Winter Quarterly Newsletter

Our Impact

Outdoor Outreach continues to partner with inspiring youth service organizations such as The Monarch School, which strives to provide support and opportunities to youth experiencing homelessness. Andrew Schlegel, Director of Programs and Partnerships of the Monarch School, shared these kind words about the impact OO has made in the lives of his students:

“I believe each of us is telling a story with our lives. Our students’ narratives are often filled with loss, trauma, and discomfort associated with painful experiences. Each time our students participate with Outdoor Outreach, I see them writing a different story for their lives – one that is inspiring, resilient, and hopeful.”

prAna’s "Giving Back" Campaign

For a second straight year, Outdoor Outreach (OO) was selected as the beneficiary of prAna’s annual “Giving Back” campaign. prAna generously donated 20% of the proceeds generated from select products from their fall and winter line to support our growing programs. In 2014, prAna’s contribution will support 14 Adventure Club participants for an entire
year of snowboarding, surfing, mountain biking and rock climbing.

We extend our gratitude to the prAna team for their continued support of our work to connect youth to opportunity through the outdoors. Thank you, prAna!

(Photo left: Ben McCue, OO Executive Director and Beaver Theodasakis, prAna Founder)

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**College Adventure Club Update**

Thanks to the generous support of Outdoor Nation, Outdoor Outreach's College Adventure Club supports a diverse group of college students to get outside while connecting with their peers and San Diego's wealth of parks, beaches, and mountains.

The vision for the College Adventure Club originally came from Susana Montes, a Lincoln High School Adventure Club graduate as well as Leadership Program participant (pictured below). What initially started as a thought has grown to be a group of approximately 20 students who meet regularly to plan monthly outings. Recently, the club ventured out to Mission Trails Regional Park for an all-day rock climbing outing. To view action shots from that outing as well as others, please click here.

"I never thought of myself as a leader. I just wanted to start the club so other young people like me can have the chance to access the outdoors and have the life-changing experiences that I had."

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**Huge Success at San Diego Winter Brew Fest**

For a second consecutive year, Outdoor Outreach was selected as a beneficiary of the San Diego Winter Brew Fest.
We're proud to announce that the event raised enough to fund approximately 7 local outings in 2014. In addition, over 50 individuals signed up to receive more information about ways to get involved.

We are grateful to have been a part of this event and for the opportunity to share our work and passion with the Brew Fest attendees. Thank you RightOn Productions for making this event possible!

**Military Initiative Highlight**

In 2012, with the generous support of The Rose Foundation and The Sierra Club Foundation, we expanded our programs to serve teenage youth of military families. Through our Military Initiative and partnership with the Marine Corps Air Station-Miramar Base, Patrick attended 30 OO activities and was introduced to snowboarding, surfing and rock climbing- opportunities he may not have experienced otherwise.

Before Patrick joined OO, he struggled to cope with the stresses of being a military teen, including being separated from both his father and step-father who serve in the US Navy. Patrick's mother shared these words with us about how OO influenced Patrick:

"Once Patrick started participating in the Military Initiative program, his personality blossomed and he started doing better in school. Here in Naples, Patrick plays on the high school's sports team, travels, and isn't afraid to try new things. (Outdoor Outreach) broke the ice and showed him that there is so much more in life and to embrace it."

**Strengthening Team OO**

Amber Carrigan joined Outdoor Outreach in February as our full-time Development and Communications Manager. Amber is dedicated to supporting organizations addressing the needs of at-risk and underserved youth. She brings a strong background in event planning and development program coordination. A native of the Pacific Northwest, she enjoys hiking, trail running, and clamming. Amber is excited to work with an
Rachel Bartels first joined OO as a volunteer in 2005 and we are excited to welcome her back to the team as our Accountant. Rachel has a strong background in finance and held the position of Chief Financial Officer at San Diego Coastkeeper for the past six years. Rachel has a passion for the outdoors and the work that we do. Outside of the office, she enjoys surfing, rock climbing and spending time with her children.