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Unlocking human potential

AUTUMN TERM 2015-16 OUTWARD BOUND OMAN NEWSLETTER

Greetings from everyone here at Outward Bound in Oman. Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year, and we hope the new term has got off to a smooth start for you.

To escape the heat, at this time of year our courses run at altitude on Jebel Akdhar, where night-time temperatures are already chilly, and it has recently rained heavily. Above 7,000 feet is the only place in Oman where the Juniper tree grows; these trees, some of which are an estimated 1,000 years old, are our classroom where skills for life that cannot be learnt in a classroom are instilled.



THIS WILL BE OUR BUSIEST YEAR TO DATE ...

Like the previous six, this academic year is going to be our busiest to date, with over 100 courses already booked from schools and organisations as far afield as Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Washington State USA. As the only Outward Bound school operating in the region, we are in a unique position to combine the traditional challenge and enduring outcomes associated with an Outward Bound course, with an exposure to the rich culture and heritage that exists in this beautiful country, and we look forward to working with you at some point in the near future. Our rapid growth now sees us employing 17 full time staff, many of whom are Omani. The instructors all speak Arabic and English, and are rigorously trained both here in Oman and overseas. We have instructors that are fluent in English, Arabic, French, German, Spanish, Swahili and Urdu which makes us unique in being able to work with a wide scope of students.

HELICOPTER RESCUE AND WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS

We recently welcomed UK medic Dr. Sean Hudson from www.expeditionmedicine.co.uk to Oman to conduct an intensive 4-day Wilderness First Responder Course to ensure our instructors' knowledge of how to handle an emergency situation is up to date. This was held at an altitude of 8,000 feet in the mountains of Oman, and was attended by teachers from Cranleigh School and Brighton College in Abu Dhabi, and nurses from American British Academy and The American International School Muscat here in Oman. During this course we were also fortunate enough to be trained in how to call for, assist in landing and take a casualty into a rescue helicopter. So, you can be assured that your students are safe in our hands!



FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING



MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER...

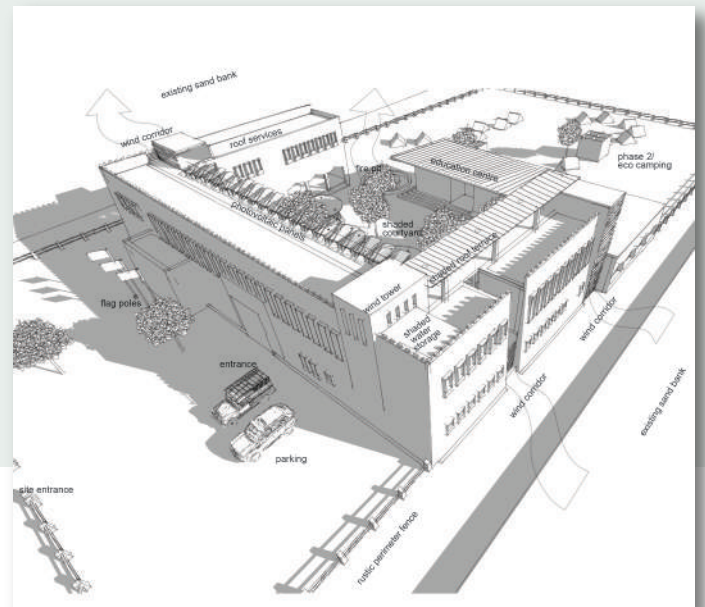
In 2016 Outward Bound is 75 years old, making it one of the oldest experiential learning providers in the world. Since foundation in 1941, Outward Bound has flourished, making its own unique contribution to society. With courses being delivered in 31 nations, the Outward Bound alumni now numbers several million, with the school here in Oman making a growing contribution to that total each year. In the current economic downturn, competition for jobs regionally and globally is greater than ever, and in a world where employers and universities increasingly regard paper qualifications as insufficient evidence of ability, our courses are providing young people with an edge in the challenging job market by developing their all-important soft skills, such as self-confidence, time-management and organisation.

75 YEARS OLD!

OUTWARD BOUND OMAN AS AN INTERNATIONAL AWARD ACCREDITED TRAINING CENTRE

A reminder that we are one of the few formally approved and recognised IA centres for the International Award in the region, and we are welcoming more international schools to Oman than ever before.

Each year we deliver International Award courses for some of the leading schools in the region, from Bronze to Gold level. We assist school IA coordinators to organize, manage, run and assess the students, and work with you to tailor make each expedition based on your requirements and expectations, whilst adhering to the IA standards. In Oman we are proud to be able to cover diverse terrains such as the wadis, mountains and deserts, whilst also giving the students a chance to learn more about Omani culture and heritage through visits to Bedouin families, learning about Omani folk music and navigating using the stars just as our ancestors did!



CONSTRUCTION OF OUR TRAINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTRES IS ABOUT TO BEGIN ...

Thanks to the generous support of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, and our ever-increasing number of participants both locally and regionally, in April 2016 we hope to be starting the construction of our first permanent training centre to be located in the Sharqiyah desert. This centre will enable us to work with greater numbers of young people and widen the range of activities we can provide; the centre will be multi-functional; serving as a base not only for our OB and IA courses and corporate training, but also as a residential field research centre for geographical, geological and biological research for IGCSE/IB or A-Level students. Hot on the heels of this will be 'Outward Bound Base Camp', a purpose built administrative, storage and training centre in Muscat, which will have a state of the art climbing wall.



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