



P.O. Box 90
116 Sutton Place
Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525
skitaos.com

Taos Ski Valley Awards Additional \$50,000 through Uplift Youth Fund, Bringing Total Community Investment to \$200,000

Six local organizations selected as part of new youth focused community initiative

TAOS SKI VALLEY, N.M. April 22, 2026 —Taos Ski Valley, Inc. has announced the third round of recipients for the Uplift Youth Fund, a new initiative dedicated to supporting youth-focused efforts in four key areas: outdoor equity and youth programming, environmental stewardship, economic and workforce development, and connection to the Taos community. With this latest cycle, the fund has now awarded a total of \$200,000 to local nonprofits, marking a major milestone as the program enters its second year.

With two funding cycles per year, the Uplift Youth Fund provides awards ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to nonprofits and organizations serving the Taos community. This year's winter cycle received 40 applications reflecting both growing awareness of the new fund and the ever-increasing need for youth-centered investment across the region.

2026 Uplift Youth Fund Winter Cycle Recipients include:

- **Assistance Dogs of the West** - Taos Student Trainer Programs
- **Intertribal Connection Initiative** - Youth Horizon Culture Cohort: Land, Culture & Leadership
- **Talpa Community Center Assoc., Inc.** - Talpa Community Center & Library Kids Programs
- **Taos Common Grounds Teen Cooperative** - Teen Cooperative
- **Taos Swim Club, Inc.** - Learn to Swim
- **UNM-Taos "You Can Do It, Mija!" Program** - Youth Mentoring

"Investing in our local youth is investing in the future of Taos," said Mona Nozhackum, community relations manager at Taos Ski Valley. "Reaching \$200,000 in just two years shows what's possible when a community comes together with shared purpose. We're building something that is not only a sustained commitment to our local youth, but rooted in the voices and priorities of our community."

A Community-Driven Process

The Uplift Youth Fund is guided by the Community Advisory Circle (CAC), a diverse group of local leaders including youth, parents, culture bearers, educators, and advocates. The CAC reviews all program applications and ensures funding decisions reflect the lived experiences and priorities of Taos County.

"Serving on the Community Advisory Circle has shown me that young people in Taos County don't just need programs but they need to feel they are an indispensable part of our community's fabric," said CAC member Yolanda Lewis, a farmer, rancher, and Mayordoma, emphasizing the deeper impact of this work. "Their voices should not only be heard, they're part of driving the future of our community. This process is not about checking boxes to support local organizations; it's about identifying those who carry the spirit of Taos forward and are committed to its long-term resilience and stewardship."

As the fund closes its third cycle, the impact of earlier investments is already visible.

"Beyond the enthusiasm for the new fund, we are beginning to see the ripple effects of the initiative, with regional programs growing, local youth gaining confidence, and stronger connections forming across our community," continued Nozhackum. "This is how long-term impact begins."

Applications for the next round of Uplift Youth Fund awards will open in June 2026, with an additional \$50,000 available to local organizations serving youth across Taos County. Application details will be available at skitaos.com/community.

About the Uplift Youth Fund

Launched in January 2025 by Taos Ski Valley, the Uplift Youth Fund provides \$100,000 annually to local organizations through youth-focused projects. The fund supports initiatives in four key areas: outdoor equity and youth programming, environmental stewardship, economic and workforce development, and connection to community. Funding ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 are awarded twice yearly to nonprofits and organizations serving Taos County and northern New Mexico youth.





P.O. Box 90
116 Sutton Place
Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525
skitaos.com

