



Outdoor Odyssey Annual Report 2023

Celebrating 25 years of growth through adventure



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A Letter From Our Founder

WOW! 2023 was indeed a GREAT year for many reasons, as Outdoor Odyssey celebrated its 25th anniversary! With over three decades as a Marine and now a 25-year history as the Executive Director of Outdoor Odyssey in a voluntary capacity, clearly ranking me as “seasoned,” I fully realize that the blessings afforded me through Outdoor Odyssey rival that of being a Marine—and that’s HUGE. Little did I contemplate in 1998 what a quarter of a century would bring: thousands of elementary-age children in need helped to succeed in school; hundreds of high school-age students DEVELOPED leadership skills by mentoring “Munchkins/ Munchkinettes” to success; over two thousand active-duty service members and veterans embraced by volunteer team leaders and helped to make a successful transition into the civilian sector; and hundreds of African children inspired by the tenets of Outdoor Odyssey to become ‘change makers’ in their homelands.

I wish to thank everyone who has supported or will support Outdoor Odyssey. The ‘secret sauce’ of this organization continues to be **volunteering and the giving of oneself for others!** I have been blessed to work for 25 years at Outdoor Odyssey with legions of volunteers: be they high school-age mentors, community leaders, or veterans keen to help a fellow warrior find peace and fulfillment. Life is a team event, and I assure you that Outdoor Odyssey will continue to provide those in need the palpable sense that others care, showing vice telling them that challenges and obstacles can be overcome with the support of a team. I very much hope that I have the privilege of meeting many of you who are reading this letter, providing us the opportunity to sit eyeball to eyeball and kneecap to kneecap to discuss ways to share Outdoor Odyssey with more and more folks in need in the days ahead.



Very warm regards and Semper Fi,

T.S. Jones

T.S. Jones
Founder/Executive Director
OUTDOOR ODYSSEY
Major General USMC (ret)



Board of Directors



Vincent J. Barbera, Esq.
Barbera Law-Partner



Michele McGough
CEO and President,
solutions4networks



David Colaizzi
CEO and Co-Founder,
SignatureDx



Virgil Palumbo
President Organizational Efficiency,
Kforce



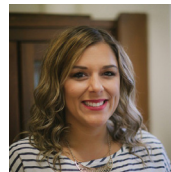
Pat Daley
Project Engineer,
Trumbull Corporation



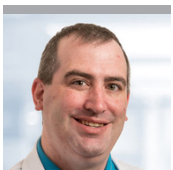
David Rabin, MD, PhD
Board Certified Psychiatrist & Neuroscientist;
Co-Founder & Chief Medical Officer, Apollo
Neuroscience; Co-Founder & Executive
Director, The Board of Medicine



Frank Digiovanni, PhD
Dr. Frank Digiovanni, Independent
Consultant, National Security
and DoD Matters



Maryssa Stavros, MEd, CAGS, NCSP
Director of Psychological and Student
Services, Environmental Charter School



Matt Heselton, MD
Family Medicine Physician,
Cornerstone Cares



Doug Sweitzer
Emotional Support Teacher,
Red Lion High School



T.S. Jones
Founder and Executive Director,
Outdoor Odyssey
Acting Chairman of the Board
Major General USMC (ret)

“I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for my experience at Semper Fi Outdoor Odyssey. I am so happy to have been provided with the MOST IMPORTANT tools in life and I wholeheartedly believe that every single person in this world NEEDS to experience this program.”

Mrs. Heather Zeoli, School Counselor, Nicely Elementary School

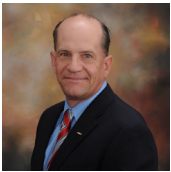
Advisory Board



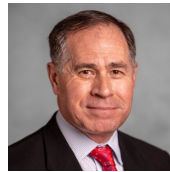
Leigh Conant, LMFT, SEP
Certified Emotional Focused
Couples Therapist



Clayton Smith
Managing Member, Jurni Consulting
LLC and Owner, Ellie Mental Health



Todd Desgrosseilliers
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (ret)



Brooks Tucker
Strategic Business Consulting and
Congressional Engagement



Herbert H. Hennell
Director of Reimbursement,
Practical Administrative
Solutions, Pittsburgh



Mark Voelker
Wildland Fire Aviation Trainer;
Yoga and Mindfulness
Meditation Teacher



Erik V. Orient
Director of Military Affairs, UPMC

“You have provided me with a completely different level of understanding and helped me with so many areas of my own personal life and I could not be more grateful for that. What you are doing is absolutely life changing and I have to tell you that this is by far the greatest gift that you can give to someone. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything you have done and continue to do!”

Mrs. Heather Zeoli, School Counselor, Nicely Elementary School



Building Leaders Since 1998

We were founded with a primary mission: to pair area youth with a mentor and provide these teams with a unique wilderness experience at our 500-acre Laurel Highland camp. We incorporate leadership skills, high adventure, and team-building into a week-long curriculum that sets the stage for a year of follow on activity between our mentors and their teams. Individual and team resiliency lies at the core of everything we teach and facilitate. Since our inception we have built a large clientele of universities, private schools, organizations, and corporations. We pride ourselves on tailoring all of our team builders to meet your organization's needs and goals, providing every visiting team or group with top notch adventure programming, unrivaled leadership curriculum, and superior service. The perfect team-builder for your organization is just a conversation away.

Our Programs

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Creating teams of students who overcome their fears and are inspired to lead confidently

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

High adventure activities paired with lessons in leadership and team-building for students

JROTC

Cultivating leaders within JROTC programs through physical training and high adventure activities

CAMP CADET OF SOMERSET COUNTY

Advocating teamwork and respect through various aspects of the law enforcement community

MENTORING

Matching at-risk youth with positive, educationally-motivated mentors to build successful futures

FIELD TRIPS

Outdoor adventure and leadership activities for every student to enjoy

UNIVERSITY

Unique adventure programming combined with a proven leadership curriculum for college and university students

SEMPER FI ODYSSEY

Week-long retreats for veterans and active duty service men and women focused on leadership and resiliency

AFRICAN ODYSSEY

Student representatives visiting from Uganda and Kenya learn active mentoring skills to bring back to their home programs

Financial Year at a Glance

Fiscal Year January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023



Restricted Contributions:
\$250,000

(ADA Compliance Work '23 & '24)



Unrestricted Contributions:
\$445,830

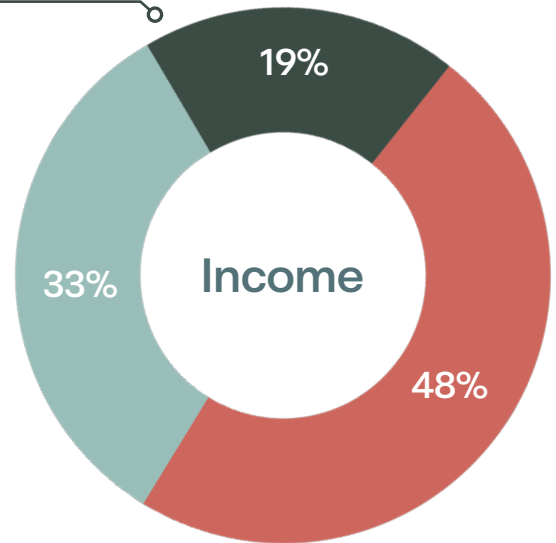


Program Revenue:
\$ 639,034

(Education and Training)



Total Income:
\$1,334,864



Semper Fi Odyssey

Discover the impact of Semper Fi Odyssey! This short documentary highlights key aspects of a transition program for military service members that emphasizes the development of realistic, near-term goals that leverage their unique experiences while addressing obstacles that must be overcome. Scan the QR code to watch the video!

Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Income and Expenses

Income		Expenses	
Unrestricted Contributions:	\$445,830	Education, Outreach & Training	\$423,615
Restricted Contributions:	\$250,000 (ADA Compliance Work '23 & '24)	Upgrade & Construction	\$334,242 (ADA; IRT; POND, etc.)
Program Revenue:	\$639,034 (Education and Training)	Management & General Maintenance	\$307,325
Total Income:	\$1,334,864	Total Expenses:	\$1,065,795

Assets and Background Information

Assets

Investment Account:	\$2,959,817
Liquid Assets:	\$780,000
Guesstimated Property Value:	\$3,500,000

Background Information:

Investment Account:

Folger Nolan Fleming Douglas, Inc.
725 15th Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Walter Booth

Neil Ickes, CPA
158 E. Union Street
Somerset, PA 15501
990

Debra Herbert, CPA
533 Ferndale Ave
Johnstown, PA 15905
Payroll

Brian's Story

Lost without direction, confused without clarity, triggered by life, and riddled with depression was where I stood in my journey before attending Semper Fi Odyssey. At the time, I had already been sober for six years, tried therapy at the VA, counseling with outside professionals, and took guidance from friends and family to no avail. Nothing and no one had been able to breach my core. I needed counsel from a Marine, a Major General, a mentor, a friend, a GIVER. Along with his well-seasoned fire team leaders, I was able to tap into a better understanding of self. I would use words like compassionate, trustworthy, patient, knowledgeable, and capable to describe everyone I encountered that week on the mountain that sought to help, helping not for a paycheck, not because they were told to, but helping due to Genuine Concern. Feeling safe allowed me to listen, and trusting the process allowed me to share myself with others. For me, gaining the knowledge of the prefrontal cortex, learning how to breathe effectively, and formatting a plan to follow upon my departure were my big takeaways to start. Throughout the years to follow, I have been back for more guidance and help but also to help others. Nothing is ever perfect

but presently I have a choice on how I will respond to all my imperfections. My team leader, Tom Welsh, is now one of my best friends from whom I seek constant support. He is ALWAYS available and has been a staple to my growth. I was DESPERATE for a life of substance, of prosperity, and a life of purpose. Semper Fi Odyssey was a substantial contributor in the achievement of those goals. Currently, with over eleven years of sobriety, I am now married with three daughters and a son. The lessons and principles instilled in me from the General, my Team Leader, and the many volunteers of Semper Fi Odyssey continue to impact my life in powerful and profound ways. I am forever grateful.

“ I was DESPERATE for a life of substance, of prosperity, and a life of purpose. Semper Fi Odyssey was a substantial contributor in the achievement of those goals. ”



Tammi's Story

I have seen first-hand as a parent and educator how wonderful the Outdoor Odyssey Program is for students of all ages. In high school, my son participated in both the Leadership Academy and Mentoring Program. The Leadership Academy program, especially, made a distinct impression and resulted in a stronger young man. The program helped him recognize that he could truly be a leader and provided him with unforgettable life experiences. Further, it provided a unique opportunity to build skills, develop confidence, face fears, and learn how to be the best possible version of himself, all while helping others do the same. All of these lessons will last a lifetime.

During the mentoring stage of my son's experience, he was able to help shape his mentee by being a positive role model and always being there for him. Not only did

my son spend two summers with his mentee, he was able to become an important part of his life outside the program as well. He called his student regularly, took him for ice cream, spent time talking about the importance of school, and even went to birthday parties. The relationship they built has been extremely valuable and meaningful for both of them.

As an educator, I have witnessed how these programs build confidence and help students achieve goals that they likely would not have otherwise. I currently have a student in the Junior Mentoring Program—her involvement has fostered confidence and helped fulfill her love for helping others. She is no longer a shy, quiet girl who would stay in the shadows of others. She understands that she has a voice and has a lot to offer in life. She is helping others become strong and independent. All of these qualities have helped her become a better student as well!!!!

Last summer, my nephew attended camp for the first time. He was an extremely shy, nervous, and anxious little boy. Two days into camp he wanted to come home but the counselors convinced him to continue for the entire week. When he was picked up after camp he had truly become a different child. He began talking about his ambitions and taking control of his own destiny. Not only does he want to go back next year, but he now wants to be part of the Mentoring Program when he is old enough. He meets with his mentor on a regular basis. He enjoys talking and spending time with him. Kudos to the Outdoor Odyssey Program and all its sponsors! This is an excellent program for students of all ages.

The Leadership Academy program, especially, made a distinct impression and resulted in a stronger young man. The program helped him recognize that he could truly be a leader and provided him with unforgettable life experiences.

**Tammi Marshall, Guidance Counselor
Harrold Middle School, Hempfield School District**

Aryana's Story

Outdoor Odyssey changed my life. I would like to preface by saying this was my first year at Outdoor Odyssey, yet my perspective has shifted in a completely different direction. In total, I spent three weeks there—being fortunate enough to experience the program through multiple avenues. I have carried the lessons I've learned at Outdoor Odyssey with me since then, and I cannot begin to describe my gratitude toward such.

My first week consisted of the traditional leadership academy, where two main initiatives are met: shared adversity and the concept of pushing one out of their comfort zone. Examining the big picture, activities like climbing a 50-foot rock wall definitely push you out of your comfort zone, but it's undoubtedly the small things, such as sleeping in the middle of a field and growing bonds with people you've known for mere days, that allow you to grow as a person. When you're on a 7-mile hike in the pouring rain and getting to the end feels impossible, you know that you're doing it together. At the end of the week, you complete a mud run with your cabin—a true test of what you've worked for that provides exactly what Outdoor Odyssey embodies: the composition of your endeavors to achieve with others alongside yourself.

My second week at Outdoor Odyssey was incredibly similar to my first, but with one distinctive difference.

I attended my second week as a part of a youth leadership program with the Rotary Club, and while I did a lot of the same activities as the leadership academy, I truly saw the versatility of Outdoor Odyssey. The feeling was the same overall—leadership values exhibited through shared adversity and challenges, but the values of the Rotary Club were still present among them. Outdoor Odyssey took their knowledge and bestowed it upon my cabin, while still allowing the program we were a part of to have their say.

Now my last week, while not as physically taxing as the first, proved to be substantially more difficult. After attending the leadership academy, you are paired with a younger student who may not have been given the same advantages as other children. Your main objective is to create a bond, an environment, and an experience that is central and beneficial to your camper. My primary form of communication is speaking, but my camper didn't receive well to that. So, I utilized body language, activity, and even bouts of comfortable silence so I could mentor her effectively, and it worked. I realized mentorship does not center around being the perfect match with who you're around, but rather, adapting while you're there.

Leadership, shared adversity, communication, mentorship, growth. That is Outdoor Odyssey.

“Outdoor Odyssey changed my life.”



Forging Lifelong Relationships for a Quarter of a Century

Twenty-five years gives one a ton of memories and many, many stories of life-changing experiences of young kids, mentors, counselors, warriors, volunteers, and even us old folks having defining moments due to the abundant love, genuine concern, and humility created by people working as a team to help others in need! One could write tomes about any number of the thousands of youth of Western Pennsylvania, veterans from all over the country, students from all regions of America and even our many African friends of our African Odyssey Program. However, in honor of our signature Mentoring Program that has given rise to every one of our other programs, I choose to share four special BONDS that give the reader an accurate perspective of how an atmosphere designed to forge relationships among counselor and mentor, mentor and child, team leader and warrior, likewise, provides relationships of a lifetime.

Eight people, each coming to the mountain at various ages, for different reasons, from disparate regions of Pennsylvania and well beyond, found a soulmate for life at Outdoor Odyssey. Two of which began their Outdoor Odyssey journeys as children in need, facing significant challenges in their young lives, none of their own doing. These two would spend a double-digit period on the mountain. Two came as children of fathers wounded in combat as part of our Semper Fi Kids' Camp; one of these would, likewise, spend a double-digit number of summers on the mountain; both would become counselors to meet and marry a fellow counselor. Two would begin their journeys as high school mentors, then becoming junior counselors and then multi-year counselors. One would become an engineer and periodically visit the mountain to support Outdoor Odyssey in a variety of ways. He would eventually bond with and "steal" a full-time staff member who found a calling at Outdoor Odyssey after flying Apache Helicopters in combat operations in Afghanistan. Two multi-year counselors, one starting his connection to Outdoor Odyssey at age eight, would become Marine Corps Officers, joining the ranks of eighteen other former counselors to have chosen that path.

While each has a unique individual story, all share the fact that they met their spouse on the mountain of Outdoor Odyssey. Three of the couples chose to be married on the mountain; three of the four marriages were officiated by myself.

-Major General Jones



Cody and Savannah



Kevin and Jenna



Pat and Gail



Matt and Faith

Our Impact Since 1998

For the past 25 years, **Outdoor Odyssey has provided leadership and mentorship to over 4,500 youth experiencing hardship and adversity throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania.**

3,000+
high school students have received mentorship

8,500+
students have participated in Leadership Academy

400+
campers have gone on to become mentors

102
sessions of Leadership Academy have been held



2,100+
wounded and ill Veterans and active-duty service men and women have participated in Semper Fi Odyssey

87
Semper Fi Odyssey retreats have been held

18
colleges and universities have participated in the University programs

Our programs encourage growth through adventure with leadership and teambuilding activities that will inspire children to succeed in education and make a difference in the community.

Community Impact

The community impact of Outdoor Odyssey has been vast among diverse populations of children and adults. We infuse leadership philosophies and principles as well as stress-regulation and resiliency-building into our curriculum and activities. When this is packaged and presented with genuine concern and agape love, the impact is massive.

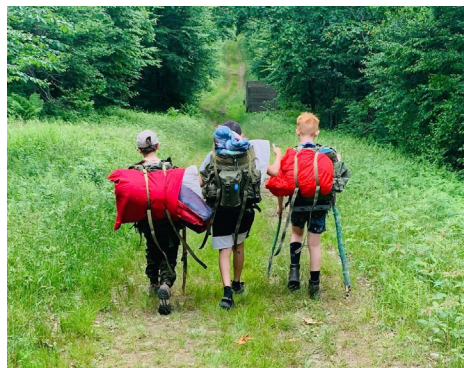
The heart of Outdoor Odyssey is our local mentoring program. We recruit high school students to attend a week-long leadership academy. After successful completion of this academy, students volunteer a second week of his/her summer to mentor two younger kids from the same or an adjacent school district. Over the past twenty-five years, we've trained over 3,500 mentors and supported over 5,000 mentees.

Using the mentoring model, we reach three other populations of youth as well: foster children, Toys for Tots Ambassadors, and military youth. During Camp Oorah, Toys for Tots Ambassadors receive leadership training throughout the week interspersed with paired (mentored) activities with the foster children. This way, both the leadership curriculum and mentoring experience can be integrated into the same week. Summer 2023 was our inaugural year; we had twelve Toys for Tots Ambassadors and twenty foster children participate. The military camp, Semper Fi Odyssey Military Youth Camp (SFOMYC), has been training, leading, and supporting military children for fifteen years. Generally, mentors arrive on a Wednesday to begin leadership/mentor training; their mentees arrive the following Sunday to be matched into teams for the

mentoring and bonding to begin its week-long experience. The majority of these kids are bussed from Camp Lejeune and Quantico Marine Corps Base, but in more recent years, additional families have sought this camp from Pennsylvania, New York, and Kentucky, among other states. While the SFOMYC is a smaller mentoring camp than the local mentoring one, it has still reached thousands of mentors and mentees.

Additionally, military-minded kids attend leadership academy at Outdoor Odyssey with their respective JROTC-affiliated groups. One such group, the Marine Corps JROTC program, is unique in that it selects the top student leaders from various high schools all over the country, as far away as Alaska and Guam, to attend the week-long camp.

Switching gears to our adult programming, Outdoor Odyssey reaches wounded, injured, and ill service members from all over the country through our Semper Fi Odyssey program (SFO). To date, we have completed 87 SFO weeks, including five sessions during 2023. Semper Fi Odyssey is not only infused with our foundational leadership curriculum, but it also embraces a new curriculum that addresses stress and resiliency. This stress and resiliency curriculum is also being taught (as a pilot program) to educators and staff at Greensburg Salem School District after Superintendent Ken Bissell experienced SFO and its impact firsthand. Mr. Bissell's goal is to "lead GB Salem to an ethos of love, genuine concern, resiliency, and regulation." We hope to employ this program model to other educators and staff in other school districts.



DAN PULTZ: A REMEMBRANCE

5 April 1943 - 22 November 2023



On the eve of Thanksgiving, we lost Outdoor Odyssey's strongest supporter of its 25-year history and a coveted friend to the Outdoor Odyssey Family. Dan did it ALL! As evidence, less than 30 days before his passing, he earned MVP Honors regarding the support he inspired for Outdoor Odyssey's first ever fundraiser, Reach the Peak. You see, Dan was one of those who came along but rarely in one's life, and I would wager that many travel through an entire life without encountering such a friend and supporter as was Dan to myself and countless others. It's essential that this Annual Report include a piece about Dan, as the way he lived his life can and should be a lesson for others. In a day when many are celebrated for a variety of reasons that have NO connection to giving to others, and when bitterness, hatred, and mean spiritedness are growing in prominence by "prominent" people, it's important to champion a man for his absolute goodness—one who accepted anyone and everyone, always anxious to help another.

While there's not enough room in this writing to do any justice to what Dan did for others via Outdoor Odyssey, it is essential for the uninitiated reader to know, at a minimum, that he served as a volunteer Team Leader for 75 of the 87 weeklong sessions of Semper Fi Odyssey, geared to help wounded, ill and injured warriors find success in the civilian sector. Anyone who met Dan will forever remember his compelling message of how to make others feel, using the acronym VAULT: Valued; Accepted; Understood; Loved; Trusted. Of note, he played an integral role in the incorporation of Mental Fitness and Resiliency into the Semper Fi Odyssey curriculum. Dan was PASSIONATE that the "suck-it-up" approach to mental health, for decades the sole strategy of American military organizations, was woefully WRONG, resulting in personal and professional crises among FAR TOO many veterans and their family members. Not surprisingly, he was a key player in the incorporation of educators and first responders as participants of Semper Fi Odyssey, adamant that lessons learned regarding mental fitness MUST be shared with those who served in these high-stress occupations. I could go on and on, as Dan didn't just go the extra mile, he went mile after mile after mile to help one in need.

Anyone who met Dan will forever remember his compelling message of how to make others feel, using the acronym VAULT: Valued; Accepted; Understood; Loved; Trusted.

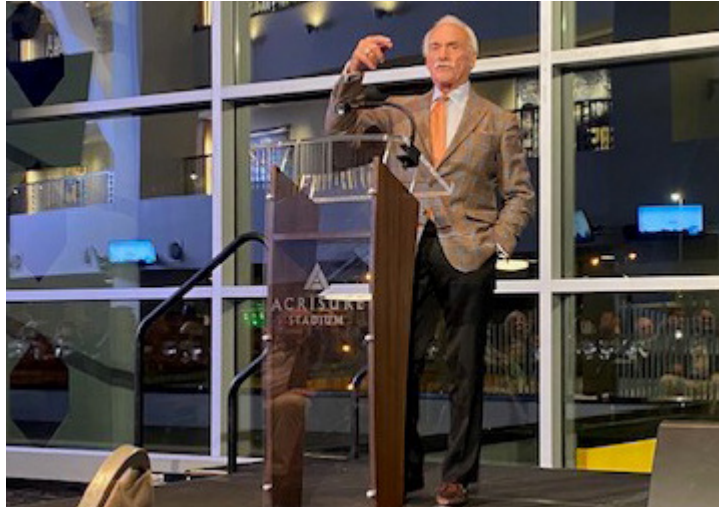
How do we replace a Dan Pultz? Oh my gosh; such a man could never be replaced!! Outdoor Odyssey, however, WILL keep Dan's legacy and life lessons integral to everything undertaken. We will work assiduously to inspire others to emulate Dan in the way he treated and cared for those in need. We shall strive to share Dan's actions with others by providing them the PALPABLE sense that we care for them and that we choose to employ agape love, genuine concern, and humility as we work to become something larger than a member of a particular party: a GIVER to society as opposed to a TAKER. What can you do? Strive to live in the manner of Dan Pultz and VAULT those with whom you are privileged to interact, working feverishly to make them feel VALUED, ACCEPTED; UNDERSTOOD; LOVED; TRUSTED! Dan shared VAULT abundantly and lived the watchwords religiously; we will strive to follow his lead. We lost a friend without equal; rest assured, however, that his legacy LIVES ON!

Community Fundraising

Reach The Peak 2023

On October 24th, 2023, Outdoor Odyssey hosted its inaugural Reach the Peak Fundraiser in the UPMC Club Room in Pittsburgh's Acrisure Stadium. With nearly 300 guests in attendance, the event was an evening of giving, dining, and entertainment—all with the goal of supporting programs that help shape the future of youth across Southwestern Pennsylvania and military veterans from branches who have fought over the past 20 years. Last year's theme, "25 Years of Adventure", paid tribute to the organization's 25th anniversary and a beloved mantra shared across Outdoor Odyssey's many youth and military service programs.

Reach the Peak began with a cocktail hour and silent auction where guests placed bids on an assortment of themed baskets, Steelers memorabilia, and artwork donated by local artists. After dinner, guests were treated to live musical performances by Nashville-based singer/songwriter Taylor Davis, as well as stories from former Outdoor Odyssey participants about their experiences and the impact the organization has made on their lives. The evening concluded with special guest speaker Rocky Bleier—accompanied by fellow three-time Steelers Super Bowl teammate and former Marine, John Banaszak—who shared his story of resilience and overcoming adversity as an Army veteran and former Steelers running back.



Rocky Bleier sharing his story of "Fighting Back"



Buffet selections reminiscent of the comfort foods of camp



Guests perusing silent auction items

Donor Funded Projects

2023 was not only Outdoor Odyssey's 25th year of programming, but it was also a year of incredible upgrades and additions! The additions of a large new bunkhouse and several upgrades to the property to create better handicap accessibility could not have been accomplished without the support of other phenomenal programs.

Accessibility Upgrades to Monongahela Bunkhouse

Outdoor Odyssey proudly accepted the support of the David Scaife Family Charitable Foundation to complete many significant upgrades to the property. The foundation's \$100,000 pledge allowed us to complete a handicap accessible bathroom and shower addition to the Monongahela Bunkhouse, which is located on base camp near the Chow Hall. Funding also provided a concrete rebuild on the front porch of the Mon for better accessibility for all! The "Mon" has been host to hundreds and hundreds of Semper Fi Odyssey participants throughout the years. This incredible upgrade provided the building with much needed restroom additions and showers for our many program's participants. Many SFO participants deal with physical impairments or amputations and the addition of the new showers located inside the bunkhouse made an immediate impact!



Accessible bathroom and shower addition inside the Bunkhouse



The path leading up to the "Mon" with a concrete rebuild for better accessibility

Donor Funded Projects

Completion of New Teton Bunkhouse

In the fall of '23, Outdoor Odyssey hosted a U.S. Navy construction project. The Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) project provided free labor and construction skills to build a new bunkhouse. This program is real world training for active & reserve military construction units. Outdoor Odyssey provided the funding for all materials and the Navy provided Seabees to build it! The new Teton bunkhouse is now finished and will house up to 60 campers in total. The project was mostly done in the fall and finishing touches have recently wrapped up on the project with 30 new sets of bunkbeds assembled and ready for summer! This project would not have been possible without a lot of work from Pat Daley and Erik Orient, members of our Board of Directors/Advisors and buildings and grounds committee. Pat, an engineer in his "real world" job, drew up all the plans for the cabin and provided the Seabees

with consulting on the project as needed, and Erik served as liaison with the U.S. Navy battalion staff and made sure all our IRT requirements were met. This was no straightforward project and both Pat and Erik contributed a vast number of hours to make this project happen!



View of the front of Teton Bunkhouse



New bunkbeds inside Teton, fully assembled and ready for summer!

Looking Ahead in 2024

There are many new and exciting projects and initiatives on the calendar for Outdoor Odyssey in 2024. In the final days of 2023, Outdoor Odyssey received funding from UPMC Health Plan to greatly improve handicap accessibility to the camp, lodge, and conference center properties through the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). UPMC Health Plan pledged \$100,000 towards these initiatives including new sidewalks connecting a concrete handicap parking area and a concrete ramp to the Chow Hall and sidewalks on the basecamp that connect the Chow Hall, Command Post/Conference Room, and Mon Bunkhouse together. Negotiating the rough terrain on camp has been a struggle for many over the years and these new walkways will make things safer and easier for everyone! A handicap parking area with a ramp has also been installed at the Mountain Valley Lodge for better accessibility, and the Conference Center is currently receiving an ADA ramp and restroom renovations to make the center accessible for all!

Construction projects aren't the only new thing popping up at Outdoor Odyssey. Programming has taken a transformational change in the past year in almost every aspect of our initiatives, from Semper Fi Odyssey to Leadership Academies. Mental Fitness, Regulation, and Resiliency has become a major focus of the curriculum in every Outdoor Odyssey program. Our partnership with the Greensburg Salem School District over the past year and a half has transformed the Semper Fi Odyssey course week to include educators in every session. Thirty educators from GSSD have spent an entire week at Semper Fi Odyssey over the past 6 sessions. Exciting talks are currently underway to take this programming inside the classroom at GSSD and more school districts have signed on to attend SFO in the upcoming sessions. A resilient educator can help provide their students with the proper tools for their own mental fitness! Educator feedback has been phenomenal!



GSSD educators



New sidewalks and ramps continue to improve accessibility



SYO participants now include a growing number of educators

Support the Mission



Visit Outdoor Odyssey for a Teambuilder

All professional teams possess unique personalities; no two are alike. Outdoor Odyssey tailors course material to match the exact needs and mission profiles of each organization engaged. From no-impact to low-impact, moderate to high, we will build a set of activities that will accomplish your goals. Our facilities and programs provide virtually unlimited potential for team and leadership development. With lodging, dining, and conferencing options, we will build your session to achieve your goals!



Make a Donation

Your donation to Outdoor Odyssey will directly support the program that you choose. You may be interested in supporting veterans at Semper Fi Odyssey, educator resiliency programming, African Odyssey, or our keystone Mentoring Program. Let us know what you would like to support and we'll make sure your donation makes a difference!



Attend the Reach the Peak Fundraiser

We'd love to have you join us for the second annual Reach the Peak Fundraiser this fall. We will be hosting the event at Acrisure Stadium, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers, this October 22nd! Last year's inaugural event was a huge success and this year looks to be even better!



Volunteer

We are always looking for volunteers. Every Outdoor Odyssey program depends on volunteers for success! From high school mentors to helping out with the grounds and maintenance, we have nearly unlimited opportunities to get involved!



Thank you for your support.

