



**OUTWARD BOUND
VIETNAM**
to serve, to strive, and not to yield

IMPACT REPORT 2020 - 2024





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OUTWARD BOUND
VIETNAM

| IMPACT REPORT 2024

SETTING THE STAGE ●

- *Executive Director's Message*
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Since 2016, 10,459 youths and young adults have gone through impactful outdoor adventure programs at Outward Bound Vietnam (OBV). We firmly believe that everyone has the potential to learn more about themselves and the world around us through outdoor education. Thus, on behalf of my team, it gives me great pleasure to share OBV's 2020 - 2024 impact report.

We reflect on five successful years of delivering transformative outdoor education programmes in Vietnam and highlight key numbers, program data, participant reflections as well as client testimonials on the impact of our programmes. Safety management is a cornerstone in all our programs and over the years, we have strengthened our safety and risk management systems to ensure our participants' well-being. Through our thoughtfully designed outdoor education programmes, we strive to empower people of all ages and backgrounds to discover their strengths, build resilience, social-skills and develop a sense of purpose while respecting our environment through nature bound learning. OBV remains committed to helping individuals unlock their full potential, and in doing so, create a ripple effect of positive change in their respective communities.

My team and I grateful for the support of our patrons, governing council, risk management committee, strategic partners, clients, well-wishers and authorities who make our work here in Vietnam possible. Together, we firmly believe that learning in the great outdoors can create transformative life experiences and a brighter future for all!



Mr. Elamaaran Balakrishnan

OBV Executive Director

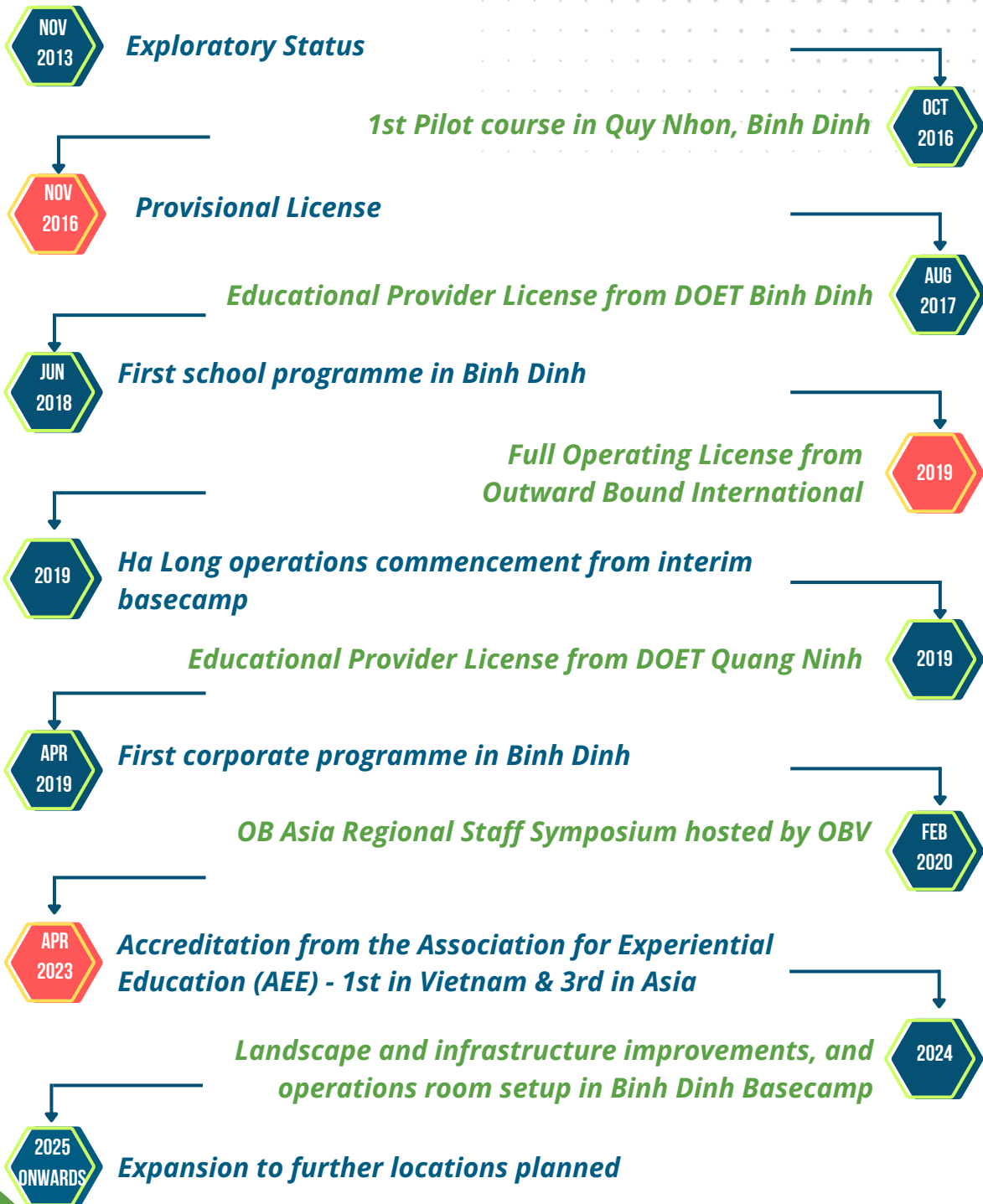
Bird's-eye view of OBV Binh Dinh Basecamp





THE EVOLUTION OF OUTWARD BOUND VIETNAM

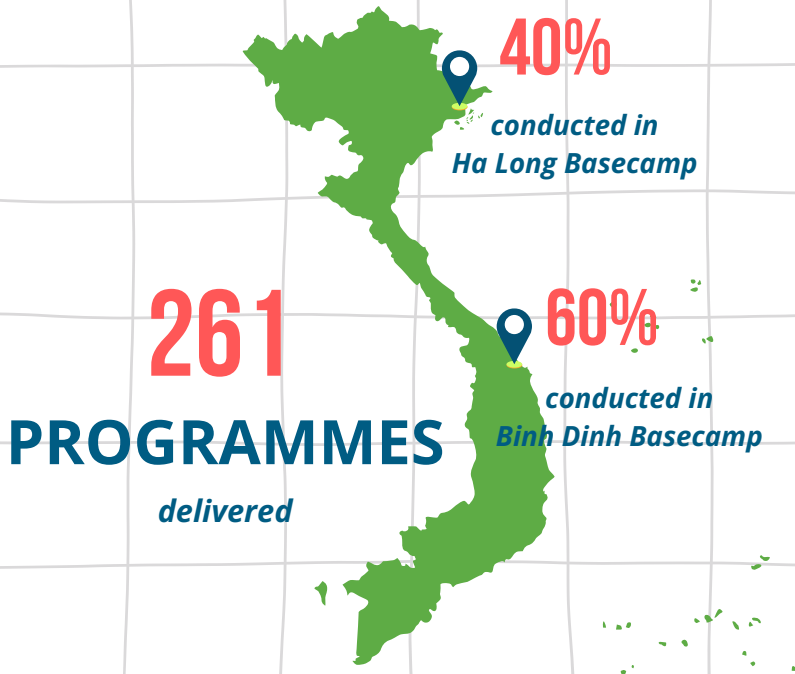
From 2013 - 2025 and beyond





SNAPSHOT OF KEY NUMBERS

(2020 - 2024)



CLIENT PROFILE



PARTICIPANTS

7,282



participants, comprising students and young working adults, successfully completed the OBV programme

87%

of participants were from local schools and colleges

10%

of participants were from corporate organisations, international universities & colleges

3%

of participants were from other sources (e.g., NGOs, community groups)



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OUR ● FOUNDATION

- *Our Vision, Mission & Core Values*
- *Our Approach To Safety & Risk Management*
- *Our Infrastructure & Staff*



OUTWARD BOUND
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**OUTWARD BOUND
VIETNAM**



OUR VISION

We help people recognise their true potential through Outdoor Experiential Learning, Adventure, Challenge, Service and Discovery.



OUR MISSION

Inspiring Outward Bound Vietnam participants to be their best selves to become an integral part of a positive and productive society.

OUR CORE VALUES



Commitment: We will work with our hearts and minds to ignite the potential in our participants, ourselves and the nation.



Compassion: Through adventurous and challenging experiences, we aim to foster empathy, understanding of and respect for the self, others, and the world around us.



Integrity: We will demonstrate an absolute and uncompromising commitment to serve in a manner that is both honest and responsible.



Innovation: We seek to be pioneers of outdoor and nature-based experiential learning programmes within Vietnam.



Excellence: We strive for and are relentless in our pursuit of excellence in safety management, quality programmes, professional staff development, and applying Outward Bound philosophies, standards and ideals.



OUR APPROACH TO SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT



Over the years, OBV has consistently refined our Safety and Risk Management scope to align with evolving standards and challenges. This comprehensive approach emphasizes five core pillars aimed at fostering a robust culture of safety and operational excellence. The scope underscores a holistic strategy, integrating governance, operational protocols, workforce development, and sustainable practices to ensure lasting safety and resilience.

Establishing strong governance and forming a dedicated Risk Management Committee has been instrumental. By leveraging the expertise of a diverse group of external professionals, OBV has developed and implemented effective safety and risk management policies. A proactive stance on risk assessment, supported by regular audits, emergency planning, and control measures, ensures operational safety and hazard mitigation.

At the heart of these efforts lies a well-trained workforce. OBV prioritises the recruitment of certified professionals, alongside continuous training, safety drills, and retention strategies. These initiatives work together to cultivate a skilled, competent, and empowered team that upholds the organisation’s safety objectives.






ASISS 2024
ASIAN SCHOOLS INSTITUTE FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

HOST SCHOOLS:  SPONSORS - PLATINUM:  SPONSORS - GOLD: 





OUR INFRASTRUCTURE & STAFF



OBV Ha Long Team



OBV Binh Dinh Team

Since our establishment in 2016, OBV has made significant strides in expanding our capacity to deliver transformative outdoor experiences. Our infrastructure has seen substantial development, with the Binh Dinh basecamp boasting a 300-bed dormitory, an indoor wall climbing facility, low ropes system and enhanced landscaping & office block. This expansion in infrastructure has been paralleled by a significant growth in our operational staff. We have invested in developing local talent, with 87% of our team comprising young Vietnamese professionals, enabling us to meet the increasing demand for our programmes and deliver exceptional experiences to a wider range of participants.



OBV Hanoi Headquarters Team



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OUR ● EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

- *Experiential Education*
- *Nature Bound Philosophies*



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EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION



Outward Bound empowers individuals through **experiential learning and challenging expeditions**, focusing on essential competencies in self, others, and the world. Guided by core values of compassion, holistic health, courage, and determination, we cultivate resilient individuals, effective leaders, and responsible environmental stewards. Our programmes promote **self-discovery, personal growth, and teamwork, enhancing skills in communication, collaboration, and problem-solving.**

Our learning outcomes are built with the aim for participants to learn:

- More about themselves
- How they interact with others
- About the Immediate & Wider Community and the Natural Environment





NATURE BOUND PHILOSOPHIES

At OBV, we purposefully incorporate environmental education into our programmes, thereby enriching our mission to help participants gain a deeper understanding of themselves, others, and the world around us. This commitment is further strengthened by our approach to learning through authentic adventures, which enables participants to immerse themselves fully in the natural world. Our identity as Outward Bound Vietnam is fundamentally anchored in this essential relationship with the environment.

This aspect of our work holds significant importance because:



- Participants experience a profound transformation when they engage with the environment for an extended duration.
- We hold a responsibility to nurture and enhance the exceptional experiences that individuals encounter at Outward Bound Vietnam.
- To make a meaningful contribution to the broader environment. (i dont know if this fits the sentence)

Our objective is to cultivate ecological awareness and environmental stewardship among both participants and staff. We strive to minimise our environmental impact while fostering respect and compassion for natural spaces, the environment, and fellow individuals.

Source: OBI Environmental Charter.
Education Guide





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TRANSFORMING LIVES ●

- *Our Outward Bound Outcomes Survey Report*
- *Client Testimonials*
- *Community Outreach*





OUTWARD BOUND OUTCOMES SURVEY

The Outward Bound Outcomes Survey (OBOS) is an evaluation tool OBV uses to assess the impact of our programmes on participants' development. By measuring growth across the five key outcomes, OBOS provides us with valuable insights into the effectiveness of our programs, helping us to evaluate participant progress and improve future course design.

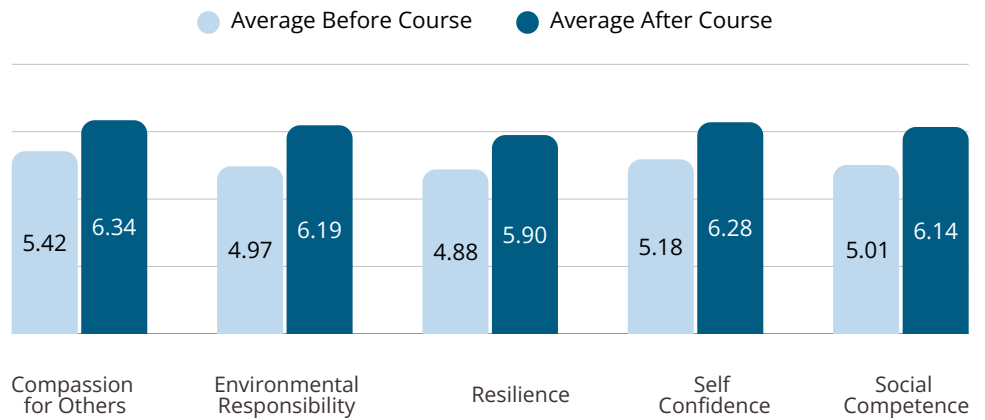
A key metric we look at is effect size, a statistical measure that quantifies the strength of a programme's impact. Effect size helps determine whether observed changes in participants' development are meaningful and significant. In program evaluation, an effect size of 0.5 or more is generally considered to be a moderate to large effect.





HIGHLIGHTS FROM OBV OBOS REPORT

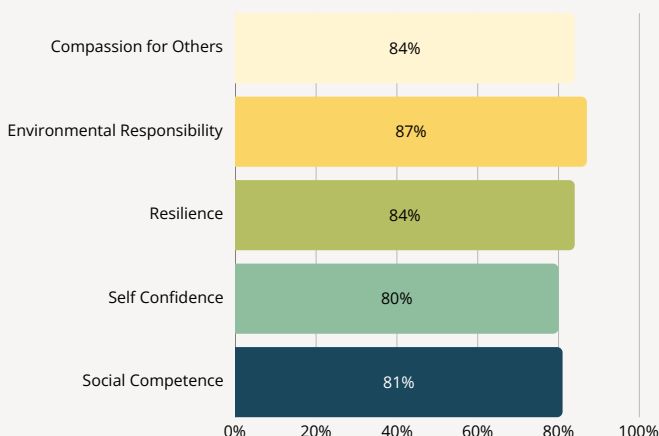
Breakdown of Outward Bound Vietnam programme outcomes (Before & After)



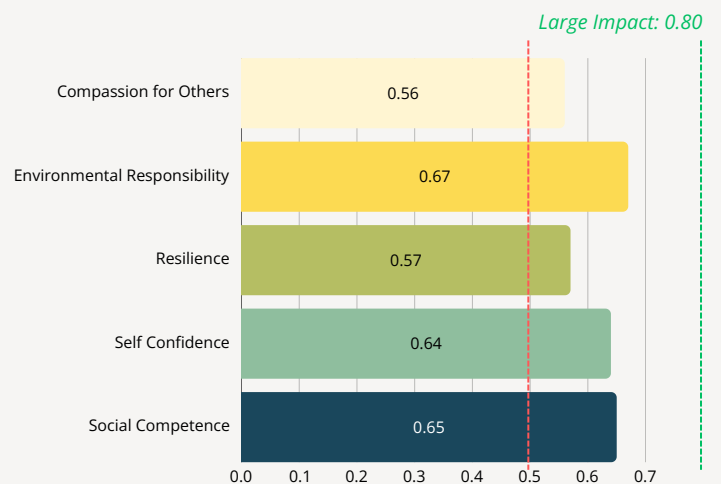
2020-2024 - Number of Surveys = 2,493, Number of bases = 2

For OBV, the overall average effect size across all measured outcomes is 0.62 demonstrating a substantial positive impact on participant growth. Among the five key outcomes, the highest effect size was observed in environmental responsibility (0.67), highlighting OBV's strong influence in fostering environmental awareness and responsibility.

% Gain (% of participants that rate higher after vs . before)



Effect size of programme



Significant Impact: 0.50

Large Impact: 0.80



PARTICIPANT'S REFLECTION #1

My experience during the 8-day programme at Ha Long Bay was, to summarise in one phrase, truly enriching. The natural elements coupled with the comfortable balmy temperatures Vietnam in December had to offer provided us with a unique experience in the outdoors, one that many of us wouldn't experience back in Singapore.

While as a DOEr (Diploma in Outdoor Education student), I may have had my share of experiences in various outdoor activities like hiking, or abseiling, the programme allowed me to do so in areas structured by nature instead of man-made structures we were used to using, which truly encapsulated the "Outward Bound" experience. One such example would be caving (and abseiling in a cave!!!) for the first time, something I never would have experienced back home. Additionally, the reflective nature of the programme allowed me to learn more not only of my fellow DOEs, but also of myself, which I did not realise I had been hiding, prior to the programme, and I now wear it like a badge of honour – with the support of my friends and instructors.

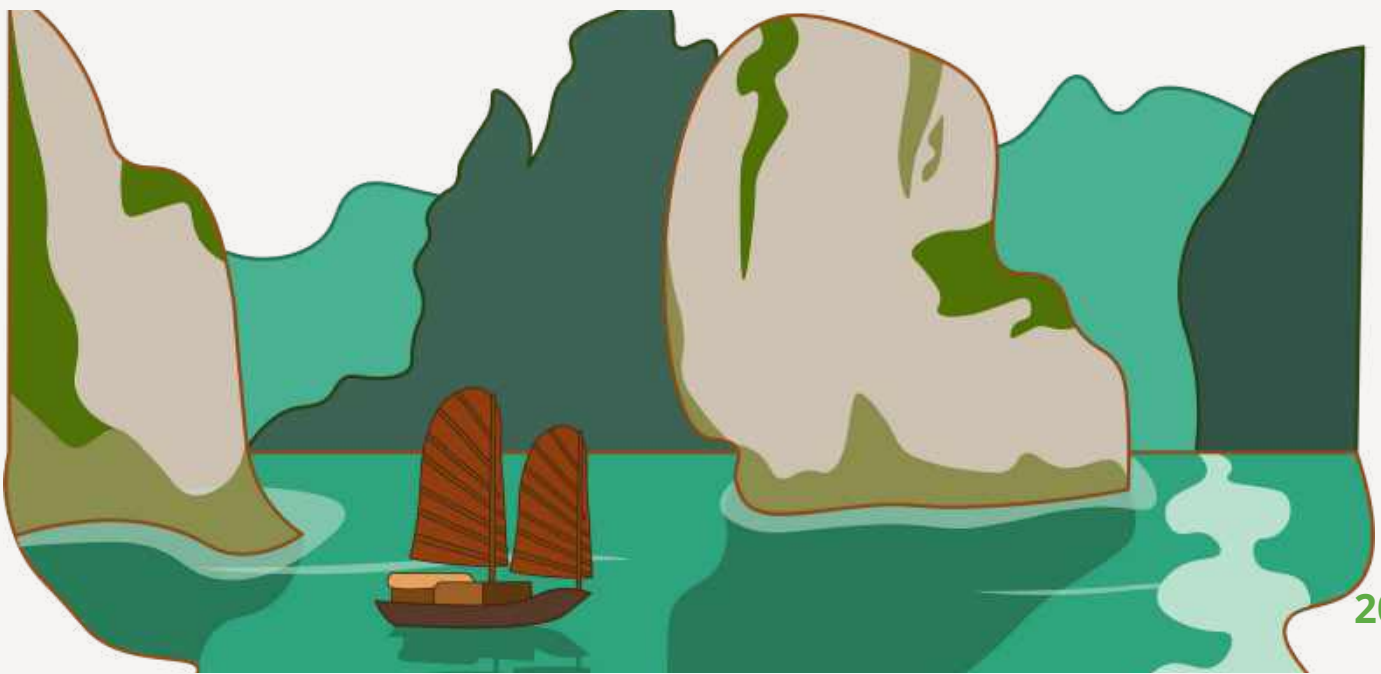


Mimi and her teammates kayaking across the waters of Ha Long Bay

Furthermore, we were able to learn more about the culture in Vietnam, from our course instructors, and the locals there during the cultural exchange, as part of the programme. The programme's base location after Typhoon Yagi created a stark and compelling learning environment. We were confronted with the real-world repercussions of natural disasters and realised we needed to act. By assisting Outward Bound Vietnam with shelter construction and tree planting, we moved beyond observation to actively participate in creating a more sustainable and secure future for the community. The experience showed us that leaving a 'mark' entails more than merely being present, but also taking responsible action and making a long-term beneficial impact.

Through these experiences and moments in between, the programme has enabled us to apply our outdoor skills as DOEs, taking back new memories, ones that have strengthened our bond as a cohort, with new friendships formed through the reflective experiences.

– Mirdana (Mimi) Binte Daud, Republic Polytechnic Teambuilding Programme 2024





COMPASSION FOR OTHERS

84%

of all participants surveyed indicated an increase in compassion

- I am able to help others when they need it, without being interested in anything in return
- Being sensitive to other's needs and helping others contribute to my well-being
- I treat others always as I want to be treated
- I have a responsibility to help others in need

"I get it now that being a good teammate is way more about compassion than just doing my own thing. I used to just think about myself, but now I realise how important it is to actually understand how everyone else is feeling. I'm gonna try way harder to be kinder and more understanding, like, actually care about how my team's doing."

Participant
Singapore International School



Compassion combines empathy and concern for individuals encountering difficulties, alongside a readiness to take action. By immersing participants in experiences that disrupt preconceptions, foster deep empathy, and cultivate cultural awareness, we directly nurture this vital trait. Our programmes help participants gain a better understanding of the diverse challenges others face, which is increasingly important in our interconnected world, where exposure to different cultures and perspectives is a regular occurrence.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

87%

of all participants surveyed indicated an increase in environmental awareness and responsibility



I think about the environment in my daily life



I take responsibility for caring for the environment



I have a connection to nature



Spending time in nature is very important to me



I always treat nature with respect



Outward Bound Vietnam's classroom is set in the great outdoors, focusing on fostering an awareness of our bond with nature and recognising how our actions affect the environment. Building relationships with the natural world and promoting respect and responsibility for it are core elements of all Outward Bound Vietnam courses. In a time characterised by rising environmental degradation and a growing reliance on media and technology over outdoor experiences, nurturing this connection has become increasingly essential for the well-being of individuals, society, and our planet.



Apart from physical health and life skills, what truly stood out was the stunning natural environments where our activities took place. This not only made the OBV experience more enjoyable but also deepened our appreciation for nature, inspiring us to protect and value the world around us.

Participant,
VietinBank, Vietnam



84%

of all participants surveyed
indicated an increase in resilience

RESILIENCE

- I am able to recover from stressful events
- I am able to get over set-backs in my life
- I am able to snap back when something bad happens

I had the opportunity to join the OBV programme in Ha Long, and it was a true test of resilience. Over 8 days, activities like hiking, kayaking, and abseiling challenged my physical and mental limits. These experiences taught me the importance of leadership, teamwork, and communication, while pushing me to reflect on how I react to challenges and grow stronger through them.

Participant,
Republic Polytechnic, Singapore



Often known as the “capacity to recover,” resilience stands out as a significant advantage of Outward Bound Vietnam courses. These programmes cultivate resilience by placing participants in demanding and unfamiliar environments that require adaptation, problem-solving, and perseverance amid challenges—whether they be physical, mental, emotional, or social. In our contemporary world, where young people face increasing stress and uncertainty, developing resilience has become a vital attribute.



80%

of all participants surveyed indicated an increase in self confidence



Outward Bound Vietnam offers a transformative adventure that redefines the concepts of challenge and achievement. It encourages participants to push their boundaries and uncover a wealth of untapped potential. Our programmes provide an exhilarating experience designed to build confidence, propelling individuals beyond their comfort zones into new roles and helping them to achieve personal goals with remarkable success.

SELF CONFIDENCE

- I know I have the ability to do anything I want to do
- When I apply myself to something I am confident I will succeed
- I believe I can do it

Before the programme, I had worries whether I could adapt to the wilderness. But from the first day, the supportive instructors and energetic teammates helped me face those fears. They encouraged me, and with their help, I began to feel more confident.

Participant
KinderWorld International Group, Vietnam



81%

of all participants surveyed indicated an increase in social competence

SOCIAL COMPETENCE



I am successful in social situations



I am competent in social situations



I communicate well with people

Social competence refers to the skill of interacting harmoniously with others, building and maintaining meaningful relationships, and engaging positively and creatively in social and community settings. Outward Bound Vietnam courses are tailored to create opportunities for participants to connect with each other on a daily basis. Through team-building exercises, outdoor adventures, reflection, and constructive feedback, these experiences promote the growth of vital social skills and competencies that are essential for success in educational, professional, and personal domains.

When we talked to our local friends during the adventure quest activity, I got to know more about them and their lives and realised that we are quite alike. We have similar problems and stories but we are distinctly different. It was truly enjoyable meeting someone and listening to their stories despite the language barrier.

Participant
Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore





***Ms. Huong (in blue long sleeve) and her teammates embarking on a hiking adventure amidst the mountainous landscape of Binh Dinh.*

PARTICIPANT'S REFLECTION #2

"Before joining Outward Bound Vietnam (OBV), I had worries about my physical fitness and whether I could adapt to the wilderness. But from the first day, the supportive instructors and energetic teammates helped me face those fears. They encouraged me, and with their help, I began to feel more confident.

The programme taught me valuable skills like navigation, teamwork, and responsibility. More importantly, it helped me build courage and overcome my fears. I pushed myself harder than I ever thought possible and realised I was capable of more than I imagined.

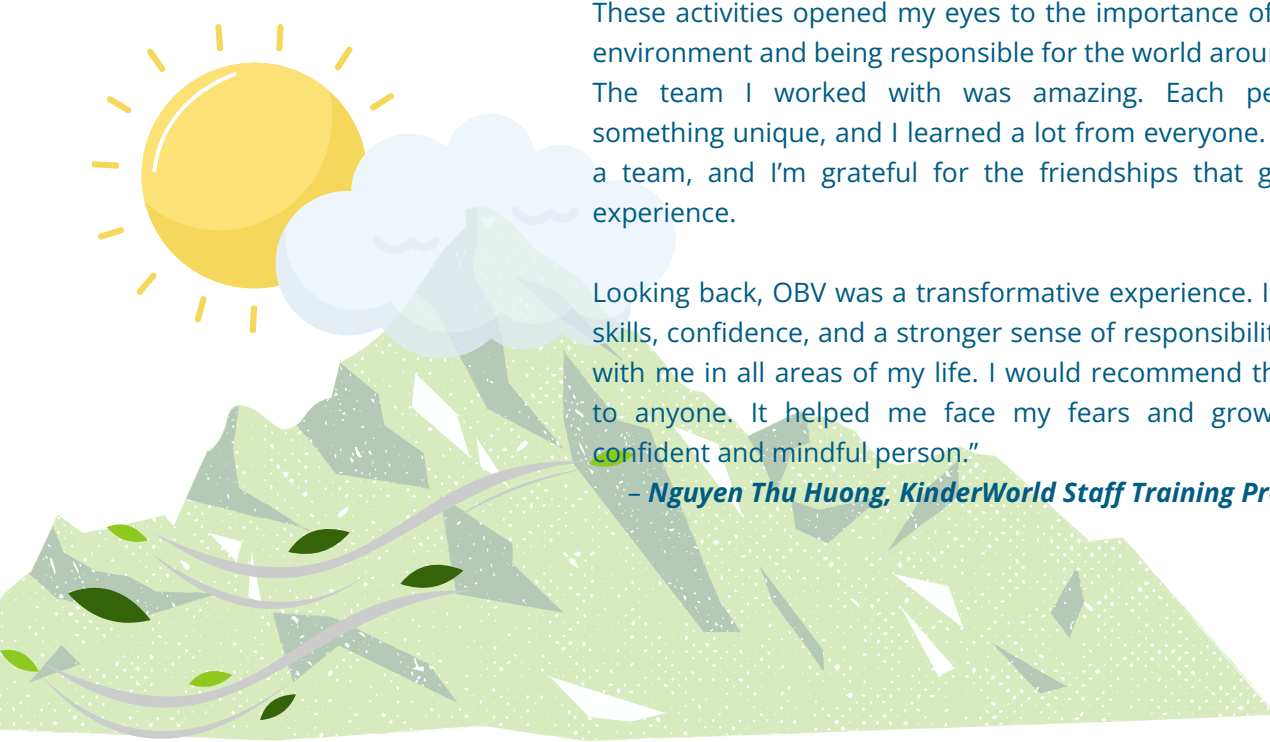
One of the most impactful parts of the programme was the community service activities. We cleaned up the beach, planted trees, and took part in sustainable practices.

These activities opened my eyes to the importance of caring for the environment and being responsible for the world around us.

The team I worked with was amazing. Each person brought something unique, and I learned a lot from everyone. We bonded as a team, and I'm grateful for the friendships that grew from this experience.

Looking back, OBV was a transformative experience. It gave me new skills, confidence, and a stronger sense of responsibility that will stay with me in all areas of my life. I would recommend this programme to anyone. It helped me face my fears and grow into a more confident and mindful person."

- Nguyen Thu Huong, KinderWorld Staff Training Programme 2023





MOST VALUABLE LEARNINGS

The OBOS survey also revealed four key takeaways that resonate deeply with our participants, highlighting the transformative power of our programme.

The four key takeaways are: Fostering Teamwork, Enhancing Communication, Building Connection with Nature, and Acquiring Problem-solving skills. This underscores the practical and profound skills gained through OBV programmes, demonstrating our course's effectiveness in fostering holistic development.

Teamwork

Communication

Connection
to Nature

Problem-
solving





VOICE OF CHANGE

Our clients' experiences speak volumes. The following testimonials demonstrate the real-world impact of our work.



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

VietinBank

“ Our two-day journey at OBV was nothing short of miraculous. Each carefully crafted activity offered invaluable lessons, particularly in leadership, while encouraging us to step out of our comfort zones. We faced challenges like hiking, cave exploration, and camping, all of which left a lasting impression on my teammates and me. Though there were initial concerns, the teamwork and guidance from OBV's dedicated instructors helped us overcome our fears. I witnessed the positive changes in how we collaborated and supported one another after the programme. This experience definitely holds great significance, fostering personal growth and strengthening our team's camaraderie.

Ms. Duong Hai Yen, Vice Director, VietinBank - Dong Anh Branch

Concordia International School - Hanoi

“ I have been an international school principal for almost a decade and have worked with a range of high-quality experiential learning organisations like Outward Bound Vietnam. There are three main reasons why I choose to trust OBV with my students' learning: (1) Safety, (2) Passion and (3) Commitment to improvement. My top priority is and will always be student safety and I am convinced that safety is OBV's top priority as well. OBV has earned my business and my trust, and I look forward to continuing working with them in the future.

Mr. Stephen Ly, Former Middle School Principal of Concordia International School - Hanoi



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



British International School - Ho Chi Minh City

“*Outward Bound Vietnam brought the great outdoors to us for this Week Without Walls. In a series of active and fun workshops, more than a hundred students studied Interpersonal Communication, Problem Solving and Leadership Skills. With the organisations' decades of experience abundantly evident, Outward Bound's professional instructors facilitated a highly engaging learning experience, leaving the students equipped with transferable skills that could change their outlook forever.*

Mr. Timothy, English Teacher, British International School - Ho Chi Minh City

Republic Polytechnic

“*Our students were excited to come for this programme and I'm sure they surpassed their own expectations when it came to dealing with the challenges of the cooler climate of North Vietnam and moving from campsite to campsite, while experiencing interesting adventures along the way. I certainly hope more Republic Polytechnic students will get to experience the natural splendors of North Vietnam through Outward Bound Vietnam.*

Mr. Gene Kam, Senior Lecturer, Diploma in Outdoor Education, Republic Polytechnic

MiTek Vietnam

“*Participating in Outward Bound Vietnam was a transformative experience for our team. It fostered a sense of teamwork and allowed us to face real challenges together. We learned to listen, reflect, and approach problems with creativity. Outward Bound Vietnam created an environment where we could truly flourish, and we are forever grateful for the lessons we learned.*

Mr. Trent David Smith, Vice President Operations, MiTek Vietnam





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

OUR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) EFFORTS

Through our CSR efforts, we are deeply invested in empowering individuals by providing meaningful opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and active community engagement. By strategically partnering with like-minded organisations and stakeholders, we collectively strive to drive lasting positive change. This collaboration results in tangible impacts, benefiting both individuals and the surrounding environment. Our CSR endeavors are designed not only to address immediate community needs but also to lay a solid foundation for long-term resilience. We are committed to ensuring that our contributions continue to inspire and support future generations, fostering a legacy of positive impact and sustainable development.



OBV's 2024 scholarship programme for Cat Hai Secondary School



OBV's 2022 scholarship programme for Cat Hai Secondary School



OBV's scholarships in collaboration with Vietnam Investment Review for the "Swing for the Kids" charity golf tournament, supporting underprivileged students (2020 - 2024)



OBV's scholarship programme for Quy Nhon University in 2022



OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Through public outreach, OBV is dedicated to strengthening communities engagement by building meaningful connections and our outdoor education initiatives. OBV also actively raises awareness and advocates for the transformational impact of outdoor education, which is still in an embryotic stage in Vietnam. This not only nurtures individual growth but also enhances collective well-being, fostering a stronger and more connected society.



Global CSR & ESG Summit and Awards in 2022



Singapore Chamber of Commerce Vietnam's Raffles Night Networking event in Hanoi in 2023



Australia Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam's Education Event in 2022



American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam and Hong Kong Business Association's Networking Night in 2024



OBV's participants at Nguyen Nga Center for young people with disabilities



OUR SUSTAINABILITY ENDEAVORS



Sustainability lies at the heart of OBV's mission, where we actively engage students and participants in learning about environmental concepts through hands-on, immersive experiences. Our programmes involve participants in projects centered on waste management, conservation, and sustainable practices, giving them a direct view of how their actions impact the environment. These experiences deepen their connection to the natural world and highlight their role in protecting it. In partnership with schools and organisations, we create opportunities to raise awareness of sustainability through interactive and educational initiatives focused on reducing, reusing, and recycling. These efforts not only encourage environmental responsibility but also empower individuals to contribute to a more sustainable future.



OBV collaborated with Cat Hai Secondary School to organise the Earth Day event at OBV Binh Dinh



OBV's Nature Bound educational games at the Olympia Schools Edu Fair 2024



OBV's participants in tree planting activity as part of Environmental Stewardship at OBV Ha Long basecamp

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LOOKING AHEAD



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OUR PATH FORWARD

As Outward Bound Vietnam moves into the future, our path forward is guided by strengthening governance, developing innovative programmes, and investing in our people. We are committed to deepening stakeholder engagement and fostering diverse partnerships through enhanced communication channels. Through focused efforts on financial sustainability and continuous improvement, we aim to expand our impact while maintaining the highest standards in outdoor education.



OBV participants kayaking amidst Ha Long Bay's signature limestone karsts





Abseiling Training for Instructor Trainees
in OBV Binh Dinh



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OUTWARD BOUND VIETNAM

to serve, to strive, and not to yield