



August 15, 2008

WELCOME TO SPLORE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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[EXCELS ACADEMY](#)

[VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:
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[SPLORE GIVES BACK](#)

[RAISING THE BAR](#)

[SPLORE CALENDAR](#)

WHO'S NEXT?

As I left my house at 6 a.m. this morning the cold air and morning darkness revealed that the end of Summer is near. SPLORE'S boat house is closed and we are gearing up for our Fall auction. Yes, Fall is fundraising season. Soon your favorite public radio station will be launching into their Fall fund drive and invitations will be arriving in your mailbox from your favorite charities.

As you consider these philanthropic options, consider this - while headlines focus on large gifts, made by Über philanthropists such as Bill & Melinda Gates, these mega gifts represent only 1.3% of total giving in the U.S. The majority of U.S. philanthropy is done by individual households whose annual giving totals more than \$200 billion annually. 89% of U.S. households give to charity and more than half (68%) have annual incomes lower than \$100,000 with donations averaging 3.2% of household income. Given the medium household income for Utah and the US is \$58,000, the average annual giving estimate is \$1,856 per year.

SPLORE'S 2008 Fall Fundraiser is off and running. Our goal is to raise \$125,000. As there are many ways to "carve a pumpkin", donations of any amount are tremendously appreciated and will clearly add to our \$125,000 goal. However, if we receive \$500 from 250 individuals, we will handily meet this goal, allowing us to focus on building inclusive recreation environments. Yesterday a SPLORE volunteer delivered our first \$500 check - who's next?

For more information on SPLORE donor levels please click [here](#).

Cheers!

John Librett

John Librett, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director



EXCELS ACADEMY

Every year SPLORE works with hundreds of youth with "high functioning" disabilities such as Asperger's Syndrome, slight learning disabilities, and Youth-at-Risk. These youth enjoy the variety of outdoor recreation programs that SPLORE offers and they frequently ask SPLORE staff and volunteers, "How do you get a job doing something like this?"

SPLORE is helping Utah's youth answer this question with the start of the Excels Academy; a community based and driven academy for youth leadership and excellence.

The Excels Academy is a vocational leadership program in recreation management for youth-at-risk and youth with "high functioning" disabilities. Youth in the Excels Academy will gain skills, knowledge and experience in the area of recreation

management. The goals of the Excels Academy are to help youth create individual determination, foster excellence and self-assurance.

Funded in part with \$15,000 in support from the [University of Utah College of Health's Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism](#), the Excels Academy is due to start in November and will last for eight weeks. There will be two youth in each eight-week session, with a total of 12 graduates each year.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPLORE PROGRAMS](#)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: STEVE POWELL

Perhaps you've seen Steve Powell on a rafting trip, or maybe at the office or maybe even at the SPLORE Harvest Moon Benefit Auction. For the past 11 years, Steve has been a SPLORE participant, donor and volunteer.

Steve first became involved with SPLORE when he went on a five-day canoeing trip down Labyrinth Canyon on the Green River. After his first of many "magical" trips with SPLORE, Steve was hooked. Soon after his first trip, he started volunteering for SPLORE by helping with various needs in the office and within a few months, he began a 5 year part-time position with SPLORE troubleshooting and repairing SPLORE's computers, setting up and maintaining the computer network for the office, helping to improve the database, writing articles and generating past SPLORE newsletters, and serving as the Volunteer Coordinator, among many other contributions. Steve has been an 11 year supporter and donor to SPLORE, donating time, skills, money, auction items, and even hosting Staff Appreciation dinners.

Today Steve is still an active participant and has been on almost every program that SPLORE offers. He volunteers for every special event, and this past summer he attended the volunteer rafting training trip to help instruct new volunteers on how to transfer someone from a wheelchair to a raft. Steve is also the SPLORE website webmaster and last, but not least, he continues to volunteer as maintenance and administrator of SPLORE's computers, server, office network, and staff e-mail and user accounts; whenever there's a computer problem, he's ready to help.

Thank you, Steve, for all your dedication to SPLORE in so many ways!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING WITH SPLORE](#)





SPLORE GIVES BACK

SPLORE is incredibly lucky to have Utah's beauty as the back-drop of our outdoor recreation activities. Red rocks, the Colorado River, Wasatch Mountains, Jordan River and various lakes have all been well-used by SPLORE and its participants. Now it's time for SPLORE to give back to the community and our natural areas.

In August and September, SPLORE has several community service projects planned to help our communities and recreation sites. On August 25th, SPLORE is teaming up with [Salt Lake Solutions](#) to clean-up the Jordan River between 1700 South and the historic [Fisher Mansion](#). During this clean-up, SPLORE and Salt Lake Solutions will separate trash and recyclables. The clean-up will make the area more enjoyable to use for not only SPLORE participants, but the community as well.

The following day, August 26th, SPLORE is teaming up with students from [Westminster College](#) to do a Jordan River Trail trash pick-up. The area of the trail pick-up will be behind [Valley Mental Heath's](#) - Valley Plaza facility. Valley Plaza is a residential facility for adults with mental illnesses. With the help of Westminster's students, SPLORE hopes to make the trail behind Valley Plaza more user-friendly for the residents to use on a daily basis.

Storm Mountain in Big Cottonwood Canyon is the setting for the majority of SPLORE's rock climbing activities. On September 4th, SPLORE is participating in [United Way's Day of Caring](#). The United Way, SPLORE and [Deseret Mutual Benefit Administrators](#) will work on a community service project in Big Cottonwood Canyon as a way to say Thank-You to the Forest Service for the use of activities in the Wasatch.

Last, but not least, SPLORE has become a stakeholder for [Envision Utah's](#) Blueprint Jordan River. The Blueprint is a collaboration between Envision Utah, [Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation](#), various stakeholders and Jordan River Trail user groups that consult and provide feedback on plans for improvements along the Jordan River Trail.

RAISING THE BAR

CALL TO ACTION FOR HARVEST MOON BENEFIT AUCTION VOLUNTEERS!!!

The Annual Harvest Moon Benefit Auction is just around the corner and we need your help! Every Fall, the Harvest Moon Benefit Auction is SPLORE's biggest fundraiser. All of the funds raised from the auction go towards the Active Living Scholarship Fund; helping to keep the outdoors financially accessible to all. This year's Auction will be our last. It will be on September 27th at the Downtown Hilton Hotel and will feature the Disgusting Brother's Band.

To make the auction a success, SPLORE needs the support of several volunteers. Below is a list of important Auction volunteer opportunities and training dates:



August 21st: Envelope stuffing party for Auction invitations
5:30 till 9:30pm at the SPLORE office (880 E. 3375 S.)

September 17th: Silent and Live Auction Volunteer Training
5:30-7:00 at the SPLORE office

September 18th: Registration Volunteer Training
5:30 -7:00 at the SPLORE office

September 22nd - 26th: We need volunteers that can come to the office during regular business hours (9-5), to help with last minute needs

September 27th AM: We need volunteers to meet us at the downtown Hilton Hotel to help set-up auction items and decorations. 9:00-3:30 any help is welcome

September 27th PM: At the night of the Auction, we need greeters, seaters, as well as people to take down décor and clean up when the event is done.

To sign-up for any of the above auction trainings, please contact Heather Whitesides at (801) 484-4128 x 9 or hwhitesides@splore.org

To purchase tickets for the Harvest Moon Benefit Auction, please register [here](#).

If you would like to register for the auction as a business partners, please review details [here](#).

If you cannot attend the auction, but would like to donate, you may do so [here](#).

THANK YOU!!!

SAVE THE DATE! SPLORE CALENDAR

There are always exciting things happening around SPLORE. Here is a list of some things to come. As always, please check our [Calendar](#) for a list of programs, special events and trainings.

August 23: Open enrollment canoeing program for *ALL* ability levels

August 25: Jordan River Clean-up with [Salt Lake Solutions](#)

August 26: Jordan River Trail clean-up with [Westminster](#) students

September 4: [United Way](#) Day of Caring

September 13: Open Enrollment Hike

September 15: Monday Night Connection Activity

September 27: The Annual Harvest Moon Benefit Auction
At the Downtown Hilton Hotel
Contact Heather Whitesides at (801) 484-4128 x 9 for more information

Check our [Calendar](#) for a list of programs, special events and trainings.



BE OPEN.

Because some visionaries are blind.

Because some communicators are deaf.

Because some movers and shakers are paralyzed.

Because the only true disability is a mind stuck in the closed position.

Thank you for reading SPLORE's Monthly Email Newsletter! Your support, involvement, and connection to SPLORE is important to us. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please visit our website www.splore.org or contact us at (801) 484-4128 or info@splore.org

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