



SKY LODGE

END OF YEAR REVIEW
GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2024-2025

ABOUT SKY LODGE

Sky Lodge is a historic, cabin resort and campus situated on more than 150 acres in **Moose River Valley, Maine**. Originally built in 1929 as a hunting and fishing getaway, it was named “Sky Lodge” by two former WWII airmen in the 1940s and has been known by that name ever since. In 2018, Elaine and John Couri gifted it to **Unity Environmental University**.

Sky Lodge features a restaurant, conference center, contemporary cabins for rental, the Elaine and John Couri Welcome Center, the Moose River Valley Center, and year-round recreational trails. Outdoor activities nearby include hiking, golfing, biking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, whitewater rafting, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling.

For the outdoor adventure enthusiast, **Unity Environmental University’s Sky Lodge** provides a unique opportunity to travel with purpose. Sky Lodge embodies the mission of Unity Environmental University, allowing visitors to enjoy the natural environment surrounding them while also embracing sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. It also offers Unity students a place to immerse themselves in learning about sustainable tourism, hospitality, adventure careers, wildlife conservation, biology, and more.

Sky Lodge is an integral part of the local economy in the **Moose River Valley and the greater Jackman, Maine area**.

Together, we are laying the foundation for Unity students and the wider public to experience a real-world manifestation of environmental stewardship within a strong business model.



Dear Elaine and John,

As we celebrate seven years since your generous gift of Sky Lodge and the Moose River Valley Center (MRVC) to Unity Environmental University, I want to thank you again and share some exciting updates from this past fiscal year.



I am happy to report that in 2024-25, we stabilized our staffing with the hiring of our new General Manager, Joshua Cattan, as well as our Guest Services Coordinator, Marguerite Correia, and our housekeeper and general helper, Jesse Newell. The team's knowledge of the hospitality industry and dedication to Sky Lodge have made a profound impact, and guest feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Our team is also seeking ways to collaborate with Unity Environmental University at Pineland (Unity's in-person learning program) to host students at Sky Lodge for interactive field research projects and courses.

Since its reopening in November 2024, Sky Lodge has held numerous events, including a reunion for the family that owned the Lodge in the 1980s, a baby shower, our first wedding in several years, and Forest Hills School District's National Honor Society induction and high school prom. We were also pleased to host the leadership team from the Conservation Fund in February and an informational session about their plans for the conservation of 44,000 acres known as the Hilton Family Forest, which they recently acquired.

The Elaine and John Couri Welcome Center continues to serve as a cornerstone of local connection. At least three days a week, local senior citizens craft quilts and other items that are then donated to local auctions and Project Linus, which provides handmade quilts to children in neonatal intensive care. The Center also provides a space for monthly no-charge yoga classes led by a local instructor. It is a pleasure to see how this space is contributing to the health and well-being of the people who live and work in the region. The ongoing impact of the Welcome Center, Sky Lodge, and the MRVC on the Moose River Valley region is both meaningful and far-reaching. We are proud to carry on your legacy of service, and we remain committed to making thoughtful capital investments that will ensure Sky Lodge continues to thrive for years to come.

With Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melik Peter Khoury'.

Dr. Melik Peter Khoury President/CEO, Unity Environmental University



NEW STAFF *for a* NEW YEAR

In the fall of 2024, Joshua Cattan joined us as our new General Manager. Joshua came to Sky Lodge from Utah's Alta Ski Resort, where he held various leadership roles across dining, guest services, and facilities. His generalist experience has proven invaluable in leading a lean, adaptable team.

Joining him is Marguerite Correia, our Guest Services Coordinator. With deep roots in hospitality and a warm presence in the Moose River community, she has become the first point of contact for many of our guests and groups.

Jesse Newell also joined us as the housekeeper and general helper. Jesse assists with projects around the property, including giving the moose sculpture that stands at the entrance a fresh coat of paint.

The new team immediately started reestablishing ties with the local Chamber of Commerce, connecting with area business partners, and enhancing the Lodge's visibility throughout the region. They have also continued to oversee ongoing upgrades to the facility while managing events and reservations.



JOSHUA CATTAN
GENERAL MANAGER



MARGUERITE CORREIA
GUEST SERVICES COORDINATOR



JESSE NEWELL
HOUSEKEEPING / GENERAL HELPER

REOPENING *the* LODGE

Sky Lodge paused operations in the fall of 2023 to complete over \$1M in infrastructure upgrades designed to preserve the Lodge's rustic charm and enhance the student and guest experience. The Lodge proudly reopened to guests on November 18, 2024, with a new general manager and staff. The new team is actively working on a plan to open the Lodge to students as well.

The reopening marks a significant milestone in Unity's commitment to Sky Lodge, and guest feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The glowing online reviews are a testament to the new employees' dedication.



The CONSERVATION FUND COMMUNITY FORUM

In February 2025, Sky Lodge proudly hosted the leadership team from the Conservation Fund. During a highly attended informational session, the Fund shared plans for the conservation of 44,000 acres known as the Hilton Family Forest.

People from around the region joined the discussion on how the land will be protected to ensure it remains a viable habitat for wildlife, recreational access, and sustainable forestry.

The Fund's leadership also stayed at Sky Lodge. Since the event, we continue to explore a long-term collaboration with the Fund focused on education, stewardship, and research in partnership with Unity Environmental University.



**Help Shape
the Future of
Hilton Family Forest**

©Jerry Monkman

The Conservation Fund is excited to meet you and envision, together, the future of the 44,000-acre Hilton Family Forest. Come share your ideas at this casual gathering and help us, the new owners of Hilton Family Forest, ensure this remarkable land benefits the community for generations to come.
Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Saturday, February 8th
2-4pm
feel free to arrive and depart at any time!

The Sky Lodge of Unity Environmental University
2 Sky Lodge Drive
Moose River, ME 04945

**We'd love to know if you're planning to attend
or if you have any questions!**

Contact Tom: 207-869-6085 or TDuffus@conservationfund.org

PRIVATE EVENTS *at* SKY LODGE

Legacy Owner Family Reunion

Sky Lodge welcomed back the family of its 1980s owners for a full-property rental and celebratory weekend. We were honored to provide a buffet-style brunch and space for reconnection and storytelling. Moments like these remind us of the generational connections embedded in the Lodge's history.

Intimate Summer Wedding

In June, we hosted a wedding for 35 guests. The wedding made use of the Lodge's historic indoor spaces as well as its lush natural landscape.

Local Baby Shower

In April, we hosted a local baby shower for 30 guests. The shower included a spring-themed brunch made on site.

Private events like these continue to expand our local presence and highlight the Lodge as a destination for meaningful community gatherings.



HOSTING FOREST HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT



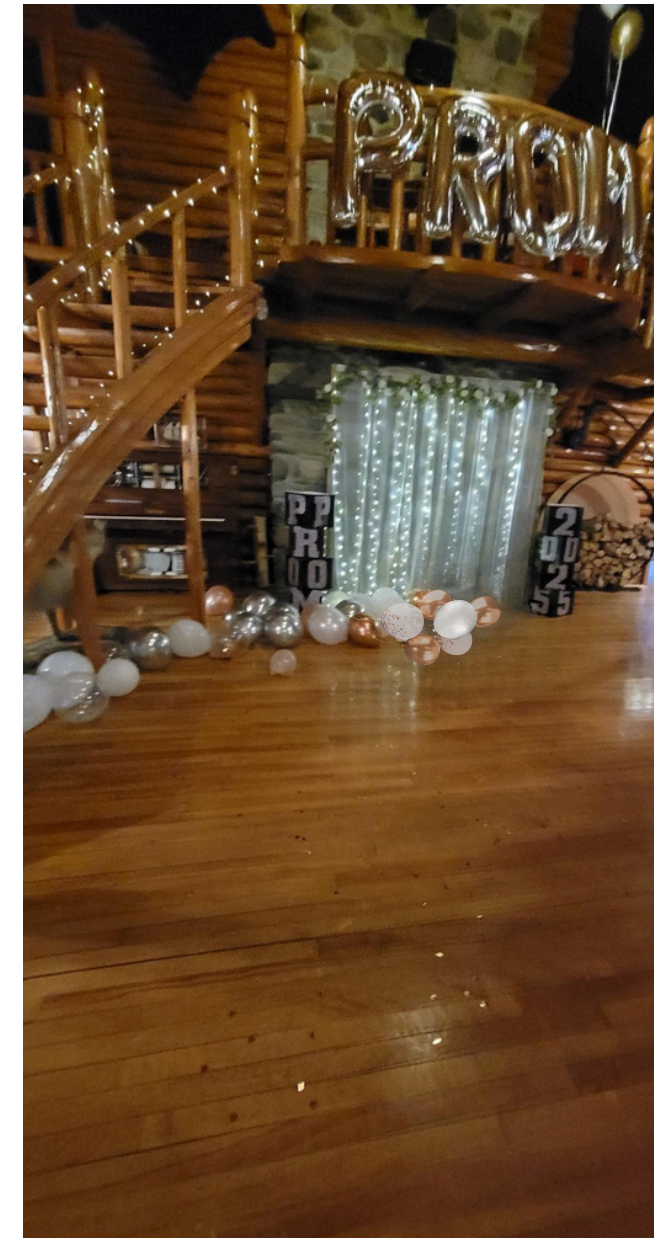
This year, we were pleased to once again host the district's **National Honor Society** event. Students from the local high school were inducted into the National Honor Society for high school students.

FOREST HILLS CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL



PROM *at* SKY LODGE

Sky Lodge was also honored to serve as the Forest Hills High School prom venue this year. Unity Environmental University donated the staff's time and subsidized the use of the space to make this special event a reality for local students.



The ELAINE *and* JOHN COURI WELCOME CENTER

The Elaine and John Couri Welcome Center continues to serve as a hub for local connection and creativity in Moose River. The space has become a vibrant gathering place for crafting, painting, and sewing sessions, many of which support charitable efforts. Over the past year we regularly welcomed a group of approximately eight local seniors three days a week.

Additionally, the Welcome Center has become a setting for monthly community yoga classes, offered free of charge by a local instructor who generously donates her time. These classes promote wellness and inclusivity.



Participants in these crafting sessions often create items for local auctions or contribute to Project Linus, a national nonprofit that provides handmade quilts to children in hospital neonatal intensive care units and other nursery units in need. Their work adds both beauty and comfort to the lives of others, and we are proud to host them in a space that fosters such generosity.



CONTINUED INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

During 2024–25, we made major capital improvements to Sky Lodge’s infrastructure and security. A new security camera system was installed in June and several structural, electrical, and interior upgrades were completed across the property.



RENOVATIONS

- Repaired chimneys in Cedar Cabin, Trails End House, and Mountain View Cabin
- Installed a new fireplace insert in the Mountain View Cabin
- Repointed and waterproofed the Lodge foundation
- Deteriorating logs in the main Lodge and cabins were repaired and replaced by a log cabin expert
- Renovated the Country House, including new paint, flooring, and bathroom doors
- Upgraded electrical systems with new panels in the Maintenance Garage, Fitness Building, and Museum
- Completed minor renovations in the Dehle House
- Deep-cleaned the Lodge kitchen in preparation for reopening dining
- Renovated the bathrooms in rooms 7, 10, and 12 inside the Main Lodge

ECONOMIC IMPACT

At **Unity Environmental University**, we know that what we do impacts those around us. Our presence must demonstrate our role as responsible stewards of our fiscal resources, the environment, and the areas where we live and work. Here is a snapshot of how we do that:

\$76,383
Revenue

\$553,805
Expenses

\$477,422
Institutional
Commitment

LOCAL AREA IMPACT

As members of the region, it is important that we use our resources for the betterment of the local area. The Moose River Valley Center and Elaine and John Couri Welcome Center are an integral part of this.

\$634
Average Spent Per
Reservation

246
Guest Reservations

45
Seniors participate in events at the Moose River Valley Center (MRVC) and/or the Elaine and John Couri Welcome Center

12
Hours per week the Welcome Center is open to local seniors

STUDENT IMPACT

In 2024-25, Sky Lodge was closed to students as we completed extensive renovation work.

Today, the Sky Lodge team is working with Unity Environmental University at Pineland (Unity’s in-person learning program) to host interactive field research programs and courses. These courses will utilize the Sky Lodge campus as well as the diverse ecological landscape that surrounds it.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

For our employees who live in the Moose River Valley and Jackman area, we make sure they have the financial resources they need to participate in the area both socially and economically.

\$96,759
Annual payroll and benefits (includes Unity and contracted employees dedicated to Sky Lodge)

4
Employees (includes full-time, part-time, and contracted employees)

MAINE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Shopping locally is critical to the local economy; it reduces our environmental impact and enhances both economic and environmental sustainability.

39%	Spent with Maine vendors for a total of \$265,000
8%	Food sourced locally
\$449,303	Investments in facilities and construction through capital improvements
\$1,000	Received in grants and donations

FUTURE PLANNING

We're especially excited about the work underway to bring dining services back online and create immersive overnight packages for visiting students and mission-aligned retreats.

New signage that reflects our name change from Unity College to Unity Environmental University will be installed for both the Elaine and John Couri Welcome Center and the Main Lodge property in August of 2025.

Now that the renovations are complete, we plan to once again host Unity Environmental University students at Sky Lodge, using the campus as a platform for interactive field research projects.



VISION STATEMENT

— “ —

A multifaceted organization recognized as the thought leader in global ecological, economic, and societal solutions.

MISSION STATEMENT

— “ —

We are dedicated to delivering quality education and experiences that produce outstanding environmentally competent professionals and inspire individuals from all walks of life to steward sustainable ecosystems.



