



**NORTHWEST
OUTWARD
BOUND
SCHOOL**

May 7, 1969

Dear Staff Member:

You have chosen to work as an instructor at the Northwest OUTWARD BOUND School and have been selected from a large number of applicants. The selection process involves certain risks. I have climbed and worked with a few of you, observed others in action, interviewed some, and most of you come the route of application forms and references.

As well as one can judge from this process, I have found you to possess certain qualities which make your association with OUTWARD BOUND appropriate.

- 1) Commitment to a concept of full living and a set of values regarding life. You understand and appreciate the development of character.
- 2) Experience that gives you the skills to be safe in the mountains. You know the freedom of the hills.
- 3) A genuine interest in young people and the will to work with them.
- 4) There is evidence that each of you has had the opportunity to make a realistic assessment of your own capacities, goals and the ability to endure in the face of continued challenge.

OUTWARD BOUND is asking a great deal from you who have signed on as staff for the coming summer. We are asking you to give boys from all walks of life opportunity to train through the mountains and the wilderness as a means of developing their own capacity to face hazards, difficulties, hardship and emergencies of all kinds. We are asking you to improvise from this magnificent natural environment a set of conditions to present to each boy, possibly for the first time, the opportunity to discover himself. These conditions must demand self-discipline, teamwork, adventure, some hardship and risk. As Kurt Hahn has said, "I regard it as the foremost task of education to insure the survival of these qualities: an enterprising curiosity, an undefeatable spirit, tenacity in pursuit, readiness for sensible self-denial, and above all, compassion."

To put it another way, we are asking you to deal directly with what

Staff Letter
May 7, 1969
Page 2

Hahn identifies as three serious declines in our affluent, materialistic society: the decline of physical fitness, the decline of care and skill, and the decline of compassion. As the architects of a program which speaks to these needs, we must be certain that our training serves each individual differently as he is allowed to face his own shortcomings directly without the alternative of easy retreat. The program must offer the promise of growth. The individual will not change in character but will reveal, face and build upon what is already there.

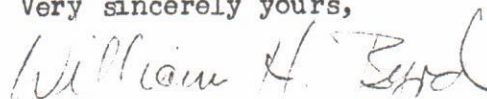
If OUTWARD BOUND has made a contribution to modern education, it is probably the rediscovery of the process of teaching through activity. It has to do with motivation, with involving students in their own learning. It has to do with the development of a person and his attitudes, a bringing together of knowledge and action. OUTWARD BOUND certainly claims no monopoly of these ideas. They are a part of the values and wisdom of the ages. We are, however, making a clear and determined attempt to re-define them and structure them in an educational program.

Our summer classroom is an area of genuine beauty and infinite variety. Whether your course takes you to the Cascades in Central Oregon or North Central Washington, you will spend much of your time in the "high country" wilderness areas. You will become familiar with the dense forests and unique geology of the volcanic and glaciated Cascade mountain range. You will camp near glacial streams, in high meadows and, perhaps on lava fields. Some of the mountains are magnificent and some seem almost ridiculous but all of them merit the climbers utmost respect. Some of the scenery is spectacular, some is quite mundane but all of it is appropriate, in some way, to the OUTWARD BOUND program, and conducive to the fostering of healthy and intelligent wilderness users.

Perhaps the most important thing to appreciate is that we are a school and we teach not for the mountains, but through the mountains. What we seek is to give young men a greater sense of themselves and strengthen values. Deeper insight into the questions of: What am I? What is my place in the world? What are my responsibilities to my fellow man? Where do I fit into the scheme of things?

Welcome to the Northwest OUTWARD BOUND School. Some information on our more practical problems follows.

Very sincerely yours,



William H. Byrd
Director

WHB/ms
Enclosures

Dear Wives:

With June so near and another season with Northwest OUTWARD BOUND School about to take off, we thought you might appreciate some details about living quarters for the summer, and what to bring along.

All families with children will be living in tent houses 12 x 14 with wooden floors which you will find both comfortable and easy to maintain. You will be provided with cots and foam pads and a small wood stove for heating. (Some Coleman lanterns are available.) Couples without children will be in 10 x 12 wall tents. If you are interested in a cup of coffee or soup in your tent, or if you will want to heat water for a warm bath, it would be advisable to bring along a portable cooking stove--1 or 2 burner. You should also plan to bring your own sleeping bags, pillows and/or sheets and blankets and anything else you desire to make your summer home more comfortable and attractive. The interiors of the tents last year were all very different depending on how much each family wanted to do. There is lots of scrap wood around to invite all kinds of ingenuity in making tables, bookcases, etc., although tools are scarce, so best stick in some of your own. A card table can also be a very handy item.

In the tent area, there is a staff shower and outdoor privy. If you have small children, I think a portable toilet is a great boon. You can buy them fairly inexpensively at Sears & Roebuck. "Wash 'n dries" are also very useful. Some type of tub may be wanted for baths.

We are on a U. S. Forest Service permit so that our sanitation set-up, placement of tenthouses and parking, among other things, are regulated by the officials of the Forest Service. It is important that we comply with camp rules in order that we are allowed to keep our permit.

The weather is most unpredictable, and I would suggest you bring a few warm woolie clothes as well as the usual summer clothing. (I find blue jeans, sweatshirts and sneakers a comfortable combination. Many days are warm enough for shorts.) There are many lakes to hike into and hunt pollywogs in or fish so you will want swim suits and may wish to bring fishing gear. The evenings get cool. Some summers we have some rain, so boots and parkas might be a good idea.

The entire school eats together in an area near the kitchen, and under a tarp (on rainy days). Esther, our cook, is a marvel and you will enjoy the relief from having to plan and cook meals. Plan to bring your own dishes and silverware. Families find it helpful to have some kind of bag in which dishes may be kept and carried easily. It is very important to all concerned that we be on time for meals. If you get tired of mass eating, there is no reason why you can't have a picnic or cookout in your own tent. Food can be purchased at Lauer's Store or Phil's within 15 miles of camp. Lauer's or Phil's also supply some hardware items, baby needs, simple medications, a good selection of foods and gas station. The nearest public telephone and the McKenzie Bridge Post Office is located at Lauer's store.

Letter to Wives
Page 2

Our washing facilities consist of a laundromat and hot shower at McKenzie Bridge approximately 15 miles from camp. If you wish to do any washing at your tenthouse, you will need to provide washboard, pans, soap, clothes line and pins. There is no electricity and no hot water except what you carry and heat. Musical instruments are welcome, but we discourage transistor radios--the music of the forest and mountain wilderness deserve the chance to be heard.

It's a good idea to bring some games and indoor toys for rainy days as well as any medications specifically necessary to your family. The nearest doctor and hospital facilities are 70 miles away in Springfield, Oregon. It would be a good idea to have a tetanus shot before the summer.

There will be a chance to sit in on lectures and learn some of the techniques as students are being taught and we all look forward to the initiative tests which are fun to watch. There is lots of activity nearby in the way of lovely hikes, good fishing, wading and rafting on the lakes, boating and swimming. We hope this summer to have a Mother's Exchange Day so that one of us can sit while the others have a day off from the children. Such things as beauty parlors, movies, tennis, etc. are, we must admit, many miles away and go unheeded. There will be odd jobs for willing wives which help us to feel more a part of things.

If you have any questions, please do write soon so that we may get word back to you. Our mailing address in camp will be: Northwest OUTWARD BOUND School, McKenzie Bridge, Oregon 97401.

We'll look forward to seeing you soon--and hoping that you have a very pleasant summer.

Sincerely,



Bill, Jo Anne,
Ted, Teri, Susan & Bradley
Byrd

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. MOUNTAINEERING EQUIPMENT:

You should have your own personal equipment. Bring it and use it during the summer. The school has only enough equipment for the expanding student body. You should also have your own mountaineering boots, well broken in by the time you arrive for the Instructor Training course. If you figure your own deductions on your income tax, you will want to keep records on mountaineering equipment and specialized clothing as these are deductible.

2. HOUSING:

Married staff members with families will be housed in 12 x 14 tent houses with stoves. Married staff without children are housed in 10 x 12 wall tents; single staff two to a 10 x 12 wall tent. We must adhere to the meal schedule along with the students; irregular meals and snacks create utter chaos for the cook. If you wish to cook your own meals, you may do so in your tent; complete supplies are available at Lauer's or Phil's, two stores which are within 15 minutes of the camp at McKenzie Bridge, Oregon. Army style cots are furnished with foam mattress pads.

3. INSURANCE:

All staff are covered by Workmens Compensation, State of Oregon. An explanatory pamphlet is enclosed. If you desire additional insurance coverage on top of Workmen's Comp, it is available through a group insurance policy for OUTWARD BOUND tempoary employees. This is a \$25,000 accidental death, \$5,000 blanket medical expense policy which costs approximately \$45.00 per individual for the season. Please advise the Eugene office before June 1 if you are interested in this additional insurance coverage, which is obtained through Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. at your expense.

4. INSTRUCTOR TRAINING:

June 13 through June 21 will be the Instructor Training period and it will take place from the Foley Ridge site; therefore, all staff should report to the Foley Ridge site by June 12. Our first day will be spent in setting up our respective quarters. The Instructor's Manual is enclosed. Read it and bring it when you come.

5. LOCATION:

The enclosed map will show you how to find the Foley Ridge site of the Northwest OUTWARD BOUND School. If you arrive by car, you will probably be coming by way of Interstate 5. From Interstate 5 in the vicinity of Eugene, take any exit marked Springfield, McKenzie River. The McKenzie River is Highway 126. After you have gained access to Highway 126 headed East up the McKenzie River toward Vida, Blue River and McKenzie Bridge, Foley Ridge Road turns off Highway 126 1/4 mile east of the McKenzie Ranger Station. Follow the enclosed map.

6. PROGRAM:

The Northwest OUTWARD BOUND School operates on a mobile concept. This means that we have no permanent base facilities. There are no permanent structures of any kind connected with the school. This allows us a great deal of freedom in taking advantage of our training area. This also means that a good deal of responsibility for the welfare and safety of the students devolves upon the instructors. Staff will be directly responsible for continually drawing the line between the genuinely adventurous and the fool-hardy, between reasonable safety measures and over-protectiveness. It is also well to remember that since OUTWARD BOUND has chosen the action-oriented approach to instruction, the OUTWARD BOUND ideology is advanced by example and action much more than by precept.

7. FIRST AID:

We expect you to have extensive and current knowledge of first aid. If it has "been a while" since you studied first aid, brush up. Most of your problems will be blisters, headaches and upset stomachs, but occasionally you may have to treat or diagnose something serious.

8. MISCELLANECUS:

Cameras are encouraged. The school may wish to buy some of your prints. Musical instruments are welcome; however, please do not bring transistor radios. Bring your favorite books. They will be handy to select for morning readings, perhaps evening programs. The school has a selection of readings from a small number of books, but I am sure your additions will be welcome.