

Being outside makes me powerful, like if I was a superhero when the wind blows in my hair. It makes me feel inspired, like I could go out in the world and do whatever I want no matter what happens. It makes me feel happy to hear the wind hit the trees and make them rattle. It makes me feel refreshed, especially in Leadville because the air is so fresh and cool.

Since I was a little girl, I have always loved being outside, but Full Circle has helped me realize and remember these feelings as I have gotten older. I joined Full Circle in 7th grade and was able to try all sorts of new activities. For example, the first time I rock climbed was with Full Circle and I immediately loved it. Then we went on a camping and rock climbing trip to Utah and it was a great opportunity for me. I also remember when I went to hike Mt. Elbert. It was so hard but Caroline and Rohan didn't let me stop and it was one of the proudest moments of my life getting to the top. It was so beautiful.

Now I am going to spend a summer at the High Mountain Institute, experiencing the outdoors and backpacking. Full Circle staff pushed me to take this step and I am so excited. Full Circle has given me lots of opportunities, it has helped foster my passion for the outdoors, and it has pushed me to try things I would never have done otherwise. Thank you, Full Circle!

- Maria Rosales (AKA Pittah) Age 16