

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Trailblazer



PHILADELPHIA
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff, students, and trustees of the Philadelphia Outward Bound School, I'm thrilled to share our 2019 Annual Report with you.

In 2019, we celebrated our first full year in our new home at The Discovery Center in East Fairmount Park. In collaboration with Audubon Pennsylvania, we grew our "Discovery Day" programs and strengthened partnerships with our neighbors in Strawberry Mansion. And with our increased capacity from this incredible new facility, we were able to meet the rapidly growing demand for our programs and serve a record-breaking number of students this year – 8,007, to be exact. That's an 57% increase from 2018, and more students served than ever before in our 26-year history.

But if you know us, you know it's not about the numbers. It's about students like Nathaniel (page 8), and the difference that a POBS program can make in a student's life. It's also about teachers like Nancy (page 11), and all of our partners who go the extra mile to bring our Outward Bound experiences to their students. They have seen first hand the impact our work has: in improved self-awareness, perseverance, teamwork, physical confidence and social responsibility.

In 2019, we learned that great things can happen when we dream big, embrace challenge, and work together. The 2020 public health crisis is testing all of us in ways we could not have imagined. But we are strong, resilient, and prepared to navigate new obstacles. With you on our crew, we will continue to blaze new trails together for many years to come.

Thank you for your continued friendship and support.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Meg Wise'.

MEG WISE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

POBS' FIRST YEAR AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER

Since opening on September 28, 2018, The Discovery Center has welcomed thousands of visitors through its doors. For the first time in 50 years, visitors can enjoy 57-acres of restored parkland and explore the nature trail that encircles the Strawberry Mansion Reservoir.

The Discovery Center, a joint collaboration between the Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS), Audubon Pennsylvania and the Strawberry Mansion community, offers POBS a base to expand its operations. In 2019, POBS served 8,007 students – reaching many new community organizations, including some of our nearest neighbors from Belmont Charter High School, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, Mander Recreation Center, and North Penn Police Athletic League.

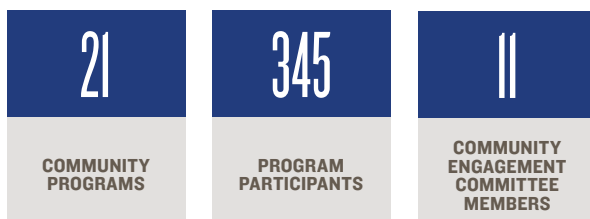
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through collaboration with local community groups and the community engagement committee, The Discovery Center has developed a robust calendar of public programs and events. Programs range from gardening workshops, birding walks and yoga, to skills-based training on CPR/First Aid, Leave No Trace principles, and Mental Health First Aid. We've partnered with local high schools and job-shadowing programs to provide opportunities for teens and young adults to learn about environmental stewardship and conservation, and to develop professionally through work-readiness and leadership skill-building activities. Local program partners are also encouraged to use The Discovery Center as an outdoor classroom with their staff and students, and indoor meeting space is available free of charge to community organizations every Thursday.

DISCOVERY DAYS

The last Saturday of every month Audubon Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Outward Bound School host Discovery Days, a free program open to the public. Whether it's climbing the indoor rock wall or identifying plants and birds, these programs provide educational and memorable outdoor experiences for our neighbors.

NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY GROUPS



SERVICE PARTNERS



BICYCLE COALITION YOUTH CYCLING

COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Philadelphia Outward Bound School has been an incredible community partner and neighbor to us since we moved our youth programming headquarters into the park. Our youth teams have been lucky to experience a number of Insight days at critical times in their team building, and our coaches have benefited from professional development sessions led by Outward Bound staff. Further, The Discovery Center has always been generous with their space, hosting East Park Coalition meetings and other community gatherings. Outward Bound acts as an anchor and provides cohesion for park based education initiatives. I cannot imagine our community without them.

Taylor Kuyk-White, Program Manager



MANDER RECREATION CENTER

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Outward Bound has been a tremendous resource for Mander Playground participants and staff. During our summer camp we have had the pleasure of working together to have students participate in programs at The Discovery Center. The programs are designed to provide participants with team building skills, self-esteem enhancement, and self-pride all while providing a safe learning environment within the community.

LeShadae Godfrey, Director



Photo Credit: Halkin Mason Photography
courtesy of DIGSAU

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2022

In 2019 POBS completed a new Strategic Plan that charts the future of the organization and establishes a 10-year vision for impact along with milestones for the first three years of implementation and a detailed action plan for 2020. Through the planning process five strategic pathways emerged:

PROGRAM & EVALUATION

POBS' program delivery model relies on long-term partnerships with schools and organizations. Over the next three years POBS will work with its partners to design program progressions that move students from one-day programs to deeper sustained engagement, including multi-day expeditions. We will invest resources to further develop the assessment and evaluation of our programs and continue to participate in national and regional research initiatives that evaluate our programs efficacy and impact, and support our efforts to implement an evidence-based approach.

RECRUIT & RETAIN EFFECTIVE STAFF

Staff are essential to POBS' organizational success. To ensure programs are of the highest quality and adhere to strict safety standards, POBS will recruit, train, and retain talented staff and field instructors, and provide compensation that honors their work as educational professionals. POBS will leverage the work of this pathway to evolve existing talent management practices in order to attract prospective employees who reflect the incredible diversity—in background, religion, ethnicity, economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, and ability—found within the organizations, schools, and communities we serve.

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through this pathway, POBS aims to strengthen its connection to nearby neighbors, and strategically expand its partnership base, by developing a network of community organizations engaged in collaborative planning and programming. Together with Audubon Pennsylvania and community leaders, POBS will deploy a strategy to grow visitation at The Discovery Center and ensure that it is a high-functioning public site that is connected and relevant to the needs of surrounding communities.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL

POBS strives to bolster its existing revenue streams to support program innovation and future expansion. To secure the long term stability of the organization, POBS will reinforce a balanced financial model of contributed and earned revenue, and execute a multi-year development plan that partners with major donors and corporations to maximize giving and impact.

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

Our core values include a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Through this pathway POBS will support DEI training for all staff and trustees so they are equipped to develop organizational policies, programs, and partnership with an equity lens.

Strategic Pathways

01

PROGRAM & EVALUATION

02

RECRUIT & RETAIN EFFECTIVE STAFF

03

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

04

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL

05

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

2019 by the numbers

8,007

STUDENTS SERVED

13,024

TOTAL STUDENT PROGRAM DAYS

57%

INCREASE IN STUDENTS SERVED

\$615,973

SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID

114

PROGRAM PARTNERS

37

NEW PROGRAM PARTNERS

YOUTH SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

1,279
CHARTER

2,577
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILA.

105
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

801
PRIVATE

OTHER

277
WORKSHOPS &
PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SERVICE
197

17
GRIEVING TEENS

24
VETERANS

620
EDUCATORS

SPECIALIZED

463
NONPROFITS

289
CORPORATIONS

335
HIGHER EDUCATION

OUTWARD BOUND PROFESSIONAL

STUDENTS SERVED
8,007

YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAMS

138
OPEN ENROLLMENT

824
YOUTH-SERVING
NONPROFITS

61
MERIT AWARD
SCHOLARSHIP

Our Partners

 A. Philip Randolph Career Academy AmeriCorps VISTA Antonia Pantoja Charter School Asian Americans United Audubon Pennsylvania Belmont Charter High School	Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee
 Ben Franklin High School Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia, Shane Victorino Nicetown Club Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School Building 21 C.B. Community School C. F. Martin & Company Citizens Bank City Year Philadelphia Comcast Corporation Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School Drexel University ROTC EDSI Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation Education Works ESF Summer Camps Fairmount Park Conservancy Fairmount Water Works Feltonville School of Arts & Sciences	 Kensington Creative & Performing Arts High School  Kensington Health Sciences Academy  Kensington High School LEADERSHIP Philadelphia Mander Recreation Center Masterman High School Mastery Charter School, Thomas Campus Motivos Magazine National Student Leadership Conference Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
	 Northeast High School Open Connections Overbrook Educational Center
	 Overbrook High School Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Parkway Center City Middle College Parkway Corporation Penn Hillel Penn State College of Health and Human Development
	 Penn Treaty School Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center Philips Academy Charter School Police Athletic League - North Penn Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School Robert E. Lamberton Elementary School
	 Roxborough High School Russell Byers Charter School S. Weir Mitchell Elementary School
	 School District of Philadelphia  School of the Future Science Leadership Academy SEI Investments Company Simon Gratz High School
	 South Philadelphia High School Springside Chestnut Hill Academy SquashSmarts St. Joseph's University St. Mary's Interparochial School

 Strawberry Mansion High School Summer Search Philadelphia Swarthmore College
 Swenson Arts and Technology High School Temple University The Crefeld School
 The LINC High School The Monkey & The Elephant The Perelman School of Medicine
 The U School The Wharton School The Workshop School
 Thomas Alva Edison High School Thomas K. Finletter Elementary School Thomas Mifflin School Tower Hill School University of Pennsylvania University of Pennsylvania Law School Uplift Center for Grieving Children Vanguard
 Vaux A Big Picture High School W. B. Saul Agricultural High School West Chester Area School District High Schools West Chester County Fund for Women and Girls William D. Kelley Elementary School
 William L. Sayre High School William Penn Charter School William Penn Foundation Williamson College of the Trades William W. Bodine High School for International Affairs Wilmington Friends School Wissahickon Charter School, Awbury Campus Wissahickon Charter School, Fernhill Campus Young Scholars Charter School Youth Service Inc.

Meet Nathaniel



Photo Credit: Cole Corrigan

Our Students

Nathaniel, a two-time alum of the Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS), went on his first Outward Bound expedition with students from his 9th grade class at Swenson Arts and Technology High School. After returning from this five-day Peer Leadership expedition, Nathaniel was eager to go on another expedition. He knew “that there was more to discover.” That summer, Nathaniel received a merit-based scholarship award to attend POBS’ Philadelphia Youth Leadership Corps, a 14-day expedition for rising 10th and 11th graders looking to develop their leadership potential. Below are excerpts from an interview with Nathaniel about his experience.

What was your first expedition like? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

My first expedition was an eye opener. It was my first time doing anything like that. I didn’t know what to expect. It was like a door. It gave me a different perspective on things. It showed me that there’s more than just city-life more and being in the house. When you don’t have your phone or any electronics with you, you get to use your time more wisely and enjoy it.

There was a moment where we took a break, I believe it was on Rattlesnake Mountain. As I stared out at the hills and trees everywhere, and looked into the depths of nature, I found a part of myself. It was a real surreal moment ... it really made me pause and look at myself and question ‘Who am I?’.

There was something about that moment. It stuck with me the whole trip. I discovered a part of me that I didn’t know before. It made me realize if you don’t get out of your comfort zone, there’s a lot of opportunities that you’re going to miss. Life is on the other side of the door.

When I got back from my first trip, I immediately went straight to Jenn and I asked her if there was another expedition I could do. She encouraged me to apply to the Philadelphia Youth Leadership Corps (PYLC). When I got home that day, I talked to my mom about it and I started writing my application essay that night.

What was challenging about your second expedition? How was it different from the first one?

My 14-day PYLC expedition was very different, especially because there were no familiar faces. It was really awkward the first day of the expedition when I got to the Philadelphia Outward Bound School. We were complete strangers. By the third day, once we came together as a group, we all got close. Once that happened, everything started working. We had more freedom. We were given more responsibility to do certain things, which was fun, but way more challenging. It forced us to work harder and to go beyond our limit.

There was a lot of rain, every day our clothes were soaked. Hiking was definitely the hardest part. There was a part where it was basically all rocks and we had to put our feet in between the rocks where it was really slippery. Everybody was tired. We had a serious talk and I was just like, ‘Come on, guys, if we don’t do it then nobody else is going to do it. This is our trip. The faster that we get to camp, the faster we can relax. If we keep focusing on this negative energy, like we’re wet, or tired, or hungry, nothing is ever going to get done.’ It forced us to all work together and I motivated everybody to just keep walking. The responsibilities never stopped. It really made me step up. You just have to do it.

How did your first expedition prepare you for the second expedition?

I felt prepared to take on that leadership role because I already had an idea of what to do in that situation from my first expedition. I remember the exact day. It was our longest day yet on the five day expedition. Everybody was so tired. Everybody was just done with it. I had a moment with myself. I was like, ‘You know what? I’m in the right headspace. I can do this.’ So I got up and I talked with the group and said, ‘I know we’re tired. I know that you don’t want to do this anymore, but think about how proud we will feel once we get there.’ We got moving. It was weird. I felt like a drill sergeant. I had the group singing, and playing games. I was just trying to distract everybody from the pain. Once we got there, I felt so proud that I could lead a whole group. I didn’t see myself as someone who could have that kind of impact on people.

If I hadn’t had that experience on my first expedition, I would have been completely lost on my PYLC expedition. Back then I didn’t have a lot of confidence in myself. I wasn’t an outgoing person. I guess I was really insecure. After the first trip, I just had a lot more confidence in myself. I remember that exact moment on my second expedition when I thought, ‘I got this’.

How has this experience helped you develop goals for the future? Is there a goal you’re working toward right now?

Ever since I got back it put this fire in me to set goals for myself and achieve them. One of the biggest goals I’ve had since I came back is to have more of a positive mindset and to radiate good energy. I’m still working on it, but I’ve gotten better at it. I realized how much your energy and attitude can affect other people. I also realized the better I feel mentally, the more I can do.

Before, when I was in school, I had a bad outlook on things, and if anybody tried to approach me with anything new, I would just kind of turn it down. Outward Bound has helped me change that around and pushed me in the right direction.

Building Adventure

Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS) provides scholarship and subsidy for local youth to ensure that our outdoor experiential education programs are accessible to all. More than 83% of POBS' youth participants are from low-income families.

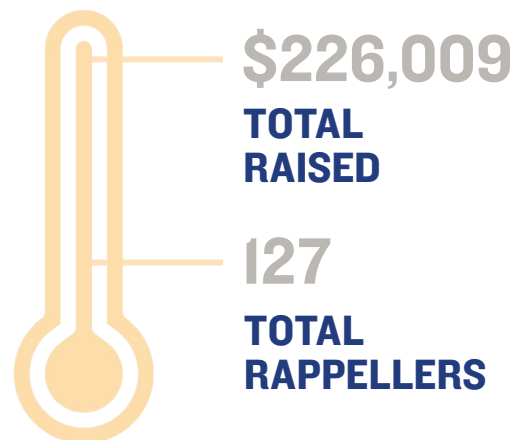
POBS provides up to 80% of a program's cost in financial aid for students and school partners in need – over \$600,000 in 2019. Our donors make it possible for participants, regardless of income, to experience the life-changing impact of Outward Bound and discover their untapped potential.

TOP FUNDRAISERS

1. BRUCE REDPATH
2. MITCHELL YOUNG
3. CARRIE SIMONS
4. FRICK BYERS
5. SCOTT MCALLISTER

TOP TEAMS

1. TEAM YOUNG & FRIENDS
2. SPRINGSIDE CHESTNUT HILL ACADEMY
3. WE CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE DOING THIS
4. TEAM ROTARY
5. TEAM GOLDENBERG



WATCH THIS WHYY-TV
YOU OUGHTA KNOW SEGMENT
ABOUT BUILDING ADVENTURE
AND THE PROGRAMS IT SUPPORTS

<https://youtu.be/rEmvWOK-ZJO>



Trailblazer Gala

2019 Honorees

CHARACTER AWARD



SQUASHSMARTS

Stephen Gregg, Executive Director (left)

Since 2001, SquashSmarts has provided high quality, high impact out-of-school squash instruction and academic tutoring programs to girls and boys from the School District of Philadelphia's most under-resourced public schools.

LEADERSHIP AWARD



LEADERSHIP PHILADELPHIA

Liz Dow, Executive Director (right)

Since 1959, this non-profit organization has mobilized and connected the talent of the private sector to serve the community. LEADERSHIP's Core, Keepers, and Connector programs enhance participants' civic knowledge and enrich their leadership skills.

SERVICE AWARD



NANCY NAYOWITH

Director, Health, Safety, Nutrition and Physical Education, School District of Philadelphia (right)

Nancy Nayowith has been employed by The School District of Philadelphia for over thirty years. Along the way, she has participated in over twenty Outward Bound courses with many high school students and instructors. The fundamental tenets and pillars of Outward Bound are deeply rooted in the way she lives her life and approaches challenges.

Thank you 2019 Donors!

\$50,000+

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Children Can Shape the Future
N. Peter and Alta Hamilton
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William Penn Foundation

\$25,000+

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Tuong Huynh

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Please contact our development office at 215.232.9130 with questions.

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 Yards Brewing Company

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 Please contact our development office at 215.232.9130 with questions.

Ways to Give



RECURRING GIFTS

A monthly contribution will support our work year-round and provide a steady revenue to POBS. This convenient option allows you to turn a small monthly donation into a much larger annual contribution. Enroll using our secure online giving form.



FUNDRAISING

Activate your network to give to a good cause at Building Adventure, our bi-annual peer-to-peer fundraiser. Or start a smaller campaign in honor of your birthday or a loved one.



PLANNED GIVING

Help ensure the long term financial health of our organization by naming the Philadelphia Outward Bound School as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy. Leave a lasting legacy to be remembered.



VOLUNTEER

Grant us the gift of your time and energy. Volunteers can support multiple service projects at The Discovery Center, including trail maintenance, stormwater drainage, and program area improvements, or provide staffing and logistics support at our major events.



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor Advised Funds are simple to establish and can be built using a wide variety of assets. A donor-advised fund is a tax-smart investment that allows you to make a charitable contribution to POBS while receiving an immediate tax benefit.



**TO LEARN MORE VISIT
POBS.ORG/GIVE**



PROGRAM SUPPORTERS RICH PINOLA & OLIVER FRANKLIN

"The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Program challenges young people to serve, to do something outside of their comfort zone, to set their own goals and meet them. We support POBS through our Donor Advised Funds to give students access to this program, which helps them to understand each other better, find acceptance, build community, and give back for a better world."

MONTHLY DONOR KEENAN CORRIGAN



"Having worked in the field and in the office at POBS, I've seen both the incredible impact a course can have on a student and the massive amount of hard work that goes on behind the scenes to make those life-changing moments possible. I give on a monthly basis because it gives the organization a regular donation it can depend on and it allows me to give more money over time than I could with a single donation."



FUNDRAISER BRUCE REDPATH

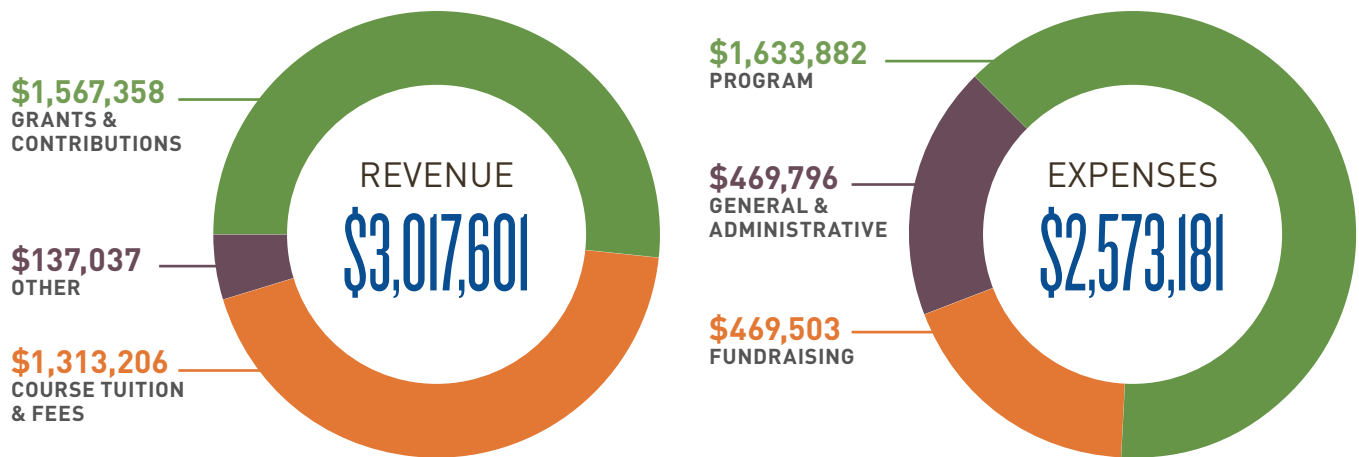
"When I first rappelled at Building Adventure in 2014, I was ready to challenge myself in a new way. While I had known about Outward Bound since my youth, I didn't know much about POBS. As I began fundraising, I learned more about the organization and the great programs POBS has to offer. Now my wife, daughter and I have all rappelled at Building Adventure, and for all of us the biggest challenge was the first step. My wife overcame her fear of heights, and my daughter and I went down side by side. It is a memory that we will have forever. The outdoor programs POBS provides to children and the people of Philadelphia are experiences that we all should support for as long as we can."

VOLUNTEER MICHAEL GUO



"SEI always has a great time volunteering with Philadelphia Outward Bound School. We love supporting Outward Bound because of their mission to educate people about the outdoors and we always have fun at their active volunteer events. After this event, my volunteers were already looking forward to the next volunteer opportunity and so was I. We'll definitely be back whenever we can!"

2019 Financial Snapshot



Thank you to our 2019 sponsors!



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