

# Youth Agency Partners:

## BCM's Partner Evaluation Criteria



Big City Mountaineers (BCM) takes the partnerships we establish with schools and youth development organizations seriously. It has been our experience that these partnerships are long lasting and mutually beneficial; our youth agency partners (YAPs) find that BCM's outdoor programming adds value to their own, and helps them more effectively achieve the goals they set for the youth with whom they work.

BCM heavily subsidizes the costs related to the partnership. Because of this, BCM is selective about whom we work with to be sure our programming and services will be appropriately utilized. We assess all interested organizations via a rubric that looks at core components in four areas: organizational characteristics, community served, organizational resources and capacities, and mission and vision alignment. Below is a breakdown of what this specifically looks like.

- **Organizational Characteristics**
  - How many staff will be involved in recruiting, planning, and participating on each of the programs?
  - How connected and engaged are the staff with the participating youth?
  - How long have the participating youth been involved with the organization?
  - What length of partnership is the organization interested in establishing with BCM?
- **Community Served**
  - What percentage of enrolled youth qualify for free or reduced lunch?
  - What percentage of enrolled youth hold identities that have been historically marginalized in outdoor spaces?
  - How excited or interested are the enrolled youth in participating in BCM programs?
  - Where is the organization based in relation to the community it serves & BCM's hub cities?
- **Organizational Resources & Capacity**
  - How timely and consistently can the organization staff respond to BCM's requests, and meet deadlines?
  - What level of rapport do organization staff have with youth's families?
  - How many organization staff are focused on recruiting youth and securing their participation? How far in advance of the first program can they start recruiting?
  - How capable is the organization of placing staff consistently on each BCM program?
  - What efforts are made to fill trip rosters with youth and avoid cancellations?
  - What is the organization's ability to provide transportation for participants?
- **Mission & Vision Alignment**
  - To what extent are DEI principles incorporated into the organization's mission & work?
  - To what extent is youth development the focus of the organization's mission & work?
  - How complementary is the organization's curriculum with BCM's?
  - How similar or different is the organization's mission & programming from BCM's?

Prior to formally partnering, the Regional Program Manager (RPM) in each region or the National Program Director (PD) will meet with organization staff to discuss these points. BCM typically holds these conversations in the early fall and makes decisions about its next year's YAPs by December.

*If you have immediate questions about these selection criteria or our process, please get in touch: [info@bigcitymountaineers.org](mailto:info@bigcitymountaineers.org).*