

Idaho artist putting the final touches on NOLS sculpture at Eagle Bronze

A grassroots fundraising effort is bringing a bronze sculpture of the National Outdoor Leadership School's founder Paul Petzoldt. About a year ago a group of former NOLS employees initiated the process to commission a larger-than-life sculpture to place at the school headquarters in Lander.

Today, the informal committee met at Eagle Bronze to check out artist Ben Victor's nearly complete work before the bronzing process begins. Victor, based out of Boise, Idaho, said he's been working on the clay sculpture since February, and he estimates he'll have the final details done in a couple weeks. The finished product is expected to be finished and dedicated during the NOLS 50th anniversary celebration on Oct. 5.

The committee members all concurred that the sculpture captures Petzoldt's likeness and character. All of them knew and worked with Petzoldt. He founded NOLS in 1965 and died in 1999.