



OUTWARD BOUND
CALIFORNIA

BEGINNING A JOURNEY

Annual Report 2016

Dear friends and community,

As the first year of our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, 2016 was a year of beginnings for Outward Bound California. Much like our students preparing for challenges on their courses, we are embracing the discoveries ahead.

We hired new staff in new positions, we piloted programs in new course areas, built relationships with new partner organizations, and launched an organization-wide equity and inclusion initiative. As we grow our impact across the state, we are committed to delivering even stronger programs and meeting the needs of the communities where we work.

Our programs cultivate, activate, and transform students and staff, unlocking confidence, an ethic of service, leadership, and self-discovery. Like all journeys, we must begin in order to experience it and learn from our successes and challenges along the way.

We invite you to join us as we showcase our efforts and our enthusiasm for the journey ahead.

Warm Regards,



Josh Brankman

2016 BY THE NUMBERS

Bay Area

84	COURSES
1,749	STUDENTS
3,352	STUDENT PROGRAM DAYS

High Sierra

44	COURSES
427	STUDENTS
5,584	STUDENT PROGRAM DAYS

Joshua Tree

12	COURSES
120	STUDENTS
776	STUDENT PROGRAM DAYS

THREE WAYS STUDENTS START THEIR JOURNEY

1

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMING

2

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

3

VETERANS COURSES



1: PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMING

The way most students begin their journey with us is through a school or a nonprofit program they are involved with. OBCA partnered with Black Rock High School, a continuation school in Yucca Valley, for the first time in 2016 as part of the growth of our programming in Southern California. These students learned to trust and communicate with each other while climbing on Joshua Tree's iconic granite slabs.

"Students returned more confident, centered, and focused on their futures. Not only did they learn rock climbing and an appreciation for nature, they learned self-confidence, leadership skills, and teamwork."

**- VONDA VILAND
PRINCIPAL**



2: SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2016 was the first year we had not one but two crews of students (18 total) who began their journey with us through our Youth Leadership Corps program! These students each receive a merit-based scholarship to participate in a year-long service-focused program that kicks off with a 14-day backpacking trip in the High Sierra and continues back home with monthly student-led service projects.



3: VETERANS COURSES

For veterans, the journey home from service can feel like an insurmountable challenge. We offer 6-day courses, free of charge for all active duty and former servicemen and women. We leverage the deep curriculum of Outward Bound paired with expedition-style group travel and draw on the healing benefits of camaraderie, authentic communication, and pushing through perceived limitations as they move through Yosemite and Joshua Tree National Parks.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020

A JOURNEY TO GREATER IMPACT

Through our growth plan, we plan to double our annual days of programming by 2020 through these four areas of growth, bringing outdoor learning experiences to every interested young person across the state of California and shaping the next generation of California leaders.

People

Our greatest asset is our people. Providing world-class training and support for all staff will ensure our capacity to attract and retain the leaders of the future. In 2016, we began integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion at every level of our organization and made key hires to boost our capacity.

Place

Each of our programs are deeply rooted in a sense of place, launching from our three basecamp locations. In 2016, we made numerous capital improvements to our High Sierra base and added staff housing in the Bay Area.

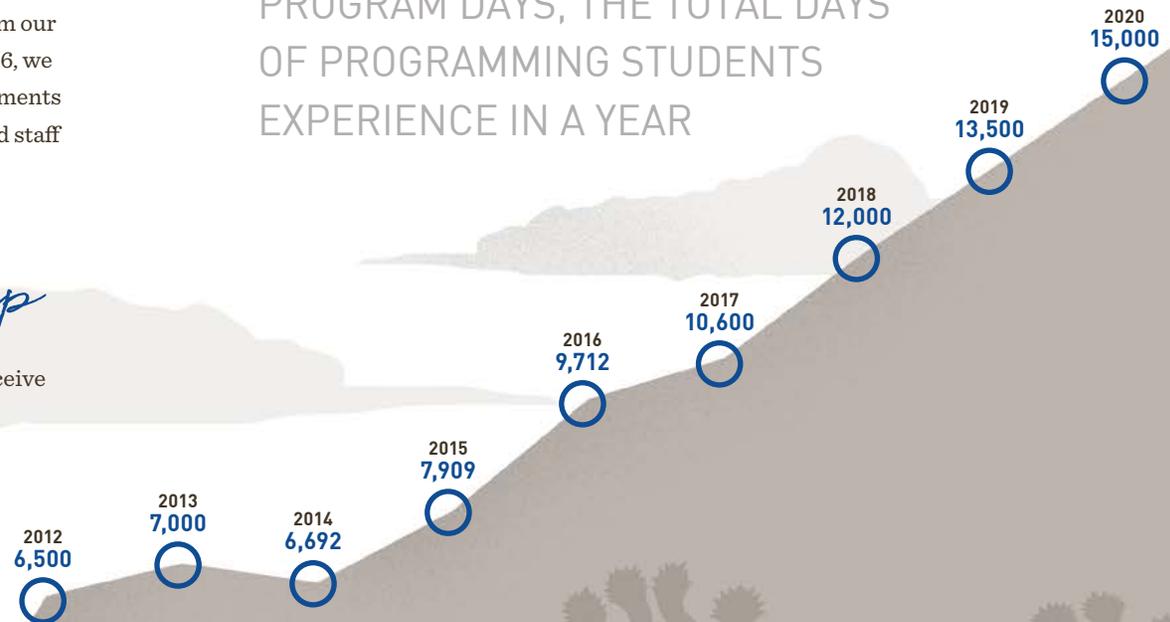
Scholarship

Two thirds of all our students receive scholarships to participate. We are committed to maintaining this ratio even as we triple the number of students we engage annually.

Program

Countless studies have documented the effectiveness of our curriculum and we believe we need to grow in order to open up access to thousands of students across the state. In 2016 we ramped up group programming in Southern California and outreach to build a challenge course in the Bay Area.

THIS GRAPH SHOWS STUDENT PROGRAM DAYS, THE TOTAL DAYS OF PROGRAMMING STUDENTS EXPERIENCE IN A YEAR



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

2016 STUDENT OUTCOMES

96%

FELT SUCCESSFUL IN COMPLETING THEIR COURSE

95%

GAINED AN APPRECIATION FOR NATURE

95%

LEARNED TEAMWORK

94%

BELIEVED MORE IN THEIR ABILITY TO SUCCEED

SPOTLIGHT ON CHALLENGE

As we grow, we want to ensure our students continue to get the best we have to offer. We invest heavily in student preparation for our courses, yet some still head home early and disproportionately these are students receiving scholarship. This trend is a challenge we are committed to tackling as we continue our journey.

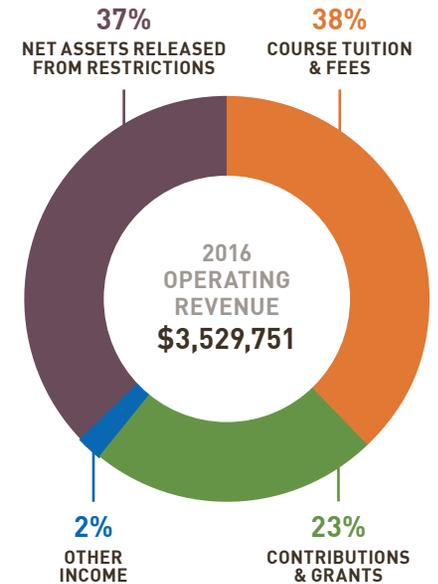
YEARLY % OF EARLY DEPARTURES

YEAR	%
2014	4.0%
2015	2.5%
2016	4.7%

2016 FINANCIAL RESULTS

2016 was a year of tremendous growth. Outward Bound California received several significant gifts, notably a generous \$3 million commitment over four years to support our strategic growth plan from 2016 to 2020. This along with 18% year over year growth in course tuition and fees led Outward Bound California to end the year with \$4.5 million in net assets compared with \$1.8 million the year prior. Setting aside charitable contributions which will be paid in future years, operating revenue totalled \$3.5 million.

Operating expenses increased to \$3.5 million in 2016 from \$2.6 million in 2015. This reflects a 58% year over year increase in the number of students engaged, a 23% increase in the number of student days in the field, and ongoing infrastructure investments as laid out in our 2016-2020 strategic plan.



2016 DONORS

1,474 generous donors supported our work in 2016. THANK YOU! Each and every gift makes a difference. We are pleased to recognize leading donors and funders here. Please visit www.obca.org/donate/donors for a full list.

\$50,000+

VERONICA AND GREER ARTHUR
WILLIAM K. BOWES, JR. FOUNDATION
THE MCNELLIS FAMILY TRUST
THE STUPSKI FOUNDATION

\$25,000 - \$49,999

ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION
BLACK DOG PRIVATE FOUNDATION
JOSEPH DROWN FOUNDATION
NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION
SAINT FRANCIS FOUNDATION
SYZYGY FOUNDATION
THE WALTHER FOUNDATION
JAMES WYATT

\$10,000 - \$24,999

ANONYMOUS
THE VIRGINIA ADAMS FUND
JUDITH KNELL BINDER FAMILY FOUNDATION
JOSH AND MAIDA BRANKMAN
ED AND EVE COLLOTON
PATRICK AND GINGER CONNOLLY
BOB AND DANA EMERY
SHAUNA M. AND KEVIN B. FLANIGAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
FORT POINT CAPITAL PARTNERS
LENNAR URBAN
THE DEAN AND MARGARET LESHER FOUNDATION
DOUGLAS AND VIRGINIA LEVICK

GEORGE AND KAREN MCCOWN
PLANET GRANITE
GREG AND LAURA SPIVY
VITAL PROJECTS FUND
WELLS FARGO
GREG YAP AND MAURIA FINLEY
YOUTH OUTSIDE

\$5,000- \$9,999

KIM AND SMOKY BAYLESS
CAPITAL ONE
PAUL DANIELSEN AND KIRBY WALKER
BILL AND PHYLLIS DRAPER
EDELMAN
THE ELKES FOUNDATION
CEPPIE AND IRWIN FEDERMAN
HATHAWAY DINWIDDIE
THE JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION
SEYMOUR KAUFMAN
JOHN KEHL
THE NOAH LANGHOLZ REMEMBRANCE FUND
LUMIA CAPITAL
NATALIE MCCULLOUGH AND ERIK LARSON
MICROSOFT
THE BERNARD OSHER FOUNDATION
BOB AND MARION OSTER
PISCES FOUNDATION
SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE
WOODY SCAL AND CLAUDIA LEWIS
WILLIAM E. SIMON FOUNDATION



2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KEVIN CAUSEY
PRESIDENT

STEVE HAGLER
VICE PRESIDENT

GREG YAP
TREASURER

WINN ELLIS
SECRETARY

VERONICA ARTHUR
ERIC BOALES
TRIS BROWN
WEST COGHLAN
ED COLLOTON
PAUL DANIELSEN
HELEN HWANG
DOUGLAS LEVICK
JON LIEBTAG
NATALIE MCCULLOUGH
DAVINA PUJARI
ART RINGNESS
LESLEY ROSS
JONATHAN SCHMIDT
ABRAHAM SIMMONS
TOPHER SOLMSEN

RAJEN DALAL
EMERITUS

WOODY SCAL
EMERITUS

JOSH BRANKMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2016
CITY SKYLINE CHALLENGE SPONSORS



Join us for 2017 - August 18th and 19th at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square. Help us raise over \$350,000 and rappel off their 46 floor tower! All funds raised go towards scholarships to support underrepresented youth and communities across CA.



www.obca.org

