



**OUTWARD BOUND**  
CALIFORNIA



## *Board Prospect Information*

**Outward Bound California's mission is to Change Lives through Challenge and Discovery. As members of the Board of Directors of Outward Bound California, Directors play a critical role in the organization and our mission.**

[www.obca.org](http://www.obca.org)

Outward Bound California

548 Market St PMB 68876

San Francisco, California 94104-5401

415.922.6222

**This document will provide you with a look into OBCA and a summary of the role of the Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the board or would like more information, please contact: [communications@obca.org](mailto:communications@obca.org)**

# ABOUT

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## MISSION

To change lives through challenge and discovery.

## VISION

More resilient & compassionate individuals.

A more resilient & compassionate world.

## EQUITY

We engage in equity work with the goal of providing high quality experiences for students, staff and board members across identities. This includes disrupting power dynamics and removing barriers to access that have prevented certain groups from thriving. We are examining all aspects of our organization to assess bias, power dynamics and representation, with the goal of ensuring that our students are supported in having inclusive, supportive and impactful experiences on our programs.



# About the Board

The OBCA Board of Directors are responsible for guiding the organization, and overseeing that the organization does the best work possible in pursuit of its mission and goals. Our bylaws state that we can have a maximum of 24 members.

## ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Provide oversight for the well-being of the organization. This includes budget familiarity and approval, taking an active part in high level organizational decision-making, publicly interpreting the organization's work and values to and keeping up to date and active in the business of the organization.

The board ensures compliance with legal and financial reporting requirements; raises funds and develops the board through recruitment, board training, self-assessment, and board education.

## COMMITTEES/MEETINGS

Attend six board meetings each year, scheduled bi-monthly. A board retreat is held off-site annually. Each member will serve on at least one committee. The board advises and develops the Outward Bound leadership team.

They participate in the annual fundraising event and at least two other donor cultivation events.

For fundraising, the board has a leading role in OBCA's annual unrestricted fund, annually contributing personally or leveraging networks. Board members support key OBCA events such as City Skyline Challenge, dinners, alumni events, and board-hosted Invitational Expeditions.

On behalf of the organization, the board will outreach new board and staff talent and make new connections to advance the mission of Outward Bound.

TO VIEW CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.OUTWARDBOUNDCALIFORNIA.ORG/ABOUT/BOARD-MEMBERS/](http://WWW.OUTWARDBOUNDCALIFORNIA.ORG/ABOUT/BOARD-MEMBERS/)



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# Committees

## **FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Consists of 6-8 members, generally meeting once a month. This committee works with staff to develop fundraising strategies and plans, and will monitor the performance of the strategies developed.

## **PROGRAM AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Consists of 5-7 members who oversee programs and operations, risk management and safety systems. This includes securing outside industry advisors including medical advisors, psychiatric advisors and program experts. This committee meets quarterly and as needed to approve the annual safety objectives and advise on risk management and programs.

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Consists of 3-4 members, who meet monthly, responsible for nomination, recruitment and management of board members.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Consists of 4-5 members who meet monthly who serve as leaders and advisors on financial matters of OBCA including review of the annual audit and budget. The committee will lead the Board in reviewing OBCA's strategy for long-term financial sustainability.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Comprising of Board Chairs and the Executive Director, this committee meets monthly in between board meetings. It monitors the Executive Director's performance and makes recommendations for goals. The committee also supports the ED and provides advice on operating and personnel matters.

## **DEI COMMITTEE**

Comprised of 2-3 board members and staff members. Both staff and board members will commit to two hours a month. The committee is accountable for defining the vision, direction and goals of our Equity, Inclusion and Belonging work and championing the work both internally and externally.





# OBCA HISTORY

OBCA programs draw from a 60-year, global Outward Bound education model and curriculum developed to deepen impact and create lasting, positive student outcomes. In 2008, Outward Bound launched its first West Coast urban-based center in San Francisco.

Expeditions were already running in the High Sierra through the greater Outward Bound network. That programming merged with the urban center in 2012, when Outward Bound California became its own entity, as a charter of Outward Bound USA with a headquarters in San Francisco's Presidio. In 2014, OBCA expanded programming to Southern California by opening a basecamp in Joshua Tree.

In 2020, OBCA completed the construction of its Challenge Ropes Course at John McLaren Park! And in 2022, OBCA put down roots in Joshua Tree by initiating the purchase of a Southern California basecamp. Joshua Tree programs are up and running, and OBCA has a multi-phase plan to improve infrastructure to better support students and staff as we grow and expand.



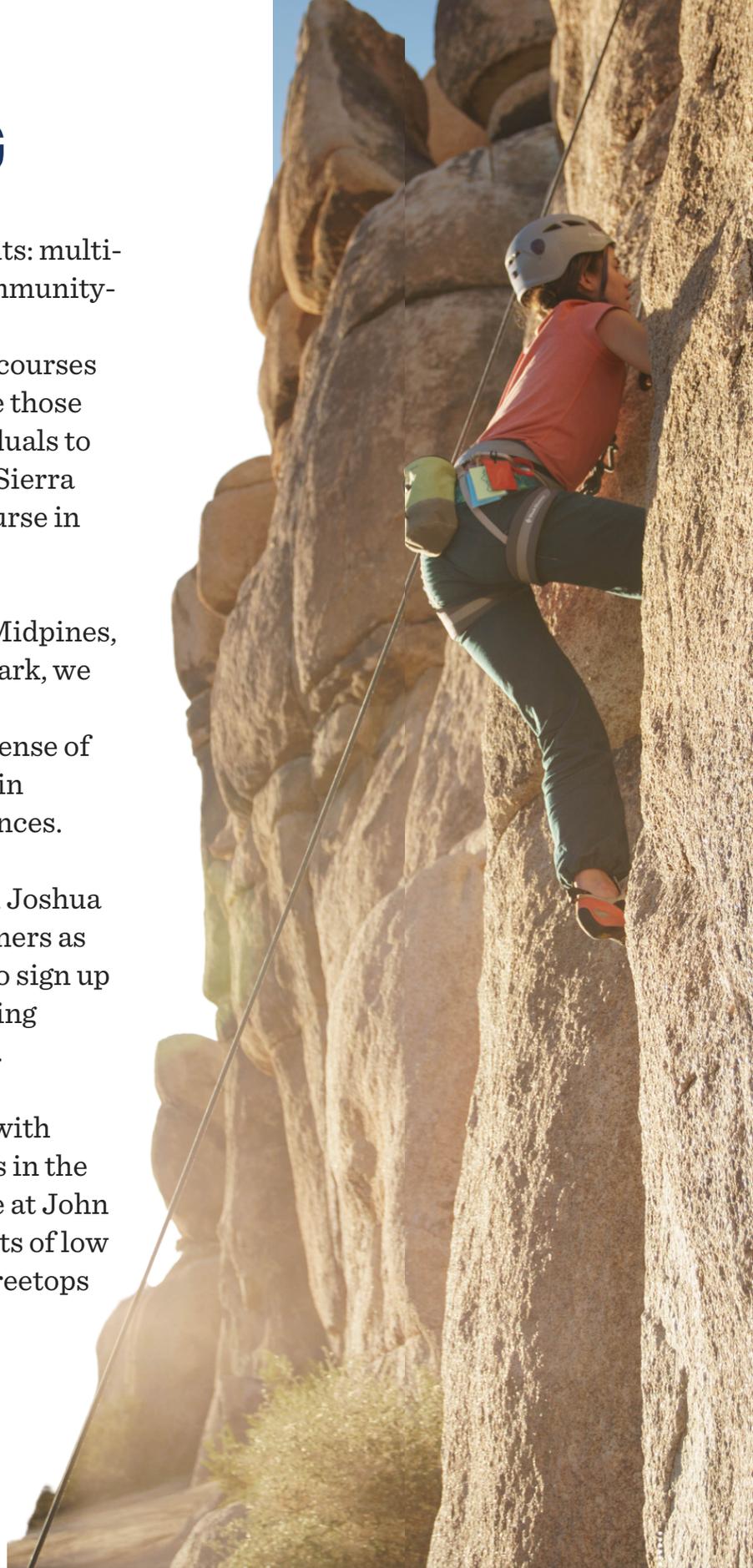
# PROGRAMMING

OBCA has two programming components: multi-day outdoor expedition courses and community-based group programs. For the outdoor expeditions, there are open enrollment courses and group courses. Open enrollment are those courses listed on our website for individuals to enroll. We have basecamps in the High Sierra and Southern California and a ropes course in San Francisco.

Every summer, from our base camp in Midpines, CA, just outside of Yosemite National Park, we provide opportunities for nearly 350 participants to experience a deepened sense of ability, confidence, power and freedom in themselves through wilderness experiences.

Our Southern California basecamp is in Joshua Tree, where we have long standing partners as well as open enrollment individuals who sign up to attend week-long winter through spring backpacking and rock climbing courses.

Our community-based programs work with youth serving organizations and schools in the Bay Area at the Challenge Ropes Course at John McLaren Park. The ropes course consists of low and high obstacles in the urban park's treetops designed to challenge students.



# OUR IMPACT

By teaching key social and emotional skills, programs help students outgrow their comfort zones and learn to lead together. The Outward Bound Domains of Thriving (DoT) combines our 80 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, 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.

Our results showed that students reported statistically significant positive change across all twelve measures on our overnight programs and all six measures on our ropes course one day programs. Additionally, there were no statistically significant differences between race/ethnicity groups on any of the 12 scales for either program type.

**Percent of students self reporting change using the OBOS in 2021.  
A total of 366 surveys were completed.**



of students gained courage to face challenges



of students committed to making a difference in their world after their course



of students felt they learned to work more effectively in a group

## ON OUR OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS

● Agree ● Neither Agree nor Disagree ● Disagree



I have gained confidence to try new things



I am more aware of how to support those around me



I can work more effectively in a group

## ON OUR ONE-DAY PROGRAMS

**CHECK OUT THE STRATEGIC PLAN AT [OBCA.ORG/STRATEGICPLAN](https://obca.org/strategicplan)**



# Joining the Board

OBCA keeps its Board of Directors informed with regular financial reports and organizational updates, often including information about programs and the impact Outward Bound is having on its communities. There are also opportunities provided to Board Members for input to the organization's programs, goals, activities and visibility.

**If you're interested in being a part of a team of influential leaders who are helping OBCA fulfill its mission on a daily basis, please contact [communications@obca.org](mailto:communications@obca.org).**

**We are committed to reflecting the diverse communities with whom we work and strongly encourage people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community and women to apply.**



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