A friend shared a quote with me this weekend from Dan Zandra, “Worry is a misuse of the imagination.” ‘Oh that’s good,’ I thought to myself. Too much worry kills our imagination and creativity.

I think the antidote to worry is GRATITUDE and HOPE. Because of this amazing donor community, I find it so easy to lean into those things! So, THANK YOU! Thank you for giving hope and possibilities to our staff and students in a tumultuous year.

At the start of 2021 we had approved a modest budget, our ropes course programs were rolling but we hadn’t run overnight programs for a year and a half. You stood by us in that uncertainty and gave more deeply than any other time in our history. In 2021, our community of donors contributed over $2.1 million towards our scholarship programming and partnerships with public schools. By supporting Outward Bound California programming, you connected teens with soon-to-be best friends who had been trapped behind screens in online classes, helped female veterans find support from fellow sisters in arms, and provided students a way to get outside on the Ropes Challenge Course. Two in every three participants received financial support to attend. We were able to hold strong to this percentage because of your generosity.

Through the year, we reopened our Joshua Tree and High Sierra basecamps and met the record demand for courses which filled as quickly as we put them on the calendar! We heard from the 330 summer students who attended courses that the experience was magical - with more healing, connection and growth than ever. We operated our first full year at the Ropes Challenge Course with over 1,000 participants, which stayed open through the pandemic with smart safety decisions and following guidance from the CDC.

After each milestone this year, we raised a glass (or more appropriately a water bottle!) and cheers’d you. Thank you for recognizing that these programs change lives, and being a part of this community in such a deeply impactful way. There is much ahead of us and a great need for what we are providing. We are helping students reorient themselves to the world, rebuild confidence, and return to their communities as an active participant.

On behalf of the Outward Bound California community, thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to the year ahead together where we can lean into hope, gratitude and possibilities.

In community,

NETTIE PARDOE
npardue@obca.org

**LAST YEAR IN REVIEW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSES</th>
<th>120</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STUDENTS</td>
<td>1,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAYS OF PROGRAMMING</td>
<td>6,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHALLENGE COURSE PROGRAMS</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**HOW DO STUDENTS GET TO OUTWARD BOUND CALIFORNIA?**

- 330 students attended open enrollment expeditions in the High Sierra or Joshua Tree last year. They registered on our national website as individuals, and formed small groups of up to 10. Even though students arrived as strangers, they leave as tight knit friends with memories to last a lifetime.

- 500 students came with community based organizations. During the pandemic, nonprofits connected to the community were often the only access point for students when long-distance learning was in place.

- 290 students attended as a field trip with their schools and classmates. From San Francisco to Oakland to Los Angeles, schools are critical to reaching students who would normally not have access to outdoor programming.

- 20 students came on fully scholarshipped programs (including gear + travel stipends) in the High Sierra through our Pinnacle and Youth Leadership Corps programs. The scholarships’ goal is to inspire a love of the outdoors and deepen leadership skills for students of color and those from low-income communities.
We provide a progression of different programs where students can join at the beginning and move through every type of experience or come to us at any point along the way. The goal is to offer an entry point program for every student, regardless of prior experience. With just one experience, or through the entire progression, participants develop important skills for success and a love of the outdoors they carry for the rest of their lives.

For our nonprofit and school partnerships, the most approachable program is the Ropes Challenge Course. Located in San Francisco, it’s a one day program that students attend with classmates and friends. For many, it’s close enough to reach by foot! Concepts such as belonging, persistence, and physical confidence are introduced.

From the groups that join us on the ropes course, we recruit groups to attend an overnight expedition in some of California’s most iconic outdoor spaces. This expedition provides a new level of challenge where students sleep overnight, carry heavy packs, and navigate their surroundings - not to mention the group dynamics that come up when the hiking gets hard! They still head out with classmates and a trusted teacher which helps build confidence early on in the programs.

Our 12+ week internship program in the High Sierra and apprenticeship program in the Bay Area create a pathway into the outdoor industry for people of color and LGBTQ+ identifying young adults. We offer in-depth training, skill building, student-led service projects and networking in the field. The goal of these programs is to prepare students for entry into instructional roles at Outward Bound or other youth-serving organizations. This year we will have four apprentices, we aim to grow to nine annually.

Recruited from the organizations we work with on the two previous programs, the Pinnacle Program and the Youth Leadership Corps (YLC) are fully scholarshipped 2-week long programs in the High Sierra. Participants have a totally immersive experience on a longer format course with students they don’t know from all over the state. Students are pushed farther out of their comfort zone with a longer course, new friends to make, more challenging terrain (desert or high altitude) and opportunities to lead through the myriad of challenges the natural world and group travel presents.

“I feel like I am a better leader and am able to step back in times of stress to think about what I need to do and what will generate the best outcome.”
- Liam, age 15

“I notice that I tend to have a greater “seize the day” kind of attitude. I am taking more control over every day and the opportunities that come my way.”
- Tyler, age 21

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“I notice that I tend to have a greater “seize the day” kind of attitude. I am taking more control over every day and the opportunities that come my way.”
- Tyler, age 21
For participants, an OBCA course is often an unprecedented, transformational experience—and for some, the first time they have spent consecutive days outdoors or explored a local park. Our courses are impactful precisely because they are physically, emotionally, and socially challenging. Overnight programs in awe-inspiring natural settings can provide clarity and a path to wellbeing. One-day programs can catalyze change and build community. The vision of Outward Bound is to build more resilient and compassionate individuals for a more resilient and compassionate world. We push participants to discover and actualize their best selves and develop leaders who act beyond themselves toward the greater good. With different lengths of program it’s important to compare programs by the number of days spent with us as well as counting the number of participants. The work described in this report is only possible with the tremendous support and generosity of our community of donors. As we build back from the pandemic, we seek to hit previous scholarship levels and grow from there to ensure access to all participants who seek adventure and self-discovery in nature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM PROGRESSION BY THE NUMBERS*</th>
<th>STUDENTS SERVED</th>
<th>DAYS OF PROGRAMMING</th>
<th>LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED</th>
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<td>9</td>
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*Numbers in this chart are aspirational and not actuals from 2021
Outward Bound is at the center of a fundamental shift in the nation’s educational paradigm. We are helping students become more engaged, compassionate, and confident. By teaching key social and emotional skills, our programs are helping students outgrow their comfort zones and learn to lead together.

The Outward Bound Domains of Thriving (DoT) combines our 60 year history with the latest insight and research on social-emotional development. The DoT highlights the four areas of human development that are impacted on an Outward Bound course: Courage, Belonging, Reflection, and Physical Engagement.

The Outward Bound Outcomes Survey (OBOS), designed and validated by the Partnerships for Education and Resilience (PEAR), measures student change in 12 areas critical to the development of these four domains. Students take the survey at the end of their course, and report on each area. We analyze the results and leverage the learnings to improve programming, staff training and ensure we are providing equitable outcomes for all students across race and gender.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN ACTION

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Percent of Students Self Reporting Change Using the OBOS in 2021. Total of 366 surveys were completed.

Permiton to use the Outward Bound Outcomes Survey (OBOS) was obtained from PEAR.

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of Outward Bound California and do not necessarily reflect those of PEAR.
EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

Female identifying students reported more positive change in three of the measures (Assertiveness, Self-Awareness and Physical Confidence) on our overnight programs. They also reported a high change in Perseverance. We see these results qualitatively each year from our female students. They come back from course saying they found their voice in the group and surprised themselves in what they were able to physically do.

CHALLENGE ROPES COURSE OUTCOMES

% of students who reported positive change on each scale

While the change is less dramatic on our one-day programs (which we would expect having only 6 hours with students vs. a week+) all measures still showed statistically significant positive change in critical outcomes such as physical confidence and group relationships. Many of the groups represented by these surveys came together on our ropes course in McLaren Park for the first time in person in a year or more. It was powerful for them and us to be a part of their healing and reorientation to social activity.

ON OUR OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS

- 88% of students gained courage to face challenges
- 76% of students committed to making a difference in their world after their course
- 79% of students felt they learned to work more effectively in a group

ON OUR ONE-DAY PROGRAMS

- 75% AGREE I have gained confidence to try new things
- 77% AGREE I am more aware of how to support those around me
- 72% AGREE I can work more effectively in a group

CHALLENGE ROPES COURSE OUTCOMES

- 25% 50% 75%

- PERSEVERANCE 92.6%
- SELF AWARENESS 46.9%
- LEARNING INTEREST 48.7%
- TEAMWORK 54.4%
- GROUP RELATIONSHIPS 54.6%
- PHYSICAL CONFIDENCE 53.9%
Early in 2021, we had just made it through a very challenging period, and the path forward was still unclear. Our ropes course day programs were running, but still at low capacity, and we hadn’t run an overnight program since March 2020. By summer we were running our traditional multi-week expeditions again at 65% capacity, our ropes course programming was ramping up with nearly three days every week booked, and we had our sights set on reopening our Southern California basecamp in the fall.

By 2021 year end, through disciplined decision making, we were in a strong financial position with three months of cash in the bank as well as having exceeded both fundraising and earned revenue targets. Fundraised revenue alone increased by over 40% year over year. We leveraged additional federal Payroll Protection Plan stimulus funding of $729,000 in 2021 to open all three of our regional basecamps again but were conservative with how much we grew because more government support funds were not anticipated in 2022. The final result was a return to our 50-50 earned-contributed revenue model and a 25% administrative/fundraising expense. We anticipate this number going down as we ramp up more programs in coming years.

FINANCIALS

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>EARNED REVENUE</td>
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*Unaudited financials for 2021
**PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS & CHARTER SCHOOLS**
- Anahuacalmeac International University Preparatory
- Aptos Middle School
- Burton High School
- Claire Lilienthal Middle School
- Democracy Preparatory Academy
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Middle School
- Get Out And Learn/Downtown High School
- John O’Connell High School
- June Jordan School for Equity
- Mission High School
- Oakland Military Institute College Preparatory Academy
- Rudsdale Newcomer High School
- Sunrise Middle School
- Tennyson High School
- Visitacion Valley Middle School (VVMS)

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS**
- The Bayshore School
- The Branson School
- Blue Oak School
- Sierra Nevada University
- St. Raymond Catholic School
- Stevensen School

**GOVERNMENT**
- Mentoring for Success
- Public Service Pathways
- San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (SFCASA)
- San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**
- Harpeth Hall School
- Pacific Bay Christian School

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**
- AIM High
- Bayview Hunters Point YMCA
- Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco Mission Clubhouse
- Boys and Girls Club Visitacion Valley Clubhouse
- Camp Phoenix
- City Youth Now
- College Track East Palo Alto
- Community Growers
- Covenant House California
- Enterprise for Youth
- FACES for the Future Coalition
- Forest and Tree
- Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF)
- Girl Scouts Heart of Central California
- Hope SF
- Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles
- Kids Enjoy Exercise Now
- Kingmakers of Oakland
- Larkin Street Youth Services
- Los Angeles Audubon Society
- Mayor’s Youth Employment and Education Program
- Outdoor Educators Institute (Youth Outside)
- Project Aarya
- Project Wreckless
- Real Options for City Kids
- Seen52
- Success Centers
- Summer Search
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods

**INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS**
- Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
- AT&T
- Bella Vista Foundation
- The Bernard Osher Foundation
- The California Wellness Foundation
- Climate Ride
- Chrysalis Fund
- Crescent Porter Hale Foundation
- The Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation
- Dodge & Cox Funds
- Dr. Squatch
- The Elkes Foundation
- Fort Point Capital Partners
- GoPro
- The Hearst Foundations
- Hellman Foundation
- Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation
- John and Marcia Goldman Foundation
- Kokari Foundation
- Lampert Byrd Foundation
- The Lookout Foundation
- Lisa Stone Pritzker Family Foundation
- March Conservation Fund
- Mountain Camp
- Noah Langholz Remembrance Fund
- Pisces Foundation
- San Francisco Department of Children Youth and Families
- Shauna M. and Kevin B. Flanigan Family Foundation
- The Sports Basement, Inc.
- The Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation
- Virginia Adams Fund for The Ansel Adams Wilderness
- Vital Projects Fund
- The Walther Foundation
- William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation

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- Kendra Frisbie
- Lori Guy
- Paul Danielsen
- Steve Hagler, Program Safety Committee Chair
- Tristam Brown
- Veronica Arthur
- West Coghlan
Thank you for your generous donation. You have made an impact in this world by giving historically excluded people the opportunity to be part of a non-profit program. These programs tend to be extremely expensive which create a financial barrier. Luckily, we got a scholarship to go on a two-week backpacking course in the High Sierras.

These past two weeks have had its lows and highs but my amazing group and I worked through them. We learned many life lessons that will be useful in the future. Such lessons include being resourceful, learning to step out of our comfort zone, and being selfless.

Once again, thank you for your donation. We really appreciate it. I wish you a healthy life full of blessings.

Sincerely,

Maria

Name: Maria  Course#  XN118-14  Dates: 7/12/21 to 7/18/21

Outward Bound California occasionally shares Appreciation Letters with external parties as examples of the impact of the course experience. If you are "not" ok with your letter being shared outside of OBCA staff, please check the box below.

☐ Please do NOT share my letter with any party outside of Outward Bound California

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