



Sent on Behalf of the 2021 Outward Bound USA Kurt Hahn Award Committee:

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

We are pleased to announce James “Jamie” McLane as this year’s Kurt Hahn Award recipient. This annual award, named in honor of the founder of Outward Bound, is presented to those who exemplify outstanding service to our mission. It has been awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution through their life’s work on behalf of others, while demonstrating the values and ideals of Kurt Hahn – an enterprising curiosity, an undefeatable spirit, tenacity in pursuit, sensible self-denial, and compassion.

Jamie’s lifetime relationship with Outward Bound started in 1976 when he joined a multi-day rafting trip on the Yampa and Green rivers in Colorado, at the invitation of Brooks Thomas, another Outward Bound juggernaut. Inspired by what he discovered about himself, and about the mission of Outward Bound, Jamie soon sought ways to give back to the organization that had given him so much. He joined the OBUSA board in 1979 and served as OBUSA’s Board Chair from 1992-1996.

During Jamie’s years on the OBUSA Board, he chaired the Development Committee, was active on several safety and strategic planning committees, and organized and led nine OBUSA Invitational Expeditions in conjunction with COBS, PCOBS, VOBS and HIOBS. He convinced friends and strangers alike to join him on unfamiliar and challenging Outward Bound expeditions. As with Jamie, the impact of these experiences was formidable and, again, resulted in people wanting to become more involved. Catherine Smith, OBUSA’s current board chair, attended two of Jamie’s Invitational Expeditions and shared: “No question, Jamie sold us on the potential impact of Outward Bound.” Jamie’s hallmark inclusive and welcoming Invitational Expedition experiences directly or indirectly introduced dozens of influential leaders to the power of Outward Bound and manifested a generation of leadership across the organization.

From his Outward Bound experiences, Jamie learned that to harness one’s potential, you must reach beyond your self-limiting expectations and comfort zone. He believes that failing is nature’s call to push onward, to reflect and apply what was learned from the setback to the next situation. To this day, Jamie relies on challenge and adventure as a platform to push himself and others, all while fostering an environment of belonging and inclusion, resulting in communities of safety and trust.

Relocating to Philadelphia in the late 1990’s, Jamie soon met Meg Callaghan, an Outward Bound alumna and a member of a very passionate group of Outward Bound alumni engaged in the start-up of what would become today’s Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS). Jamie joined Meg on the Advisory Board in 1999 and over the past 20+ years his leadership, Outward Bound experience, business, and financial skills have contributed to the growth, stability, and educational focus of the School. Jamie and Meg were married in 2006.

Jamie tapped his Invitational Expedition experience to help organize and lead POBS’ first *Urban Invitational Expedition*, featuring community service at a food kitchen for the homeless, sleeping in a church classroom, buying lunch from 5 different countries for 15 people in 15 minutes for \$40 at a city market, camping in Valley Forge, canoeing on the Schuylkill River, ending with the emotional and physical challenges posed by the high ropes course. Former Mayor of Philadelphia and POBS Co-Founder, Michael Nutter, also a participant on this *Urban Invitational Expedition*, shared “I will never forget that experience...I remembered the patient compassion and quiet confidence of Jamie. I realized that I could do the next hard thing that needed to be done – to get to the other side – and, as you may know, I won that Mayor’s race.”



Always willing to lead through challenge, during the years of organizational change across the Outward Bound network (2003-2012), Jamie co-chaired a Mid-Atlantic Outward Bound Executive Committee, consisting of the Board members and Executive Directors of both the Philadelphia and Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound Centers. Under Jamie's leadership, these two Schools charted a successful path to their separate sustainability. As a member of the POBS Board for 19 years (1999-2018), Jamie fostered the educational philosophy of Kurt Hahn with thousands of Philadelphia school students.

In 2012, as POBS launched a project to establish a permanent facility on a 40-acre abandoned reservoir in a city park, Jamie stepped forward to serve on the Project Leadership Council. The resulting Campaign for The Discovery Center, a joint project between POBS and the National Audubon Society, raised \$18.4M and brought the vision for The Discovery Center to reality – on schedule when it opened in the fall of 2018. With a personal commitment, Jamie and his family funded the construction and establishment of the Center's large, professionally engineered McLane Family Challenge Course, now used annually by thousands of students. Today, Jamie remains actively engaged as an emeritus member of the POBS board, continuing to introduce and cultivate many potential funders and Board members to Outward Bound.

Although Jamie was the first in his family to experience Outward Bound, he is certainly not the last. His wife, Meg, and three sons are Outward Bound alumni and no doubt this family legacy will be inherited by future generations of McLane's. To Jamie and his family, Outward Bound isn't simply something you do, it represents the principles by which you live your life.

Given his years of highly productive involvement at so many levels of the organization, Jamie knows first-hand how Outward Bound's educational experiences can be applied to create a more understanding and inclusive world. He knows that the key to leadership begins with a commitment to service, and service requires enormous humility. Despite his four plus decades of engagement with Outward Bound, Jamie still considers himself a part of the crew, alongside the field instructor intern, the newest board member, the administrative staff, program teams -- equal to all, not separate. A crew member, not a passenger. And, as a former NCOBS Executive Director said: "Jamie was always keeping the Outward Bound compass pointing to True North."

Please join us in congratulating Jamie McLane on this national recognition of his service and thanking him for his unwavering commitment and support of Outward Bound across the USA.

Members of the 2021 Kurt Hahn Award Committee:

Frances Ashley, Former Board Chair OBUSA, Board Chair OB Center for Peacebuilding

Josh Brankman, Executive Director, OBUSA

Winn Ellis, Co-Chair, Board of Directors, OB California

Lewis Glenn, Former National Director of Safety, OBUSA, Member-OBUSA Safety and Risk Committee

Laura Kohler, Former Board Chair, OBUSA, Board Member, OBUSA

George McCown, Former Board Chair, OBUSA

Katie Newsom, Chief Advancement Officer, OBUSA (non-voting member)

Lee Skold, Former Board Chair, OBUSA, Board Member, OBUSA

Catherine Smith, Board Chair, OBUSA

Geoff Worden, Chair Emeritus, NYCOBS Board

NOTE: OBUSA is working closely with Jamie to determine the most appropriate recognition event given current restrictions during the pandemic. Updates will be forthcoming as the plan develops.



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THANK YOU to all who submitted Jamie McLane's nomination and for providing content for this announcement.