

IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2015



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

Welcome to our Annual Report 2015: Impact through Partnership

In 2015 we celebrated our partners who help us deliver upon our mission and core values of compassion, integrity, excellence, diversity and inclusion.

A web of dynamic partnerships facilitates each moment of discovery, awe and triumph that a student experiences on an Outward Bound California course. Every day, Outward Bound California leverages relationships with our partners to gain entry to awe-inspiring parks and forests, custom-build courses tailored to the needs of a given student population, and bring the life-changing power of Outward Bound to our students. Our partners, land agencies, fellow nonprofits, schools, businesses and universities—make it possible for Outward Bound California to have the impact we do and in turn, we amplify the impact and effectiveness of the organizations with whom we partner.

Read on to learn how partnerships made 2015 Outward Bound California's most impactful year yet.



By the Numbers 2015

BAY AREA

65	1,020	2,804
Courses	Students	Student Program Days

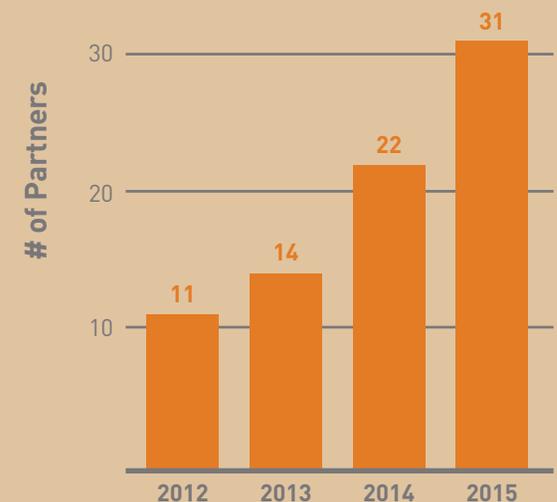
HIGH SIERRA

33	332	4,394
Courses	Students	Student Program Days

JOSHUA TREE

10	104	711
Courses	Students	Student Program Days

Program Partner Growth 2012-2015



High Sierra Program Outcomes

A Research Partnership

On Outward Bound courses, students have the opportunity to learn myriad leadership skills and character traits which can have lasting positive effects in their lives back at home. Researchers such as Angela Duckworth at the University of Pennsylvania have found that grit and resiliency are two of the many character traits that can boost students' academic achievement in school, lessen bullying behavior, increase college persistence and more.

Last summer, we partnered with external evaluators to study these factors in our students before and after our High Sierra extended wilderness courses. Having surveyed 283 students, Alpenglow Education Consulting and Indiana University's school of Public Health found that our Outward Bound courses indeed had medium to strong statistically significant effects on these students' grit and resiliency.

Grit is defined as interest and effort to complete a project lasting a month or more. **Resilience** is defined as the ability to continue to function despite facing adversity. Students come to Outward Bound California with their own lived experiences, their own areas for growth around leadership and character, and differing access to resources. It is our instructors' job to meet them where they are at and support individual and lasting learning from the challenges they face on course.

The study found comparable growth in student grit and resiliency regardless of:

- » Student gender, ethnicity or age
- » Whether the student was a scholarship recipient or not
- » Course length or course activity



"Born and raised in the city I never thought I would be across the country backpacking with a group of people I'd never met. A highlight is when we backpacked ten miles throughout the night. Our 50 pound backpacks weighed us all down, but we pushed through the challenge. This hike taught me that I am able to push past my limits. This memory is something I will tell my grandchildren one day." —Daniel S., 15

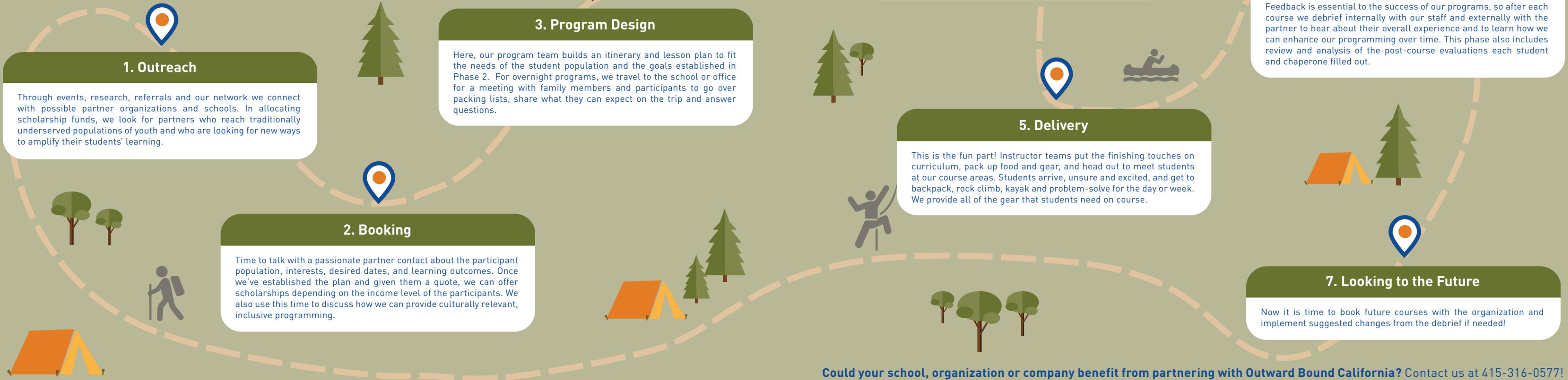
To learn more about Outward Bound's educational framework or to view outcome data from our Bay Area Center programs, please visit www.outwardboundcalifornia.org/approach.

Making Change Through Partnerships

Since the founding of our Bay Area Center in 2008, we have partnered with a variety of public and private schools, nonprofit organizations and companies to open up access to our leadership, character and service education programs. We customize them to fit the needs, goals and ability levels of each group.

Now, through our bases in the High Sierras, Joshua Tree, and San Francisco Bay Area, we run programs ranging from one to ten days backpacking, rock climbing, and kayaking with participants ages 12 and up, including adults!

Below is a sneak peek into how we make the magic happen every day through these programs.



Could your school, organization or company benefit from partnering with Outward Bound California? Contact us at 415-316-0577!

Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles Non Profit Partner

In 2015 Outward Bound California continued expanding access to our programs by building new partnerships in Southern California and the Central Valley. One such mission-aligned partner, Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles, connects our instructors with ambitious teens from underserved communities in Los Angeles in their Witherbee Wilderness Program. The program offers campers an opportunity for self discovery and leadership skill building on backpacking expeditions, away from technology and the comforts of home.

In 2015, 72 campers traveled north to take part in three five-day courses in the San Francisco Bay Area and later that summer ten teen boys spent a week backpacking in the hidden valleys and lakes of Yosemite National Park.

Witherbee Wilderness Program Director Eric Nicasro explains how the Outward Bound courses leave a lasting impression on his campers: **“The students who go on course discover how to connect with one another, create traditions around meals and are encouraged to reach new heights. They then bring those skills back to camp and ultimately, back home. The older students return with confidence, ready to be role models for the next generation of campers. We are excited to see our partnership with Outward Bound grow.”**

We are fortunate to include Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles in our network of partners and look forward to giving more young people in Southern California access to character and community building experiences in the outdoors.



Henry W. Coe State Park Course Area Partner

Henry W. Coe State Park, the largest in California, is one of the many land partners we would like to honor, since cooperation with local, state and national parks is one of the critical ingredients for our success. We use these beautiful natural spaces as inspiration, as a teacher, and as a means of drawing students out of their comfort zones into a place where experiential learning and discovery are possible.

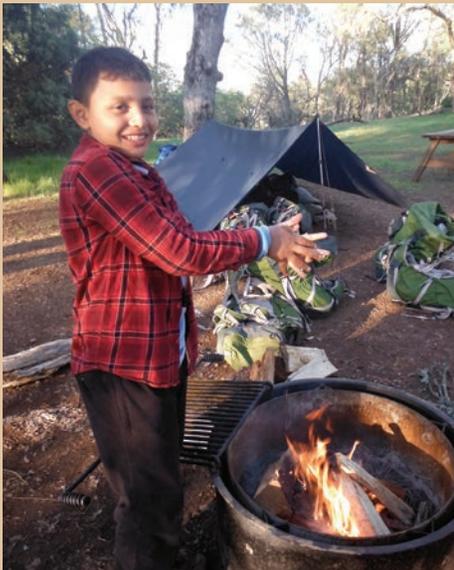
The rolling hills, towering manzanita groves and proximity to our Bay Area programs and schools makes this park a jewel for our staff and students. Our Associate Program Director, Jason Schmidt, ranks this park and its employees high on his list of favorites.



“I can feel the love Henry Coe staff and volunteers have for the space. They get excited about Bay Area youth using the park. At the same time, our students get a unique wilderness experience without having to travel too far from home. There are blankets of wildflowers in the spring and their website is up-to-date on the water and trail conditions which is crucial intel for course planning.”

As a result of five days spent base camping in Henry Coe, 14 year old Angel C. found **“that I can accomplish anything as long as I set my mind to it.”**

You too can get outside at Henry Coe! Book a weekend backpacking trip for you and your friends here: <http://bit.ly/2artOSf>



Summer Search Scholarship Expedition Partner

Linda Mornell began Summer Search in the Bay Area in 1990 with the idea of making summer experiential education programs possible for teenagers from historically marginalized communities. Summer Search provides scholarships and mentoring to high-potential, low-income students giving them a framework to persist through significant challenges at home and school and achieve ambitious life goals.

Outward Bound and Summer Search have built a strong partnership based on reciprocal support and shared values. Both organizations raise 50% of the scholarship funding needed to cover the students' wilderness expeditions. Over the past 25 years, Outward Bound has engaged several thousand Summer Search students on multi-week expeditions.



To watch our interview with Linda Mornell, click go to: <http://bit.ly/2acHV0M>

2015 Donors

(January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015)

We are pleased to recognize **annual** contributions of \$1,000 or more below. To see a complete listing of donors and a special thank you to donors who supported our 2015 gear and capital improvement projects, visit <http://bit.ly/2bodKCx>.

\$50,000 +

Veronica and Greer Arthur
William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation
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Kirby Walker and Paul Danielsen
Jim Welsh and Carrie Edwards-Welsh
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Margaret A. Winter

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Volunteer Leadership

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Outward Bound California's Vision 2020 Partnership with Donors and Funders

In 2015, Outward Bound California's board of directors and staff worked together to craft a vision for the future in which more young Californians than ever before could develop their confidence, resiliency and leadership skills on Outward Bound courses. **The plan we created is a bold one, calling for us to triple the number of youth who participate in Outward Bound California programs by 2020, while building out infrastructure to sustain expeditionary learning across the state for decades to come.**

The realization of this vision will only be possible through through partnerships with donors and funders who believe in the powerful work we do, and whose imaginations are captured by the spirit of adventure, possibility, and discovery. **We extend our warmest thanks** to the following donors who have already invested in this vision for our 2015 Phase Zero Campaign. **Through their generosity, Outward Bound California has purchased additional gear and vehicles, arranged for subsidized instructor housing in the Bay Area and renovated living space at our High Sierra base.**

Veronica and Greer Arthur
The Black Dog Private Foundation
Google Matching Gifts Program
Steve Hagler and Julie Marcus
Helen Hwang

Natalie McCullough and Erik Larson
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Lesley Ross and Jon Liebttag
Abraham Simmons and Nancy Sur
The Syzygy Foundation



Corporate Partnerships City Skyline Challenge

The City Skyline Challenge is our high-rise fundraising event where courageous people rappel down a San Francisco skyscraper in order to create opportunities for young people. Our corporate partners and rappellers helped us raise over \$280,000 for scholarships in 2015!

Outward Bound California is supported by many amazing companies for this annual event and year-round with matching gifts programs. We work together to provide their employees with an important cause to give to, lead their teams on Outward Bound Professional courses, and invite groups to tackle volunteer projects at one of our basecamps.

In addition to offering their time and talent, we appreciate all our corporate sponsors who make contributions of money and products. This type of partnership allows our organization to grow, reaching more students than ever.

Summit Sponsors



Peak Sponsors



Thank you to our 2015 sponsors



Want to build rapport with your co-workers?
Book an Outward Bound Pro course here:
<http://bit.ly/2boOeKC>

Save the date for the City Skyline Challenge!
June 16 & 17, 2017
www.cityskylinechallenge.org

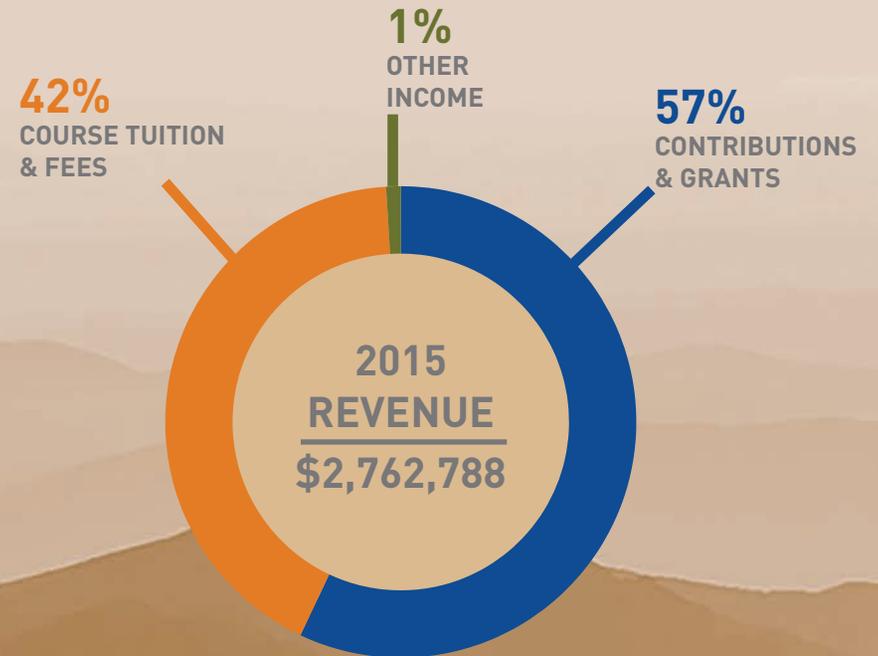
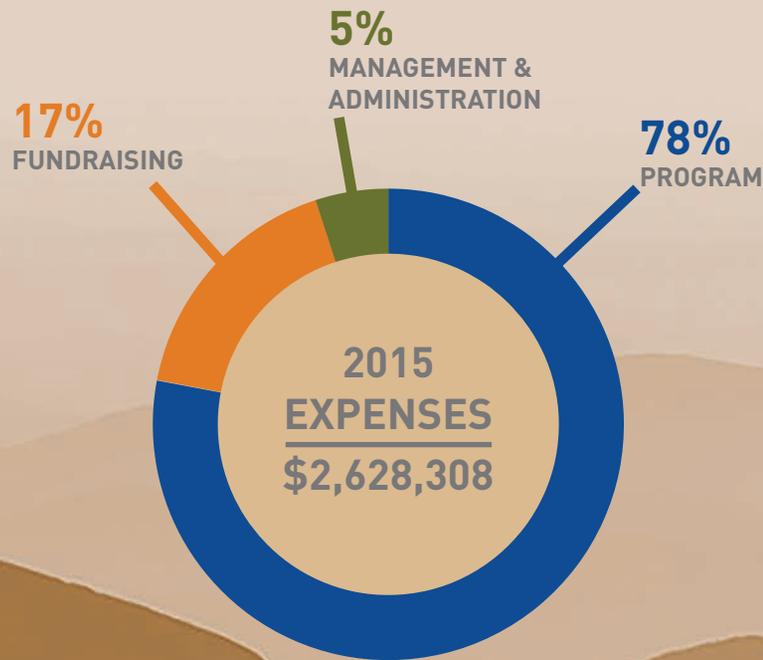
2015 Financial Results

Outward Bound California ended 2015 in a strong financial position. Operating revenue exceeded expense by \$134,469 and endowment funds grew by \$246,949. In total, net assets climbed to 23% over the prior year to \$1.82 million.

Course tuition and fees were up by 18% year over year. Contributions and grants were down by 14% reflecting a one-time gift of \$900,000 recorded in 2014 and released over four years.

Operating expenses increased from \$2.1 million in 2014 to \$2.6 million in 2015. This reflects a 15% increase in the number of students served, an 18% increase in the number of student days in the field, and significant infrastructure investment to set the organization up for continued growth in students served over the course of our 5-year strategic plan.

To view complete 2015 financial statements, please visit: www.outwardboundcalifornia.org/annual-report





www.outwardboundcalifornia.org



Photos: Dan Squire (Cover) & Adam Louie (Back)