

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Community



PHILADELPHIA
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL



A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the staff, trustees, and students of Philadelphia Outward Bound School, I am delighted to share with you our 2018 Annual Report. As you'll see in these pages, this was a year of true transformation. It marked our 25th Anniversary, the departure of our beloved long-time Executive Director, Katie Newsom, for a new position at Outward Bound USA, and the opening of our new home, The Discovery Center in East Fairmount Park.

I came on board in September, and every week has been more exciting than the last. From a dinner with His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex to celebrate our role in administering The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award locally, to our first "Discovery Day" of public programming delivered in partnership with Audubon

Pennsylvania, to my own Outward Bound expedition on a pulling boat in Florida to close out the year – I could not be more proud of the Philadelphia Outward Bound School crew I've joined, or more optimistic about the opportunities that lie before us.

As we move into 2019, we are expanding our capacity to serve students at The Discovery Center, exploring new course areas, and deepening our partnerships with the School District of Philadelphia and other youth services organizations.

Thank you for your interest in our work!

Meg Wise
Executive Director

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

In 2018, Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS) announced a new partnership with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global, non-formal education framework that encourages young people to challenge themselves through a self-directed program

of skill development, physical activity, voluntary service, and adventure.

Through this partnership, Award participants will be able to draw on the expertise of POBS staff for training, supervision and mentorship, as they progress through the levels of the Award journey.

13 STUDENTS
PURSUING
THEIR FIRST
AWARD LEVEL

LEVELS
1. BRONZE
2. SILVER
3. GOLD

THE AWARD FRAMEWORK
1. SKILL DEVELOPMENT
2. PHYSICAL RECREATION
3. VOLUNTARY SERVICE
4. ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY



DAMIR MACON

CLASS OF 2019 | THE CREFELD SCHOOL

In 2014, Philadelphia Outward Bound School (POBS) developed a unique partnership with The Crefeld School to design a specialized program for its 10th grade students. For one semester students spend their Wednesday afternoons with POBS staff developing their leadership skills. Through this program Damir Macon had his first experience with Outward Bound, and met Alumni and Scholarship Manager, Jenn Raymond.

"I met Jenn when she came to my school. She tried to help me with my grief that I was going through, with the loss of my mother. I was more of a follower. Anything my friends would do I would just do it, not knowing if the consequences were good or bad. I didn't know I was destroying my life. But once Outward Bound found me and they knew the potential I had, they really focused on it, but they also do it as a group. I met kids that I could relate to, that I thought I would never talk to. I really connected with a whole lot of people."

WATCH THIS VIDEO
FROM DAMIR'S
PHILADELPHIA YOUTH
LEADERSHIP CORPS
EXPEDITION:

https://youtu.be/aA_EyVh1PqQ

Crew, not passengers

11
WEEKS

2016

PARTICIPANT IN CREFELD
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

12
WEEKS

2017

PEER MENTOR IN CREFELD
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

7
DAYS

2017

CREW MEMBER IN
GRIEVING TEENS
EXPEDITION

14
DAYS

2018

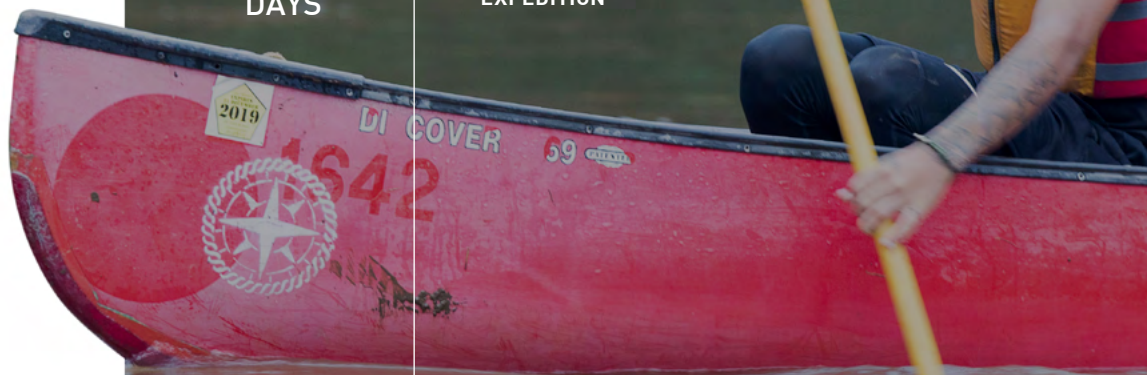
YOUTH LEADER IN
PHILADELPHIA YOUTH
LEADERSHIP CORPS
EXPEDITION

11
WEEKS

2018

JUNIOR MENTOR IN
CREFELD LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM

55
PROGRAM
DAYS IN
THE FIELD



OUR PARTNERS

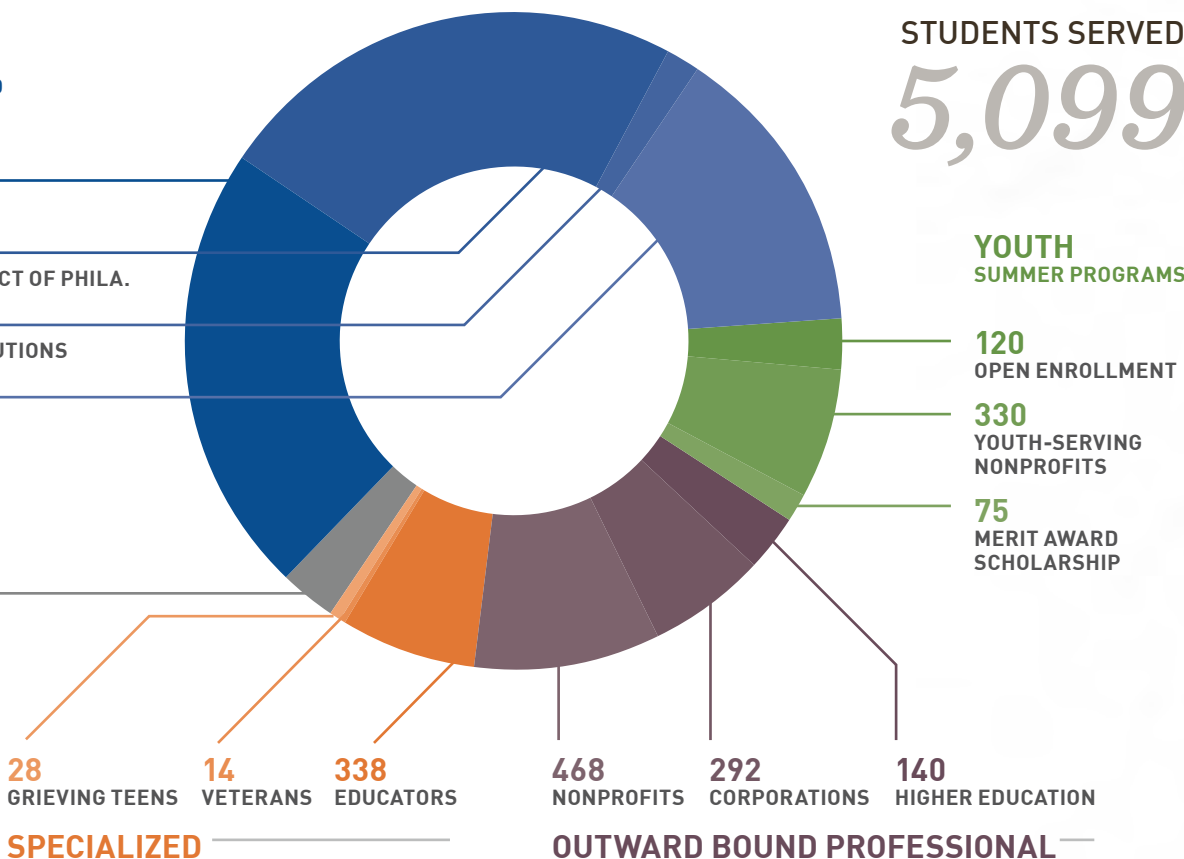
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA - 9TH GRADE ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

- Add B. Anderson School
- AmeriCorps VISTA
- Antonia Pantoja Charter School
- Audubon Pennsylvania
- Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School
- Building 21
- Build the Future Education Collaborative
- C. F. Martin & Company
- Central High School
- Character Lab
- Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
- Community Academy of Philadelphia
- Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School
- Croda Inc.
- Digsau
- Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
- Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation
- Education Works
- Frankford High School
- George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science
- George Washington High School
- Gideon School
- Good Grief
- Green Woods Charter School
- Harding Middle School
- Interactive Mechanics
- IS 339
- Jewish Family & Children Services
- Kensington Creative & Performing Arts High School
- Kensington Health Sciences Academy
- Kensington High School
- KIPP Cooper Norcross
- Land Health Institute
- Laurel Hill Cemetery
- LEADERSHIP Philadelphia
- Lingelbach Elementary School
- Mastery Charter Frederick Douglass Elementary
- McMahon Associates, Inc
- Mighty Writers
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
- Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
- New Foundation Charter School
- Northeast High School
- Overbrook Educational Center
- Pan American Academy Charter School
- Parkway Center City Middle College
- Parkway Corporation
- Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice
- Penns Grove High School
- Penn Treaty School
- Philips Academy Charter School
- Public Allies
- Roxborough High School
- Russell Byers Charter School
- School District of Philadelphia
- School of the Future
- South Philadelphia High School
- Springside Chestnut Hill Academy
- SquashSmarts
- St. Josephs Orphanage
- Student Conservation Association
- Summer Learning Collaborative
- Summer Search Philadelphia
- Swarthmore College
- Swenson Arts and Tech High School
- Tech Freire Charter School
- Temple University
- The Crefeld School
- The Perelman School of Medicine
- The Wharton School
- The Workshop School
- Thomas Alva Edison High School
- Thomas Mifflin School
- Tower Hill School
- United Communities
- Universal Audenried Charter High School
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pennsylvania Law School
- Uplift Center for Grieving Children
- Vaux A Big Picture High School
- Venture for America
- W. B. Saul Agricultural High School
- West Chester Area School District High Schools
- Wharton Women in Business
- William D. Kelley Elementary School
- William L. Sayre High School
- William W. Bodine High School For International Affairs
- Wilmington Friends School
- Wissahickon Charter School
- Year Up

YOUTH SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

- 1134 CHARTER
- 1196 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILA.
- 84 PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
- 741 PRIVATE

- OTHER
- 139 SERVICE DAYS & WORKSHOPS



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Since 2017, Philadelphia Outward Bound School has delivered custom programs for more than 1,500 students in the School District of Philadelphia's 9th Grade Academy Schools, which provide individualized student support for greater academic success. During the transition year to high school, programs help students to build positive and meaningful relationships that contribute to a healthier school climate and ultimately higher graduation rates.

"When some students anticipate failure, they seem to make up their mind that it's better not to try, than to try and fail; let alone try and risk failing in front of their peers. What I noticed at Outward Bound is that when a sense of community and camaraderie was cultivated, the students were encouraged to push themselves out of their comfort zone. Once they reached their goals, they were excited to push themselves further and encourage their peers to do the same."

CHRISTINE LIANG
COLLEGE AND CAREER COORDINATOR
PENN TREATY SCHOOL

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/9thGradeAcademy>

SPRINGSIDE CHESTNUT HILL ACADEMY

At Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, 9th grade students begin high school with a five-day wilderness expedition, specially designed to create a positive group culture that emphasizes compassion, integrity, excellence, and inclusion. Starting in 2018, a select group of "Senior Leaders" went on the 9th grade expedition and continued to serve as peer mentors to their crew throughout the school year.

"Through becoming a senior leader with Outward Bound, I realized that my actions as a leader directly affect the attitudes of the people I am working with. By having someone close to their age acting as an enthusiastic and relatable leader, the group could be comfortable with one another. I really connected with one of the freshmen girls in my group and months later, she still comes to me for advice. I've brought Outward Bound's values to SCH Academy by being compassionate towards others and by striving for excellence and efficiency in the work that I do."

ALLISON GERHARD
CLASS OF 2019

SQUASHSMARTS

For 16 years, Philadelphia Outward Bound School and SquashSmarts have partnered to improve the lives of underserved youth from Philadelphia's public schools. In 2018, 79 SquashSmarts students participated in 139 days of Outward Bound programming on high-ropes, backpacking and canoeing courses.

"My relationship with Outward Bound began in 7th grade as a SquashSmarts student. Now as an Academic Director at SquashSmarts, I see how much our students learn about themselves and their teammates through their 5-day expeditions. We are so fortunate to be able to provide our students with these life-changing wilderness experiences where they can learn to be peer leaders and gain a whole new level of self-awareness and feeling of personal triumph."

QUINETTA BOWDEN
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



The Discovery Center

2,259 VISITORS
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER, 2018

On September 28, 2018 top city officials and community leaders came together to celebrate the grand opening of The Discovery Center, the new home of Philadelphia Outward Bound School and Audubon Pennsylvania. This joint venture focuses on providing outdoor and experiential education resources, opportunities and programming for nearby communities, including Strawberry Mansion. The environmentally-friendly 14,000 square foot facility greatly expands the reach and services of both organizations and provides access to a key part of Fairmount Park, including the newly restored Strawberry Mansion Reservoir, which is accessible to the public for the first time in more than 50 years.

“Outward Bound exposes our youth to a challenging but exciting outdoor educational environment. It’s an opportunity for them to learn about themselves and other people. This will teach them leadership, effective communication and getting over their fears.

For our community, this is a ‘win, win,’ and for our youth because they’re doing something positive. They’ll discover a side of themselves that they didn’t know they had and learn that they’re capable of doing great things.”

Police Officer Glenn Haskins
North Penn Center Director
Police Athletic League of Philadelphia

“The Discovery Center offers a unique experience for residents in the Strawberry Mansion community to enjoy nature in their own backyard. Outward Bound can foster a community of new young leaders who appreciate the spaces they’re in and help us as a community come and work together through their leadership and teamwork programs.”

Tonnetta Graham
President
Strawberry Mansion Community
Development Corporation

Inaugural Events



WOMEN OUTWARD BOUND

Filmmaker Maxine Davis joined POBS at WHY? for a screening and panel discussion of her award-winning film, *Women Outward Bound*, which tells the story of the first all-female Outward Bound expedition in the US in 1965.



CORPORATE CHALLENGE

This peer-to-peer fundraising event offered participants an opportunity to be among the first to experience our new aerial teams challenge course, and engage in a little fun, friendly competition with business leaders across industries. Participants raced to complete multiple “challenge stations” that tested the strategy, collaboration, and leadership skills of each team.



BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Mario Moussa, management consultant and POBS trustee, presented ideas from his book *The Art of Woo: Using Strategic Persuasion to Sell Your Ideas*, at POBS’ first Business Breakfast – a speaker event series for professionals.



DISCOVERY DAY

Discovery Day is a monthly community day that welcomes families and friends of all ages to experience The Discovery Center and the natural world in their own backyard.



ROYAL DINNER

His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, celebrated the opening of The Discovery Center and the launch of the newly formed partnership between Philadelphia Outward Bound School and The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award USA.



TRAILBLAZER GALA

Guests honored the trailblazers of POBS’ history and future. Former Mayor, Michael Nutter – one of POBS’ founders – reflected on POBS’ 25-year history. Keynote speaker Rohan Freeman shared his journey from Jamaica to becoming one of the world’s premier mountaineers and Vice Chair of Outward Bound USA’s Board of Directors. Alumnus Isaiah Johnson, ended the evening with a reading from his crew’s journal.



TEAM BEAM

Participants work together to move across two logs that get closer or farther apart depending on route selection.



FEEBLE 4

Participants walk as a team along a foot cable and use each other for support to traverse the element.



ISLAND HOPPING

Participants hop across 7 platforms while staying in contact with one another as they traverse the islands together.

NEW AERIAL TEAMS CHALLENGE COURSE

The James McLane Family Challenge Course is designed to build high-performing teams. Whether you're a 9th grade class or a corporate team, this course helps your group discover hidden leaders and find new ways to work collaboratively.

HOW IT WORKS

Participants move through a series of high-ropes elements that become progressively more challenging. Each element is designed to assist the group in deepening trust and build on the participants' self-discovery and exploration of what it means to be crew, not passengers, on their Outward Bound journey.

This progression is based around the three phases of every Outward Bound expedition: Training, Main and Final. Our participants may start their journey knowing very little about the path ahead, but through the coaching and encouragement of their facilitators, they become a self-sufficient "crew."

KATE JULYAN
ASSOCIATE, BUSINESS MANAGER, DIGSAU

DEFINITION:

Expedition

Introduce students to an unfamiliar environment (physical and/or social) in which they have to confront and solve real problems.

TRAINING

Students receive hands-on instruction that focuses on skill mastery through specialized lessons.

MAIN

Students apply their newly-acquired knowledge in a supervised environment.

FINAL

Students take on leadership roles and responsibility for course activities.

By the end of the program, participants gain a shared experience that not only challenged each individual, physically and emotionally, but also the group as a whole. Participants leave with a better understanding of their abilities and with a community of support they can rely on at work, in life or at school.

"Outward Bound was an incredible experience for our company at a crucial time in our growth. We had experienced a 40% increase in new team hires, within a two-month period. The program quickly allowed all staff to connect on a much deeper level, without being awkward or forced. We were all impressed by our facilitators' ability to provide insight and perspectives for our group as a whole. Our experience has changed the way we work and listen to each other and our clients."

Mission Delivery

1,068

MILES HIKED
ALONG THE
APPALACHIAN TRAIL

1,840

MILES PADDLED
ON THE DELAWARE
RIVER

29

GRADUATION
CEREMONIES
TO CELEBRATE
PERSONAL AND CREW
ACHIEVEMENTS AT
COURSE-END

NEW COURSE AREA

NEW JERSEY PINELANDS NATIONAL RESERVE

This Biosphere Reserve is home to thousands of rare plants and animal species and is the perfect learning environment for students to discover the Delaware Watershed through our accredited experiential watershed curriculum.

DELAWARE WATERSHED



PHILADELPHIA



APPALACHIAN TRAIL



APPALACHIAN TRAIL
(HIKED AREA)



NEW YORK

PENNSYLVANIA

NEW JERSEY

MARYLAND

DELAWARE

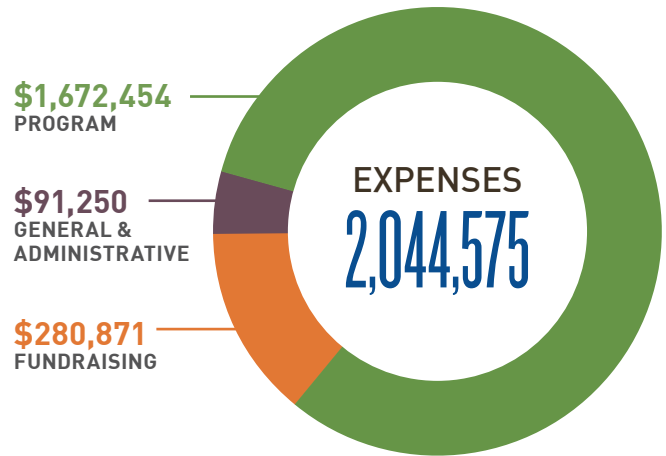
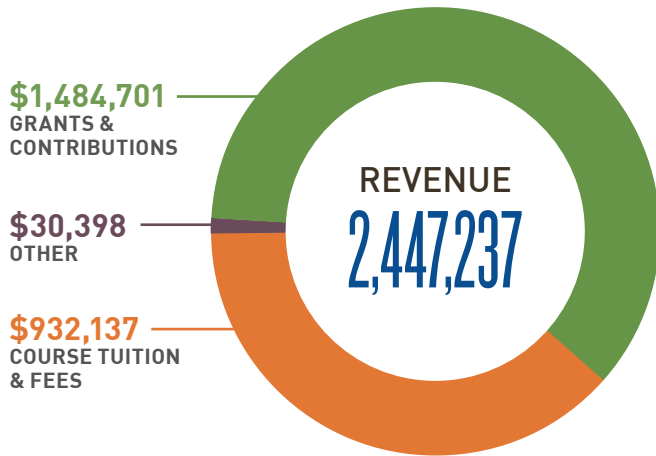
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2018 by the numbers



Audited statements not available at the time of print. Please email jnagle@outwardboundphiladelphia.org for a copy of our 2018 audit.

\$445,619

SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID

5,099

STUDENTS SERVED

90

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Thank you to our 2018 sponsors!



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