

GO BEYOND

LEADERSHIP THROUGH NATURE



NE
ELO
INNOVATION
INVITATIONAL
2024

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HOW WE SEE OURSELVES.

HOW WE SEE OTHERS.

HOW WE SEE OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD.



mission Go Beyond provides year-round outdoor experiences, featuring life-changing Mountain West adventures.

vision Go Beyond's extraordinary outdoor adventures bring diverse groups of young people together to facilitate self-discovery and build community.

values Courage | Compassion | Development | Inclusion

WHY We build our lives from stories. For many of us, life writes the stories in ways that hold us back.

WHAT For 45 years Go Beyond has offered a chance to write a new story to people of all ages.

Relentless authenticity, a new peer group, a culture of trust and freedom, mentors and leaders who walk the same paths, and extraordinary experiences - together we find new meaning in ourselves, others, and our place in the world.

HOW GO BEYOND HOMAHA

1 year cohort. Ages 13-15. Free. Open application + partner nominations.

366 hours. Experiential learning. Relationship-building. Adventure. Science. Art. Exploration. New peer group. New spaces.

10-14 day world-class mountain expedition including Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks.

Leadership: 4 professional mentors, 2 Natural Leaders, and volunteers from across the community.

NATURAL LEADERS

Ages 16-21. Leadership, connections, development, and skills.

Extraordinary first job as a paid cohort leadership team member!

Opportunities with Beyond School Bells, Fontenelle Forest, Henry Doorly Zoo, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and beyond.

GO BEYOND ABROAD

Plug and play:

- 1-8 month group experience featuring adventures near or far.
- 8-week afterschool program.
- Agency and school collaboration opportunities.



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CENTENNIAL RANCH

412 acre cattle ranch and wetland conservation preserve.

National effort led by USFW to rescue the most endangered amphibian in North America, the Wyoming Toad.

Foothills of the Snowy Range and Medicine Bow Mountains.

ALPINE MOUNTAIN CAMP

33 acre mountainside camp off the Snake River Canyon.

45 minutes to Grand Teton National Park.

2 hours to Yellowstone National Park.

8-16 DAY EXPEDITIONS

Rock-climbing, hiking,
whitewater rafting,
backcountry backpacking,
mountain summit climb.





Yeah, but.

Impact and value questioned.

How do we make an impact? Define impact.
What questions guide us?





Why do youth WANT to be involved in your program?

What draws them in?



THIS LOOKS FUNNY part 1

How we are supposed to think about impact.

Data and anecdote tell us that overall trends for well-being are on a frightening downhill trajectory, but some funding requires certain structures and parameters that have been in place for decades.

And a lot of funding wants to see measurable impact, but do we then select for measurable achievements? And is that different then biggest impact?

Can we actually innovate?



THIS LOOKS FUNNY part 2

The Go Beyond model.

We started with answering the hard questions and ended up focusing on engagement, especially with youth unlikely to engage in activities.

But how in the world do you do that?

What we've discovered.

Invitation without requirement. No consequences to not engaging, just encouragement to do so. You can't do Go Beyond wrong.

Throw out achievement orientation – we have enough reflecting our inadequacy already.

Peer group cultivation. Social inclusion. Answering the call of isolation.

Near-peer and adult mentors. Group, small group, and 1:1.

FUN. Engaging events and extraordinary experiences youth want to join. Partnerships and volunteers make it all possible (creating events that are fun for them, too!)

Creating space.

We see greater than 95% engagement in trauma-impacted youth.



What do you define as engagement?

What can we do to make our programs more fun and engaging, particularly for those less likely to join in?

How to cultivate social inclusion? How to foster authentic relationships?

Quality versus quantity?

Partnerships and volunteers?

What do you wish you could do but the limits of required structures and funding interrupt innovation?

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