

Eight Great Reasons To Support The MPEC At Horseshoe Lodge

“In the interface between the formal school-based education systems and the environmental system of informal, hands-on learning centers lies Environmental Education’s best hope for the future.”
~ National Environmental Education and Training Foundation

1. It makes sense...the MPEC needs more room to meet the demand for our programs – and – the Horseshoe Lodge sits vacant almost all of the time, in the very park where we operate.
2. Operating out of the Horseshoe Lodge will allow us to pursue new and diverse revenue streams, such as hosting conferences and retreats and offering multi-day programs, leading to a more stable and sustainable organization.
3. Increasing MPEC programs will bring additional economic activity to the Pueblo area, through additional full-time and part-time staff positions and additional revenue spent within the community for support services. Revenue now spent by local agencies for trainings and retreats in other counties (e.g. The Nature Place in Teller County is used by District 60) will stay in Pueblo County.
4. According to the National Science Foundation, “In the coming decades, the public will more frequently be called upon to understand complex environmental issues, assess risk, evaluate proposed environmental plans and understand how individual decisions affect the environment at local and global scales.” This situation calls for “the creation of a scientifically informed citizenry” and a “systematic approach to environmental education grounded in a broad and deep research base that offers a compelling invitation to lifelong learning.” A local example: With projections of our area’s population growing to 200,000 by 2030, and the environmental challenges that such growth brings, the need for environmental education is vital. This societal need is why the MPEC exists. Operating out of the Lodge will allow the MPEC to grow into an even more productive environmental education organization and reach more people through more programs.
5. 45 million Americans think the oceans are a source of fresh water; 130 million Americans think hydropower is our nation’s top energy source (it accounts for only 10% of our energy). Just 12% of Americans can pass a basic quiz on energy topic awareness. Only one in ten Americans correctly answered 11 out of 12 basic questions on water, air, and waste. This environmental illiteracy is bad for our communities...the MPEC exists to improve these numbers, and operating out of the Lodge will only increase our effectiveness.
6. The historical significance of Pueblo Mountain Park and the Horseshoe Lodge, being the birthplace of utilizing our public forests for recreation and education based on Arthur Carhart’s vision, will bring regional and national attention to the Pueblo area.
7. The MPEC will become a more visible and welcoming Visitor Center for Pueblo Mountain Park, increasing the number of people who learn about the incredibly rich and unique biological and ecological diversity of Pueblo Mountain Park.
8. Operating out of Horseshoe Lodge will allow the MPEC’s award winning outdoor-based programs that often address issues such as teen pregnancy and substance abuse to reach substantially more young people, particularly disadvantaged children from poor families, than we currently serve.