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Brunswick non-profit is helping all Mainers gear up for outdoors

Maine GearShare provides outdoor gear rentals at a low cost to organizations, creating equal access to the outdoors.



By [Logan Hoffman](#)

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BRUNSWICK, Maine (WABI) -You've heard of libraries for books, but have you heard of them for outdoor gear?

Maine GearShare in Brunswick provides outdoor gear rentals at a low cost to organizations, creating equal access to the outdoors.

"Our goal is to create more equitable access to the outdoors. We do that by trying to level the playing field around outdoor equipment and apparel," says Josh Bossin, Maine GearShare Executive Director.

The mission with their program is to give every Mainer access to the outdoors.

They've partnered with organizations like the Augusta Teen Center, Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, Maine Recreation and Parks Association and more.

Bossin says they really can get everything.

"Long underwear, puffy coats, rain coats. You name it, we've got it," he says.

Zak Klein is the Vice President on the board for Maine GearShare and says every gear library has a different focus.

"This gear library is to support many people's programs," says Klein.

Advancement Manager Emily Mackeown has been with GearShare since 2021 and says, "When I joined, GearShare had no member organizations, no gear, no 501c3, no building. And here we are. We're serving over 1,000 participants. We're able to outfit 100 people in the field at a time. We have this incredible facility where people hopefully can feel really welcome to come in and ask questions, learn, try on gear, try on gear, check out gear. I can't even state how much it's grown because it's gone from not existing to being this fantastic resource that people seem really excited about."

Klein says he's seen his fair share of trips that are run with inadequate gear.

"This might be the first and, for a while, the last opportunity that someone has to have a positive opportunity outdoors," he says.

Since gear is their focus, they have an in-house repair shop and the public can come in and rent items a la carte. Every rental and repair goes back to supporting their goal of putting gear in every Mainer's hands.

"Just that weekend rental will pay for some of that cost goes into putting backpacks on kids in our mission program," says Bossin.

For more information on rentals, you can head to their website, mainegearshare.org.

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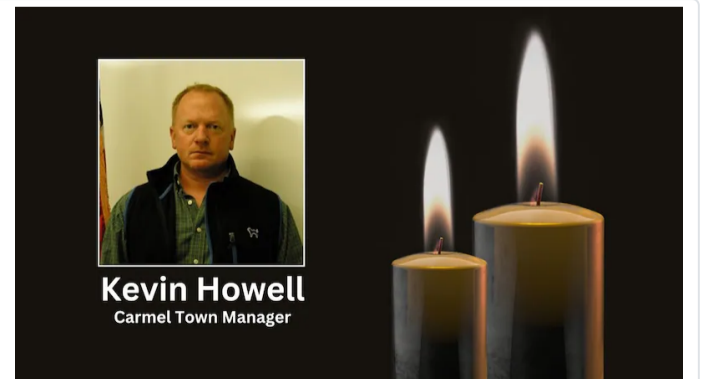
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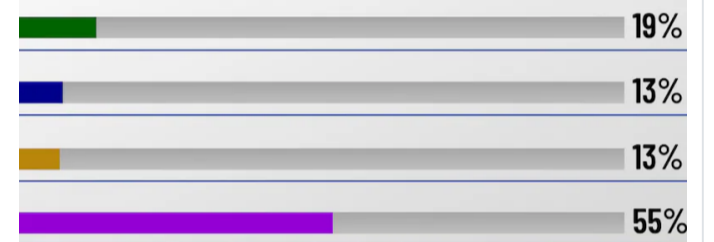


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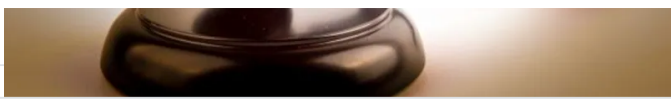
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