

Rockfish Valley Foundation

July 2025 Newsletter

www.Rockfishvalley.org



New Bumper Sticker Supports Trail Maintenance Fund



RVF is proud to share the 2025 Rockfish Valley Friends bumper sticker! Donate \$50 or more and we'll send you this limited-edition badge of support. **The first \$50 of your support goes directly to our reserve fund for necessary trail maintenance and repairs.**



With **no support** from the State or Nelson County, to sustain RVF's trails, public park, and history center, **it is critical we build our contact and Friend network.**



Scan the QR
code to
Become a
Friend Today

Your help and generosity are what allows us to keep the Rockfish Valley trails safe, beautiful, and ready for the next generation of explorers.

RVF's 20th Anniversary Celebration — Mark Your Calendars

This August marks 20 years since the 2005 founding of the Rockfish Valley Foundation. To commemorate the 20th milestone anniversary, we're planning events. First, on **August 16 or 17 at Spruce Creek Park**, we'll celebrate the amazing new commercial well with live music.

We are also planning on **August 20th** a small commemoration at the Hurricane Camille Memorial Site to remember and reflect on the anniversary of Hurricane Camille, and take a group walk through the ENLIT Loop to the Outdoor Learning Pavilion, where there will be refreshments and remarks.

Discover the Rockfish Valley — GeoKits Now Available!

Kids ages 6–13 can now explore like real scientists with our 3 brand-new **GeoKits**, free to check out at the Rockfish Valley Natural History Center!

Created by our summer intern Hannah Silverman, each kit includes real tools, activity guides, and scavenger hunts to explore rocks, fossils, and local geology at Spruce Creek Park and on the Rockfish Valley Trails.

No reservation needed — just stop by during open hours - *whenever the flags are flying* - and check one out with a name deposit. Spark a love of science and discovery today!



3 GeoKits
available at
Rockfish Valley
Natural History
Center

RVF Welcomes A Second New Intern

We're thrilled to welcome Jordanna, a Duke University student, as part of the RVF team this summer. Jordanna will gather RVF and Nelson County historic resources to develop interpretive stories and materials for the Natural History Center and August events.



Be sure to say hello if you see her at the Natural History Center — we're excited for the insights and energy she brings to RVF's mission!

New Thermometer Elevates Community Fund Drive towards August 31 Goal of \$130,000

Keep an eye out — **designed by local artist Patty Ray Avalon**, our brand-new, hand-painted Fund Drive Thermometer is now on display at the Natural History Center and Camille Trailhead!

It's a bold, visual reminder of our 2025 budget goal to raise \$130,000 by August 31 to cover necessary operations expenses and sustainability. We're close to \$112,000 and nearly there thanks to your generosity.

Watch the color rising as our community comes together to meet the mark! Every gift moves the needle — thank you for helping us reach new heights!



Park Clean-Up & Pet Waste Heroes — Lend a Hand!

Our trails are looking better thanks to dedicated volunteers! A **HUGE** Thank-You to Liz Dunkle and Ann Auld for managing pet waste at the Camille Trailhead throughout June, and to Linda Roberts for clearing out three bags of clutter from our equipment shed! Our trails look - and smell - better thanks to volunteers like you!

We invite you to join the effort — come out for our next Spruce Creek Park clean-up, weekly on Tuesdays from 8:30–9:30 AM, or help by taking a turn with pet waste duty.

If you enjoy walking your dog on the trails, this is a simple but powerful way to give back.

To sign up for a time slot, email:
Contact@RockfishValley.org.



Thank you, Linda!

Building Environmental Education in Nelson County

RVF is proud to share that we applied for a grant from the **Nelson County Community Fund to help take our environmental education work to the next level. The plan? Build a small Education Committee to lead the charge, create more place-based learning materials, and grow the programs we offer to schools, teachers, and youth groups across Nelson County** (and beyond).

We're especially excited to keep building out our **hands-on learning experiences and outdoor activities** — all designed to make the Rockfish Valley a real-life classroom that's engaging, accessible, and full of discovery.

Whether or not we get the grant, this work is moving forward — and it depends on community support. If interested in receiving news about the education committee, email Contact@Rockfishvalley.org.



*Your gift
makes a
difference!*

Bridges on Trail: Repairs Underway

Thanks to David Tatman and landscaping associates Immanol and Alan, key trail bridges repairs are now underway!

More repairs are planned for the bridges on Little Reid's Creek and Still House Branch, but the Bog and Big Reid's bridges have already been repaired."

