

SERVICE LEARNING

urban expedition model



BALTIMORE CHESAPEAKE BAY
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

“Students gained a much more complex view of what resilience looks like as they heard stories from former homeless people and people who were overcoming addiction. They directly developed resilience as they explored the social justice lessons and were placed in an immersive group setting.”

Instructor

BALTIMORE CHESAPEAKE BAY OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL



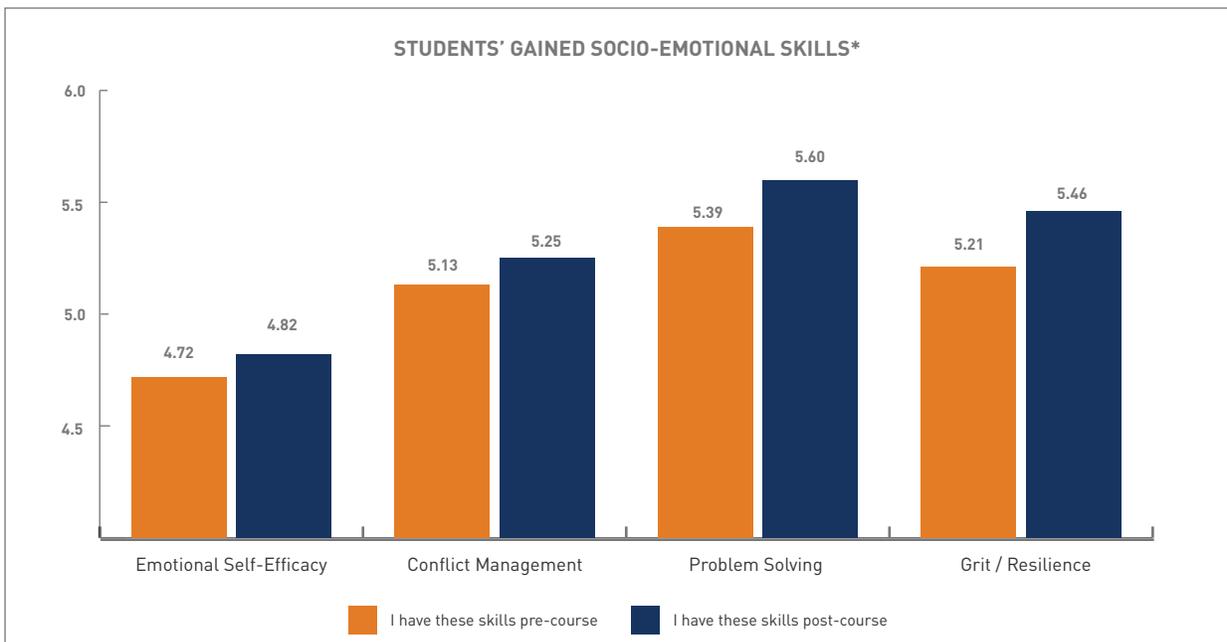
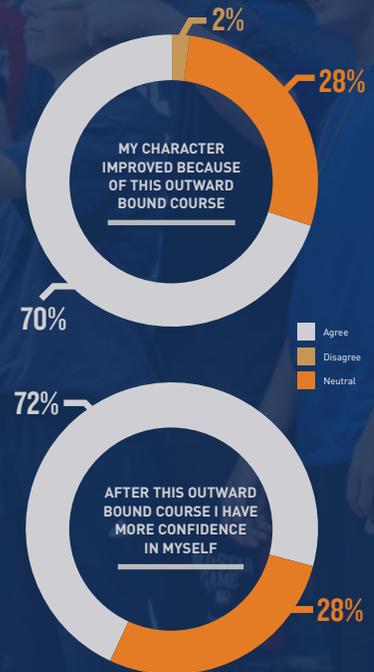
SERVICE LEARNING: URBAN EXPEDITION MODEL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School (BCBOBS) pairs their custom created in-school Character Curriculum© with 5-day outdoor expeditions to facilitate environments where students significantly develop their character. The intentional social and emotional skill-teaching approach yields impressive results, as seen with the Trinity Episcopal School from Charlotte, NC.

WATCH THE SERVICE URBAN VIDEO:
OUTWARDBOUNDBALTIMORE.ORG/SERVICEURBAN

 **GRAFFITI WALL,**
 STATION NORTH DISTRICT, BALTIMORE



* Totals reflect the average scores of all students responses on a 7-point scale

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BACKGROUND

Outward Bound is the premier provider of experience-based outdoor character development programs for youth and adults. At BCBOBS we value compassion, integrity, excellence, and diversity. We employ experiential education techniques in a safe, rigorously challenging natural environment to enable our students to see that they are capable of more than they ever thought possible.

Our school-based Character Curriculum© is both a professional development tool for teachers and a learning tool for students to develop communication, collaboration and resiliency skills. This pre-work enables students to maximize the impact of their 5-day wilderness-based learning. Implementing post-course curricula ensures the transference of invaluable field skills back into the classroom. Here students continue along their character education journey, positively impacting their school climate.

Trinity Episcopal School (TES) is a K-8, faith-based independent school in Charlotte, NC. They are called to inspire young lives by creating outstanding scholars who are grounded in a firm spiritual foundation and an enduring commitment to the richness of diversity. Each grade-level is partnered with a community organization whose mission and services are related to curricular goals. Their students address real community needs in ways that are connected to and informed by their classroom learning.

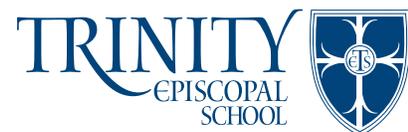
CHALLENGE

Trinity Episcopal School was looking for an:

- Engaging, hands-on approach to teach their students the skills (specifically compassion, empathy, and diversity awareness) they would need to affect lasting social change.
- Immersive, safe program that would steep their students in human experiences that mirror their 8th grade social justice themes: human trafficking, poverty, addiction, and homelessness.
- Impactful, meaningful experience for their students to internalize, own, and drive their own learning to ensure concept retention.

TES looked to best equip their students go to Washington, DC to lobby congress-people about specific issues with the goal of creating lasting change at the end of their school year. They were in need of a program that demands personal ownership, hard work, and results in effective learning.

“The Baltimore Trip taught me that learning about issues is only the first step in making change, and now we need to take action to make Charlotte, and our world, a better place.”



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SOLUTION

TES employed BCBOBS' school-based Character Curriculum© in its entirety ahead of their 5-day Baltimore City Urban Expedition. A teacher on the TES faculty served as in-school coach to lead the teachers who would both facilitate lessons in the classroom and accompany students on their expedition. By using carefully framed exercises, teachers were able to step back and facilitate student engagement, disagreement, encourage self-generated resolutions, and deep understanding for both content and process.

“(Our) students are engaged and want to explore more practical application of change as opposed to just talking about change.” *Trinity Episcopal Teacher*

Twelve BCBOBS field Instructors facilitated 6 concurrently run, 5-day Baltimore City Urban Expeditions for a total of 50 students and 6 staff from TES. The students each engaged in 3 different service projects and attended 4 workshops run by 7 independent service agencies in Baltimore. They backpacked through the city, traveling both on public transportation and by foot. Students slept in pre-arranged locations such as the YMCA, a local Baltimore charter school, a church, and a Civic Works building. During the course, BCBOBS Instructors provided training in multiple areas, including but not limited to gear care, paper-map based navigation, conflict-resolution strategies, and social problem solving while the students engaged in an immersive environment specifically designed to envelop them in the issues of human trafficking, poverty, addiction, and homelessness.

“Students exhibited outstanding critical thinking skills in relation to content of workshops: human trafficking, homelessness and others.” *Instructor*

Post-Course, TES faculty who accompanied their students crews on expedition implemented more Character Curriculum© specifically focusing on transference of skills and change management. Students formed very strong bonds while immersed in Baltimore City. By maintaining their crew structure, and intentionally building on expedition-forged skills, TES students maximized the impact of their Outward Bound course.

“I learned that even though I am a girl of color, I have to recognize my privilege. Living where I live, going to school at Trinity...I have a lot that other people don't.”

Trinity Episcopal Student

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REFLECTION

Through intentional coordination, goal sharing and preparation, TES and BCBOBS facilitated a premier learning environment for TES's 8th grade students. Pairing in-class work with practical, field-tested leadership development immersion yielded exceptional skill development that illuminated learning relevance for TES students. BCBOBS remains committed to providing guidance to all partner schools engaging in the Character Curriculum®/5-day expedition pairing in an effort to maximize the effectiveness of both teaching environments.

**“The Baltimore trip
was a definite learning
experience for me and
helped to change my
perspective on the
lives of others.”**

Student

TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Discover more at www.outwardboundbaltimore.org/service-urban

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 @outwardboundBCB



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