



PHILADELPHIA
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

Reaching New Heights

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you for reading this report! 2022 was a banner year for the Philadelphia Outward Bound School. While our partners and our staff continued to experience social and emotional stressors related to ongoing effects of the pandemic, we doubled down on our values of compassion, integrity, excellence, inclusion and diversity and our commitment to serving our students – over 8,500 last year, a new record for POBS.

The year was full of high points as you'll read throughout these pages. We celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner on September 30th and Discovery Fest the following day, where over 500 youth and adults participated in canoeing, rock climbing and zip lining at The Discovery Center, as well as other fun activities provided by Audubon Mid-Atlantic, with whom we share the site, and community partners.

We welcomed new staff members – Mary Okeke as Institutional Giving Manager and Jennel Johnson as Director of Finance and Administration – and continued to invest in salaried roles for more Program Coordinators in an effort to provide sustainable wages that will attract and retain the most qualified staff and help us meet an organizational goal to hire more POBS alumni to deliver our programs.

I am so proud of all that our staff, board of trustees, and students accomplished this year. And I'm not the only one – the Association of Experiential Education (AEE) recognized the quality of our work by renewing our accreditation for six more years. POBS remains the only Outward Bound School in the US to earn this seal of approval.

Thank you for believing in the importance of Outward Bound programming for youth in Philadelphia and thank you for supporting the Philadelphia Outward Bound School!



A handwritten signature of Meg Wise in blue ink, written on a light blue background.

Meg Wise
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

POBS 2022 Annual Report - By the Numbers



64%
OF COSTS

ARE COVERED BY GIFTS AND GRANTS

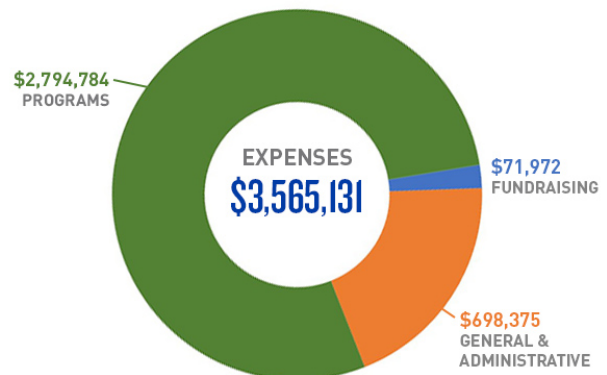
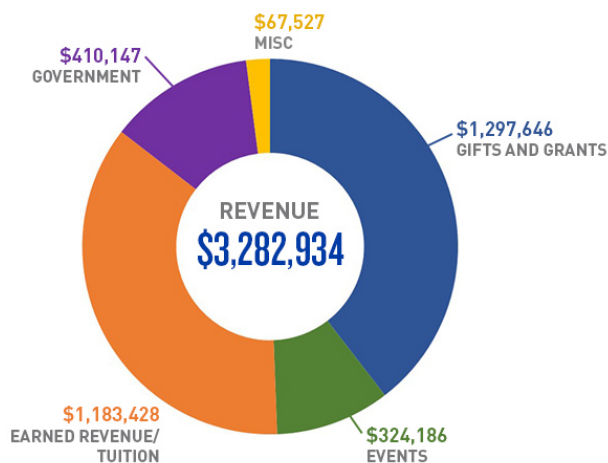
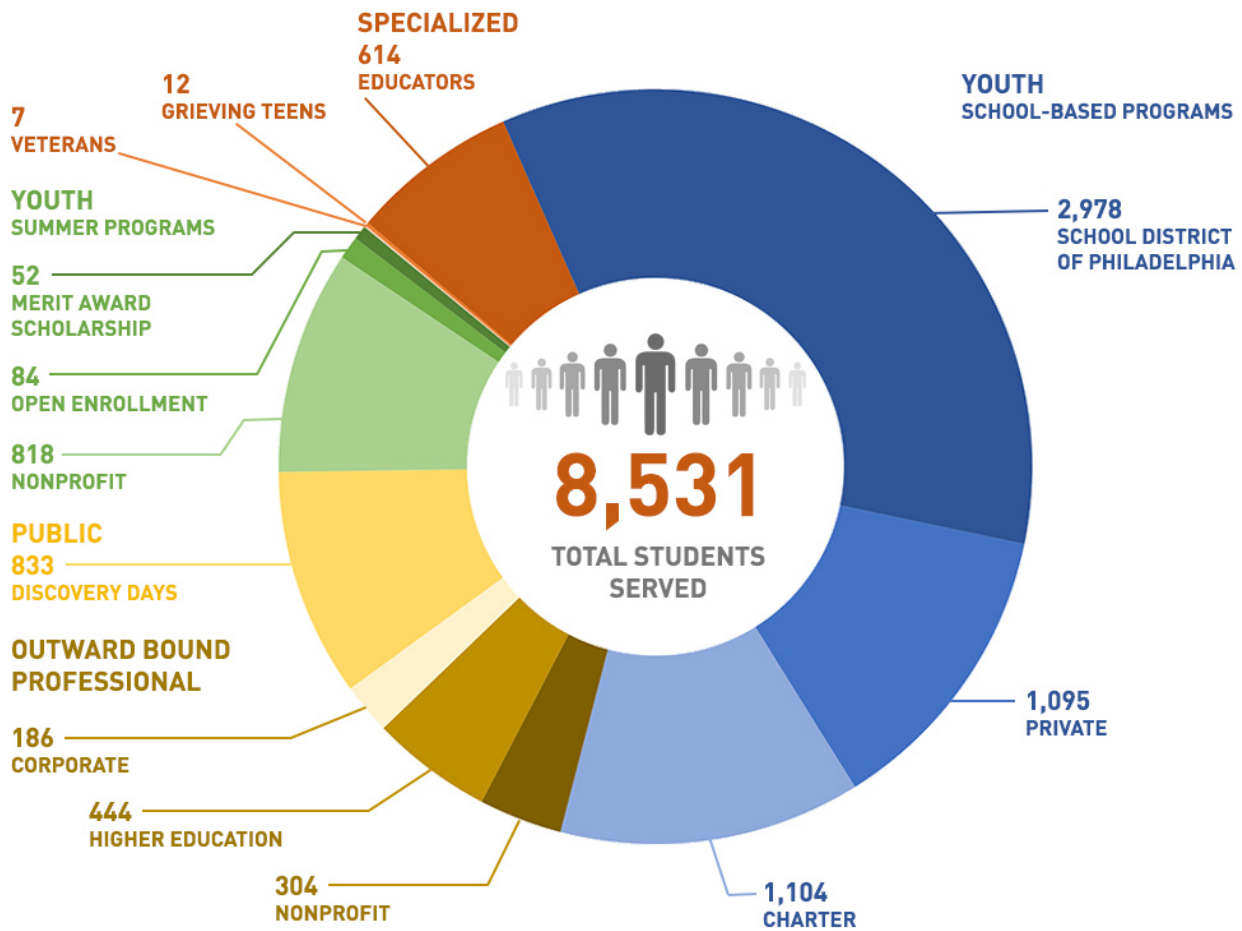
103

PROGRAM PARTNERS



15

NEW PROGRAM PARTNERS



Funds released from time restriction cover the shortfall in revenue. Audited statement not available at time of publication.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

2022 marked the 30th anniversary of the Philadelphia Outward Bound School.

To commemorate the occasion, we hosted the **30th Anniversary Trailblazer Gala** honoring our founders Nancy Goldenberg, Tim Greenwood, and Michael Nutter, which raised \$324,000 to support POBS programs.

The celebration continued with our first annual **Discovery Fest** in which over 500 attendees from all over the city experienced canoeing, rock climbing, and ziplining at The Discovery Center.

We also took a look back at our **30-year history** and told our origin story through a new video featuring interviews with our founders.



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, POBS ramped up **Alumni** engagement efforts to allow our program participants to rekindle the Outward Bound spark, foster community and connection, and share stories of their Outward Bound experience. We also wanted to learn from them - how would they like to continue to engage with us? How can we deepen our impact on students and communities?

To explore these questions, POBS hosted a series of Alumni events over the course of the year, all at no charge to participants, including an Alumni Picnic and Kickball Game, and an Alumni Challenge Course Day. We also formed an alumni Dragon Boat team - the POBS Dragons - and participated in the Independence Dragon Boat Regatta, held every June in Philadelphia on the Schuylkill River. We even won our first heat!

Alumni events have been a great success, with growing enthusiasm and turnout, and 95% of alumni surveyed said they enjoyed the experience and were likely to attend future events.



ALUMNI STORIES

Alumni #1: Danielle Merritt

Since 2022 was our 30th anniversary year, we decided to dig into the archives and see if we could locate some of our first students. The first course rosters were written by hand, most addresses were out of date, and email addresses didn't exist yet. However, with some sleuthing we were able to locate a student from our very first expedition, an eighth-grader from Dimner Beeber middle school named Danielle Merritt.

When we caught up with Danielle, we were surprised and thrilled to find that not only had she become an educator, she had even taken her students on expedition with us in the early 2000s! She was now an assistant principal at Samuel Pennypacker school. This year, her Philadelphia Outward Bound experience came full circle as she joined our board of trustees.

Alumni #74,999: Taj Murdock

To bookend Danielle's story, we talked to Taj Murdock, one of our most recent alums, who is the CEO of The Empowerment Achievement Movement, or TEAM Inc., a community-based nonprofit he created to serve as a platform for young men to find themselves. TEAM Inc.'s mentoring program, Men of Courage, offers "empowerment through exposure" to young men age 12 to 18.

Taj and his young Men of Courage participated in several day programs with us last year, and then in August Taj joined our Educators Expedition, a yearly course offered via scholarship to Philadelphia area educators and youth-serving administrators. The expedition had a profound effect on Taj - he said he felt like he was "being a man of courage to be able to develop men of courage." He is scheduled to bring his young men on course this summer.

THE DISCOVERY CENTER



In 2022, POBS held 15 Community Event Days, or "Discovery Days," at The Discovery Center. (More were scheduled, but the weather & COVID led to a few cancellations). Discovery Days give POBS the opportunity to introduce our nearest neighbors and surrounding communities to Outward Bound programming, and to make The Discovery Center and its amenities accessible and welcoming.

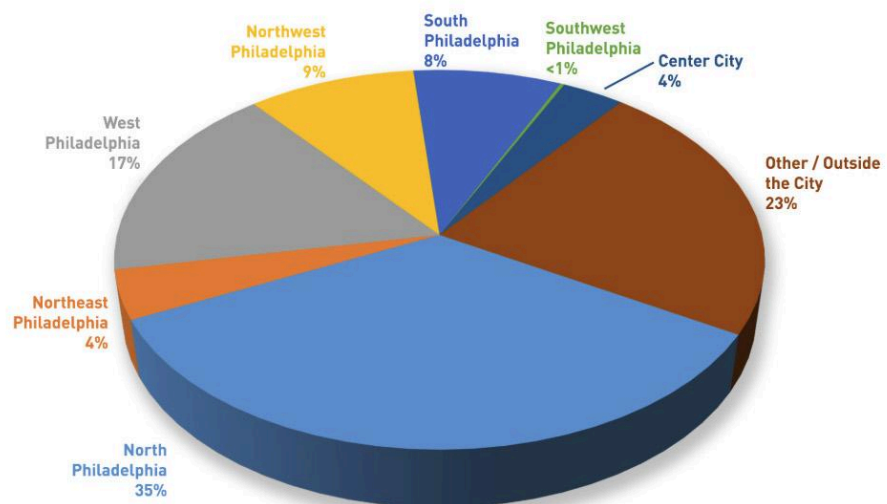
Events held on select Saturdays each month include canoeing on the Strawberry Mansion Reservoir in the summer, ziplining on the James McLane Family Challenge Course in the fall, and rock climbing in the Alta and Peter Hamilton Climbing Tower during the winter. Many of these events have been held in conjunction with programming by Audubon Mid-Atlantic, so participants could, for example, attend a bird walk in the morning and canoe or zipline in the afternoon.

2022 Discovery Days Included:

- 5 rock climbing days
- 5 zip line days
- 3 canoe days
- 1 CPR Class

and one **Discovery Fest**.

As a result of our community engagement efforts, our neighbors in North Philadelphia comprised the largest percentage of Discovery Day visitors.



POBS 2022 Annual Report – Our Partners

A. Randolph Career Academy *	Hand2Paw #	Project HOME #
Allan Myers	Heights Philadelphia	Roberto Clemente M.S. +
Alliance for Watershed Education	Independence Charter School	Roxborough H.S. *
Arcadia University	Inspiring Minds of Greater Philadelphia #	Russell Byers Charter School
Audubon Mid-Atlantic	Kenderton E.S. +	Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School
Belmont Charter H.S.	Kensington CAPA H.S. *	Sayre H.S. *
Bethune E.S.+	Kensington H.S. *	School of the Future *
Better Tomorrows	Kensington HSA H.S. *	SDP Office of Climate and Culture
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia#	Lankenau Environmental Science	SDP Office of Student Support Services
Blaine E.S. +	Magnet High School	South Philadelphia H.S. *
Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia #	Laurel Hill Cemetery	Springside Chestnut Hill
Boys Latin of Philadelphia H.S.	Leadership Philadelphia	SquashSmarts
C.B. Community School	The LINC H.S. *	St. Hubert Catholic High School
The Cliffs #	Lingelbach E.S.	St. James School
Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School	Maritime Charter School	St. Mary's Interparochial School
The Crefeld School	Martin Luther King H.S. *	Strawberry Mansion H.S. *
Cristo Rey Philadelphia H.S.	Masterman H.S.	Summer Search Philadelphia
Crozer Chester Medical	Mastery Charter Schools	Swenson Arts and Technical High School *
Currently Trending #	Mitchell E.S.	TEAM Inc. #
DeSales University	NeuroFlow	Temple University
Dick E.S. +	New Options More Opportunities #	Thomas Jefferson University
Drexel University	Northeast H.S. *	TMNA Services
Duckrey E.S. +	Oak Street Health	Tower Hill School
Ed Snider Youth Hickey Foundation	One Day at a Time (ODAAT) #	The U School *
Edison H.S. *	Overbrook Education Center	The University of Pennsylvania
FamCom #	Overbrook H.S. *	Uplift Center for Grieving Children
FHI 360	Patina Health, Inc.	Vaux Big Picture H.S. *
Frankford H.S. *	Penn Treaty H.S. *	W.B. Saul H.S.
Freire Charter School	PENNCAP at UPENN	W.D. Kelley E.S. +
Friends Central	Penn Presbyterian Medical Center	West Chester Area School District
George Washington Carver H.S. of Engineering and Science	Peter's Place	The Wharton School
George Washington H.S. *	Philadelphia Eagles	Williamson College of the Trades
Gideon E.S. +	Police Athletic League–North Penn #	Wissahickon Charter School/Awbury
Good Grief	Pollock School	Wissahickon Charter School/Fernhill
	PowerCorps PHL	YEAH Philly #

* 9th Grade Academy

+ Learning Network 11

Community Organization



2022 ANNUAL REPORT: OUR DONORS

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The Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation
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The Fund for Children of the Philadelphia Foundation
The Pincus Family Foundation
Vanguard
Vert Charitable Trust

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