



# COLORADO OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

MAIL: SEPT. 15-JUNE 15:

BOX 1177, ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO

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STAR ROUTE, MARBLE, CARBONDALE, COLORADO

April 26, 1965

## An Open Letter to Instructors and Instructor Trainees:

There is still six feet of snow on the ground at Marble. But the days are getting warmer, the runoff is fast, and by mid-May we hope to have the road plowed out. Early June the school will be in expedition order ready for the fourth summer season of the Colorado OUTWARD BOUND School. What began as a dream, or a prayer, and 108 boys on a Colorado mountainside in 1962, in three short years has grown to be a movement with three schools across the nation with more planned, involving education and youth agencies from coast to coast. This summer nearly 1,000 boys and a pilot course of 24 girls will benefit from this concept of training. Welcome to the OUTWARD BOUND community! For those of you who are old hands, I look forward to your return and appreciate the strength and dedication you bring to the school.

What is OUTWARD BOUND? This is a question we must ask ourselves each year and attempt to define and clarify. There is no capsule answer. I spent two months in Britain last fall, visiting five of the six OUTWARD BOUND schools there, asking the same question. As a start, I would ask you to read the enclosed article reprinted from the Princeton Alumni Weekly.

There is one thought that must be kept foremost in mind and that is that we are a school. Not just a camp. Our aims are deeply educational, and not recreational. We call you instructors, and not guides or counselors, because basically your job is to teach. At the Colorado OUTWARD BOUND School your teaching will be primarily in terms of skills, mountain crafts, rock climbing, first aid, mountain rescue, and survival. And these we must teach as effectively and professionally as they can be taught. But at the same time you must appreciate that OUTWARD BOUND is not a mountaineering school, or a survival school. But rather, we teach through the mountains and not for the mountains - through survival and not for survival.

Through mountaineering, survival rescue training, and the confrontation of Nature, our purpose is to give young men the opportunity to realize themselves, their worth and potentiality; to gain insights into life that are denied youth in an industrial, urban, automated society. You have been chosen as an instructor because you are a man whom we know to have experienced the growth that takes place in a man in a challenging situation. We suspect you have the warmth, the maturity, and the humility to want to impart it to youth, and the magnetic qualities of leadership to be able to do so.

The end of philosophy is action - in the case of a school, its program. This year we have worked out the program well in advance, and a copy of a typical program is enclosed. Since some of you will have little time for orientation, you should go through this carefully, and make notes of your questions. Become as familiar as you can with the mechanics so you can devote as much of your energy as possible to the techniques and art of teaching. Bring your questions to school with you; write if it would be helpful. Also appreciate that this is not the last word. An OUTWARD BOUND program by its very nature must be flexible, adaptable, and subject to change.

Also, I'd like you to appreciate that many of our most successful changes have come from new instructors.

Prepare yourselves in every way you can to instruct in as many fields as possible. Though most areas are covered by an assigned specialist, it is necessary for you to be a competent generalist. You will have to reinforce the instruction and continue it, for most of the program takes place away in the mountains without the benefit of the specialist.

All that a program does is to provide you with the support and structure that is necessary for you to do your job of teaching. In the last analysis, regardless of the program, the educational task is yours. The patrol is the main level of association for a boy on a course. This is OUTWARD BOUND to him. You will be the most important adult. This is your privilege, as well as your responsibility and challenge.

The success of the school lies with its instructors. In a very real sense, you are the OUTWARD BOUND School. The demands are great and the expectations high. I urge you to read the reverse side of your contract over again. I would re-emphasize that the job is a hard one. There is no such thing as an eight-hour day or a five-day week. As an instructor, you're on call 24 hours a day and sometimes seven days a week. We have planned to have as many Sundays off as possible, and instructors are encouraged to spend these days away from the school. An average of one day off a week will be scheduled for each instructor. Between courses there are two free days - not enough, but all that can be scheduled in a short summer season.

As beautiful as your surroundings will be, your living quarters can hardly be described as comfortable. Nearly all the staff live in tents on a platform. Only the tents for married staff have stoves in them. There are plans to build cabins for the married staff, but funds have not been raised yet. All tents have electricity. The school provides sheets and blankets and beds. Wash-house facilities are communal, with separate facilities for wives. There is one washer and one dryer for the staff. Meals are served everyone in the dining hall, with no extra charge for dependents. But married instructors will eat with their wives only at the evening meal, as instructors eat with their patrols at breakfast and lunch. Children eat with the duty patrol before each meal, except for breakfast, when they eat late with their mothers.

Camp life demands as much resilience for families as does the instructor's life for our men. Both must be adaptable and basically happy people to fit into an organization such as OUTWARD BOUND. For some, this can be not the least of their challenges.

A number of practical considerations:

1. Insurance. Instructors are covered only to the extent of the State of Colorado Compensation Insurance Fund. Dependents have no insurance coverage. If there is any family which does not have medical and hospital insurance, please let me know, and I will see what coverage can be arranged through a group insurance policy for students.

2. Please inform me of your exact date of arrival so your accommodations can be prepared. Those needing to be met on buses or trains at Glenwood Springs should give exact arrival times a week in advance.

3. Clothing and Mountaineering Equipment. Any equipment issued to boys can be loaned from the school free of charge. This includes everything you will need with the exception of personal clothing. However, we do recommend instructors providing their own as many of our items have been chosen more for durability than for comfort.

4. Cars. These can be parked at the school, provided you can get it up the hill. On no account try to drive up fully loaded. Phone from Marble, and we will send a jeep down for your kit.

If you're buying new tires, get the tube type. They hold up better. It would be just as well to leave your mud and snow tires on - at least in the early part of the summer.

5. Tax Tips. Herb Kincey, the program coordinator, says that his lawyer informs him that the following expenses are tax deductible:

a. If you hold a regular job elsewhere, transportation costs, meals, lodging, etc.

b. Specialized mountaineering equipment and clothing.

Finally, I am very proud to have a staff of instructors such as will be joining the school this summer. You are an exciting and capable group of men of wide experience and great character and skill. I know that you will enjoy each other as well. I look forward to your arrival on our mountainside.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph J. Nold  
Director

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Enclosures

Princeton Reprint  
C-12 Daily Outline  
Duty Instructor's Schedule  
Contract