



## **Outward Bound Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Educator Expeditions**

### **What are Educator Expeditions?**

Every summer, Outward Bound offers wilderness expeditions explicitly designed for teachers and school administrators from the Mid-Atlantic region. Professional educators experience a full expedition while exploring the curriculum of Outward Bound and the teachings of its founder, Kurt Hahn. The course curriculum is designed to explore the values, educational principles, and outcomes of Outward Bound through collective problem solving, constructive communication, challenge, and adventure. Our ultimate goal is to have educators incorporate these experiential education philosophies and techniques into the classroom and daily life.

### **The Outward Bound Educational Philosophy**

It is important to know a brief history of Outward Bound to understand our educational philosophy. During World War II in the North Atlantic, German U-boats were sinking British merchant ships, and sailors waiting for rescue had to fight to survive in the frigid waters of the English Channel. Mysteriously, the survival rate among young, presumably fitter, sailors was much lower than among elder seamen. Progressive educator, Kurt Hahn, identified the problem as a lack of confidence and teamwork, rather than any shortage of skill or equipment. In Aberdovey, Wales, Hahn established a program of progressively rugged challenges to help young seamen develop the internal fortitude, confidence, and camaraderie necessary to survive harsh physical challenges. According to Hahn, through achievement, young people can learn they possess "far more than they know" and begin to rely on themselves. The educational medium for Hahn was often physical, but the desired effect was very much psychological and social. Since its establishment in 1941, Outward Bound has grown to include more than 50 schools throughout the world. Outward Bound expeditions have proven to be a powerful experiential learning tool, providing students with the opportunity to discover the unknown strength that lies within them.

### **Who, Where and When?**

All Maryland public school teachers are eligible to enroll in Educator Expeditions. Groups consist of 8-12 participants and two Outward Bound field instructors. Outward Bound requires careful medical screening of all participants for safety. The cost of this course is \$900; however, with funding from sources such as the Maryland State Department of Education, there are scholarship funds available for educators within the Maryland public school system.

Outward Bound has carefully selected course areas that are remote, challenging and scenic. While course content depends on a series of variables, this year's course will consist of canoeing the North Branch of the Upper Potomac River, camping, rock climbing and limited hiking in Western Maryland.

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**Educator Expedition 2010 is scheduled for August 9 - 15.**