

Black Diamond Equipment and National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Announce Partnership

The collaboration includes a scholarship to bring new people into the outdoors with funding for experiences, equipment, and education

SALT LAKE CITY – February 5, 2025 – Black Diamond Equipment®, a global leader in climbing, skiing, and mountain sports apparel and equipment, has partnered with [National Outdoor Leadership School \(NOLS\)](#), the world's foremost provider of wilderness education. Central to the partnership is the Elevate Scholarship, an initiative to foster leadership, mentorship, and stewardship within the outdoor community.

The [Elevate Scholarship](#) provides full-ride support, including travel and gear, for select NOLS courses in the Summer and Fall of 2025. Funded through an annually recurring co-op program between NOLS and Black Diamond, the initiative aims to cultivate future leaders in the outdoor community who might not otherwise have access to the resources they need to recreate safely and sustainably. Additionally, 10% of any purchase made by NOLS, a NOLS employee, or an enrolled student will directly contribute to the scholarship fund.

"At Black Diamond, climbing has always been more than a sport—it's a way to discover our limits, build resilience, and connect deeply with the natural world," says Neil Fiske, President at Black Diamond Equipment. "Partnering with NOLS on the Elevate Scholarship lets us extend those values to a broader community, breaking down barriers and equipping the next generation of climbers and outdoor leaders with the skills, mentorship, and gear they need to thrive. Together, we're not just supporting individuals—we're fostering a culture of stewardship and sustainability for the vertical and beyond."

Black Diamond has been one of NOLS' preferred equipment providers for decades. The official partnership will now also include ongoing gear design collaboration between the two organizations and field testing on key pieces of equipment from Black Diamond, such as the Mega Light Tent, a staple piece of equipment in the NOLS kit. A dedicated gear testing pipeline will engage NOLS field instructors in the design process, leveraging their hands-on expertise in creating and enhancing Black Diamond gear moving forward. To further support NOLS staff, the partnership offers expanded pro deals for all employees.

Several professional Black Diamond athletes got their start with NOLS, including Aaron Mulkey, Adrian Ballinger, Carlo Traversi, and Angela Hawse. Peter Metcalf, the founder of Black Diamond and a 1971 NOLS graduate, credits the school with introducing him to climbing. This joint effort builds on the longstanding relationship between these two organizations. In keeping with that tradition, Black Diamond has committed to providing opportunities for its employees to develop their outdoor and leadership skills with NOLS.

"The NOLS and Black Diamond partnership is such a perfect match. It brings together two organizations who share a deep commitment to wilderness, leadership, and the environment," said Sandy Colhoun, President of NOLS. "We are grateful for the Black Diamond Elevate Scholarship's impact on our school, making outdoor education accessible to all. Together with Black Diamond, we are excited to empower the next generation of leaders, explorers, and adventurers."

The application period for the [Elevate Scholarship](#) opens on February 5, 2025, and closes on March 5, 2025. Scholarship recipients will be announced on April 30, 2025.

For more information on the scholarship and application process, please visit:

<https://www.nols.edu/en/expeditions/planning/financial-aid/black-diamond-elevate-scholarship/>

MEDIA IMAGE GALLERY | [LINK](#)

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About Black Diamond Equipment

Black Diamond Equipment is a global leader in designing innovative outdoor-engineered equipment and apparel for climbing, skiing, and a wide range of other year-round outdoor activities. Headquartered in Salt Lake City at the base of the Wasatch Mountains, Black Diamond is synonymous with performance, innovation, and durability in the outdoor community. For more information on Black Diamond Equipment, visit www.blackdiamondequipment.com.

About NOLS

Founded in 1965 in a small cabin in Sinks Canyon, Wyoming, the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) is a nonprofit global wilderness school that seeks to help individuals step forward boldly as leaders. We believe that anyone can be a leader; it's our role to provide the environment and training to help them discover their full potential. We do that in classrooms close to home and remote wilderness areas worldwide. The scope of NOLS' mission and impact is broad, with 14 campuses across six countries and educational opportunities worldwide. The school enrolls over 28,000 students and employs over 1,000 full-time and part-time staff and instructors with an annual budget of approximately \$40 million in a typical year. NOLS currently has more than 360,000 active alumni.

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