and over 5,300 acres. Services ranged from property walks with landowners to Use Value Appraisal maps and forest management plans, administering timber harvests, ecological inventories, wildlife habitat management, and invasive plant control. Nineteen land management-themed workshops were also offered, as well as the **Vermont Covert's** 3-day landowner spring training.

2012 **Conservation Science** projects included several ongoing multi-year efforts and one new partnership.

*Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)*— For a second year, NorthWoods maintained >100 early detection pheromone-baited traps across the Northeast Kingdom—part of a region-wide effort to stave off this extremely damaging exotic insect. No emerald ash borers have yet been found in Vermont, though new infestations were discovered this year in Connecticut,

New York, and western Massachusetts. NorthWoods also participated in a state-wide EAB trap tree effort coordinated by Vermont's **Dept of Forest Parks and Recreation**.

*Science and Sequestration in Riparian Plantings*— In a continued collaboration with the **Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District** and other partners, we identified priority areas for streamside reforestation in the Lake Memphremagog watershed and planted 1,270 trees and shrubs on 4.2 acres along the Clyde and Black Rivers. At one site over 100 students and teachers from **Craftsbury Academy** participated as part of their watershed studies and community service learning. **NEW tree survival studies** were conducted at all sites to measure success and advise improvements in future plantings.

NorthWoods also partnered for the first time with the **Northern Forest Center** and **Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences**, identifying a new project for their Clear Water Carbon Fund. This pioneering program pairs local carbon credit investments with local riparian tree planting projects, resulting in improved water quality and jobs for area communities while combating climate change.

*Clyde River Wetlands: Natural Community Mapping and Threats Assessment Project*— A second year of detailed mapping was completed across 104 acres of wetlands along the Clyde River in Charleston, identifying 14 natural community types and 23 rare plant species, including new locations of two state-endangered species. Over 75% of the acreage was found to contain rare or uncommon natural communities. Observed threats to these wetlands were also noted, with recommendations for addressing these threats provided to the **State of Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program**, and landowners.

### Staff Spotlight: Meghann Carter *Forest Stewardship Americorps*

Since arriving at NorthWoods in May 2011 with a background in Environmental Biology and organic farming, Meg has applied her considerable enthusiasm, creativity, adaptability, and smarts to each of NorthWoods' program areas, completing tasks as varied as ecological field surveys, teaching young women to safely use chainsaws, leading a Conservation crew, battling invasive plants, cooking for groups of 20+, and GIS mapping.

Most of her time is now spent as a key staff person in the Forest Stewardship Institute, where she works on a variety of forestry, water quality, and public outreach projects. Outside of NorthWoods she is a volunteer firefighter, a Burke Mountain ski lift operator, and a fast-rising Roller Derby Queen—reminding us all how to get the most out of life and make a lasting impact on others.





## Thanks to Our Donors and Partners

NorthWoods Stewardship Center gratefully acknowledges the support of those who contributed to our programs through cash and/or in-kind donations of labor and materials between January 1 and December 31, 2012.

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info@northwoodscenter.org  
www.northwoodscenter.org

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Canaday Family Charitable Trust  
Echo Lake Protective Association  
Essex County Natural Resource Conservation District  
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New Hampshire Recreation Trails Program  
Northern Forest Canoe Trail  
Northern Forest Center  
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Plum Creek Timber  
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US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

#### \$1000 to 4999

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Kroka Expeditions  
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National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
Northeastern Vermont Development Association  
Passumpsic Savings Bank  
Town of Brighton  
US Department of Agriculture  
Vermont Community Foundation  
Vermont Coverts  
Vermont Green  
Vermont National Guard  
Vermont River Conservancy  
Carl Gary Taylor Foundation

#### \$500 to 999

Appalachian Mountain Club  
Caledonia County Natural Resource Cons. District  
Community Builders Co-op

Community National Bank  
Green Mountain Club  
Kingdom Trails Association  
Maxwell Truckin' & Excavating  
Passumpsic Savings Bank  
Town of Charleston  
Town of Morgan  
Town of Newark  
Town of Sutton  
Town of Westmore  
Vermont Fish & Wildlife Conservation Group

#### \$100 to 499

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont  
Burke Mountain Resort  
Circle of Friends  
Columbia Forest Products  
Crawford Hill Nursery  
Eden Ice Cider  
Forest Guild  
Four Seasons Garden Club  
Global Campuses Foundation  
Great Bay Hydro Corp  
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters  
Goodridge Lumber  
Lyndon Outing Club  
Newport Community Gardens  
Northern New England Recreation & Parks Conference  
North Country Longspurs  
OSHER Lifelong Learning  
Parker Pie Co.  
Progressive Insurance Foundation  
Road Scholar Program  
Simon the Tanner  
Town of Glover  
United Church of Newport  
Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)  
Vermont Department of Children & Families  
Vermont Works for Women  
Volunteers for Peace

#### Up to \$99

Aetna Foundation  
All Seasons Realty  
Bonnieview Sheep Dairy  
Boxcar & Caboose

Buffalo Mountain Co-op  
Burke Mountain Club  
Cloud's Path Farm  
Craftsbury General Store  
Frame Dames  
Galaxy Bookshop  
Heartwood Farm  
Hippy Hoppy Farm  
Jay Peak Resort  
Jocelyn & Cinta's Bake Shop  
Maple Grove Farms  
Moose River Store  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
NH Fish & Game Department  
Northeast Farm Association (NOFA)  
Old Stone House Museum  
Patchwork Farm & Bakery  
Peace of Earth Farm  
Pete's Greens  
Rural Webscaping  
Rusty Bird Farm  
Sweet Rowen Farmstead  
Ted's Market  
Wheeler Sports  
Wild Branch Mushrooms  
Wloughvale Inn & Cottages

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#### \$5000 Plus

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#### \$2500 to 4999

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 Terry & Janet Silvester  
**Paul Hilliard**  
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**Participating Schools**  
 Barnet Elementary  
 Barton Graded School  
 Beeman Elementary  
 Bethlehem Elementary  
 Burke Town School  
 Charlestown Elementary  
 Craftsbury Academy  
 Colebrook Elementary  
 Danville School  
 Derby Elementary

E. Taylor Hatton School  
 Gilman Schools  
 Glover Community School  
 Gorham High School  
 Holland Elementary  
 Krocka Expeditions  
 Lowell Graded School  
 Lyndon State College  
 Millers Run School  
 Newark Street School

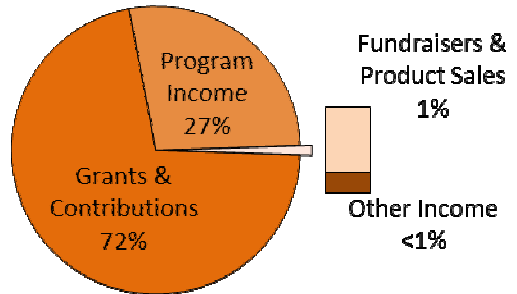
North Country Junior High School  
 St. Johnsbury Academy  
 St. Johnsbury School  
 St. Paul's Elementary School  
 Stewartstown School  
 Stratford Public School  
 Twinfield Union High School  
 Walden School  
 White Mountain School

## Financial Report

### Revenue

Grants & Contributions	\$513,620
Program Income	196,788
Fundraisers & Product Sales	5,964
Other Income	1,876
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$718,248</b>

### FY2012 Revenues



### Expenses

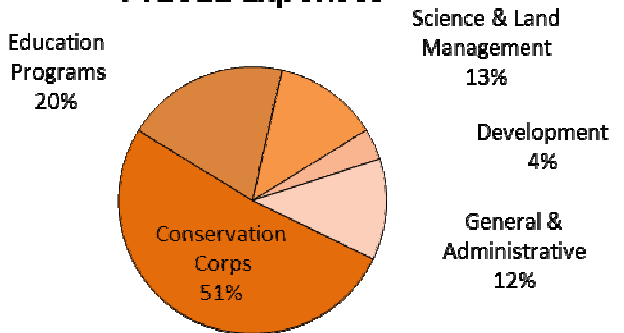
Program Services	\$544, 631
Development	24,528
General & Administrative	79,590
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$648,749</b>

Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,193,516
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,263,015
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$69,499</b>

### Expenses By Program

Conservation Corps	\$333,545
Education Programs	128,221
Science & Land Management	81,865
Development	24,528
General & Administrative	79,590
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$648,749</b>

### FY2012 Expenses





Contact us!

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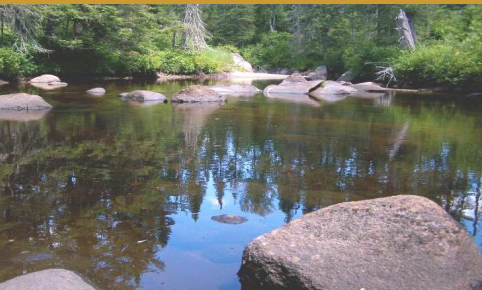


P.O. Box 220  
East Charleston, VT 05833

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*NorthWoods Stewardship Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.*



Comments from Partners & Participants

*"NorthWoods has always been there to remind me why I love northern Vermont, and gives me the experiences and information that deepen my relationship with this part of the world...My dream is to manage woodland in VT with the best sustainable practices available. I know that the Stewardship Center will be an essential ally and partner in that journey."*  
- Participant in NorthWoods Land Management Workshop

*"I just wanted to thank the [Conservation Corps] staff for a great summer program. My son...went this summer in Errol and has grown so much both with maturity and insight to his behavior since starting the program. I truly believe it was the staff at the program who really took time out to influence him in a positive way."*  
- Parent of NorthWoods Conservation Corps member

*"Thank you, you wonderful NorthWoods people. My daughter had such a great time at the Winter Camp. She loved every second and had so much to tell us when she got home each afternoon. She is excited to use your trails to ski and snowshoe. You guys are awesome!!! We appreciate all your hard work with the kids!"*  
- Parent of Winter Day Camp Participant

