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**Outward Bound USA Board Appoints Josh Brankman**

**as New Executive Director**

*Executive Director of Outward Bound California Brings Outstanding*

 *Educational and Management Success to Outward Bound USA*

GOLDEN, CO (February 8, 2018) Today, Outward Bound USA announced that its Board of Directors has appointed Josh Brankman as Executive Director effective March 15, 2018. Brankman steps into the national role after an exceptional tenure as Executive Director of Outward Bound California.

“This is an exciting time for Outward Bound in the U.S. and the perfect time for Josh to step into this leadership role” said Laura Kohler, Board Chair of OBUSA. She continued, “In 2009, Josh was an innovative high school principal in the Bay Area when he became a founding member of what is now Outward Bound California (OBCA). He led OBCA from its start-up phase to a comprehensive strategy for growth. Importantly, Josh ensured that OBCA’s strategic thinking aligned with practical actions focused on relevance and equity. Josh is a strong leader, a dedicated educator with a passion for our mission and he has the enthusiastic support of the whole organization.”

“It’s an honor to lead this organization” said Josh. “Outward Bound has such a rich history working with students across the country, and at the same time, there is so much more we can accomplish in collaboration with our community partners, students, and families.” He continued, “Our world needs young people with character, a commitment to their communities and compassion for each other. At a time when so many challenges are thrown at them, Outward Bound offers an educational experience that prepares students to face those challenges and find one’s purpose.”

Added Lee Skold, Chair of the Search Committee and former OBUSA Board Chair, “We are in a new era. Josh and his team at Outward Bound California have had great success increasing access to outdoor learning programs for low-income and underrepresented communities. Outward Bound programs must be responsive to our communities and Josh brings demonstrated success doing just that. His leadership and commitment in this area is inspiring to us all.”

The OBUSA Board of Directors wishes to thank Peter Steinhauser, who has served as the Executive Director of OBUSA for the past three years, while also serving as Executive Director of the Outward Bound Services Group (OBSG) since 2012. Peter will continue to serve in his capacity as Executive Director of OBSG and lead national brand and marketing activities for OBUSA.

 “Outward Bound has been a leader in experiential education for more than fifty-five years in the United States. I couldn’t be more humbled yet confident in this organization and the Outward Bound network’s ability to make a profound impact on the lives of our students”, said Josh. Mr. Brankman is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of California, Berkeley​’s Principal Leadership Institute, formed to train educational leaders in public schools, where he was a full scholarship recipient.

**About Outward Bound USA**

Outward Bound, founded in 1941 by educator Kurt Hahn, is a nonprofit educational organization serving people of all ages and backgrounds through challenging learning expeditions focused on character development, leadership, and service. As the pioneer and leading provider of experiential and outdoor education in the United States, Outward Bound offers over 1,000 courses throughout the year across the country. Outward Bound serves 40,000 students annually and has a nationwide community of more than 1 million supporters and alumni.

In the U.S., Outward Bound is a national network of eleven regional schools dedicated to helping individuals learn through challenging experiences so they may grow as individuals and become active in the communities where they live and work. With expeditions in remote wilderness settings, in close proximity to bustling urban communities and in classrooms, Outward Bound serves a diverse population of students while delivering courses with consistently high standards of quality, safety, and results.

If you would like further information, please visit [www.outwardbound.org](http://www.outwardbound.org) or contact Christy Borst at cborst@outwardbound.org.