

2016 Accountability Report



Daring Boys
to Become Men
for over 65 Years



R.M. Pyles Boys Camp promotes long-term positive behavioral change for low-income, disadvantaged boys by providing a multi-year wilderness camp experience-supplemented by year-round mentoring that builds life skills and instills the values of hard work, education, and positive choices.



A Message from the Executive Director

On behalf of everyone at R.M. Pyles Boys Camp, I am pleased to present our Accountability Report, detailing our achievements in 2016.

First, I am honored to have begun my service to Pyles Boys Camp as the new Executive Director this past October. After 16 summers working at the most-attended overnight camp in Western New York, I am very excited to have found a camp that is so special to such a large group of campers, staff, volunteers, alumni and supporters! I am looking forward to many years of memories and life-changing experiences. I would like to wish our previous Executive Director, Stan "Coach" Moe, a very happy retirement after many years of serving the organization. His contributions were many, and I am thrilled that he is remaining involved as part of our Board of Directors to ease my transition into this role.

2016 was our 68th year of providing opportunities for boys to grow and overcome the challenges they face every day in achieving success. Our program emphasizes that such opportunities, when used properly, are powerful tools that lead to secure and productive lives. Life constantly presents barriers to our boys, and we focus on showing them how to believe in themselves, conquer their barriers, and reach their full potential.

I'd like to point out a few remarkable statistics from our post-camp survey:

- 97% of our campers agree that it's important to be a good student. (up from 86% before camp)
- 97% of our campers agree that we should take care of our planet. (up from 91% before camp)
- 72% of our campers agree that if their peers were choosing a leader, they might be chosen. (up from only 58% before camp)
- 95% of our campers agree that they solve problems on their own. (up from 72% before camp)

A very difficult decision was made last winter to temporarily reduce the number of sessions from 5 to 4 and to eliminate the horseback riding program. This passing measure was put in place to reduce expenses. I am pleased to announce, however, that we will be bringing back our 5th session in 2017 in order to serve at our full capacity. Thanks to our hard-working staff and our dedicated volunteers, we were still able to significantly impact the lives of hundreds of boys in 2016, and are excited that we will serve even more in 2017.

We set out in 2017 to continue Mr. Pyles' dream of a wilderness camp experience with the learning environ-

ment that instills the values of hard work, education, and positive life choices. This dream is a reality today, and we hope to move forward and impact more boys, more often. I want to thank every single camper, staff member, volunteer, donor and friend of Pyles for showing such passion and dedication to our mission and to continue "Daring Boys to Become Men."

Sincerely,

Adam Bell, Executive Director

Many Thanks...



Board President George Sylva & retiring Executive Director, Stan Moe

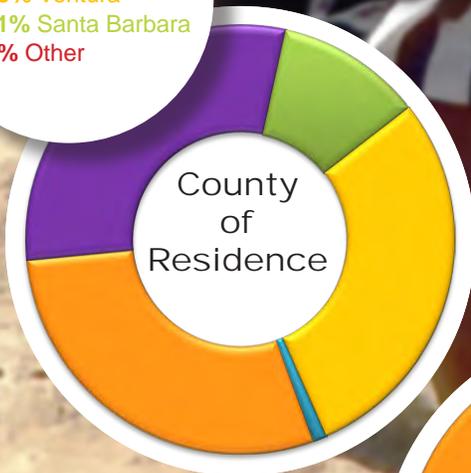
2016 Achievements

R.M. Pyles Boys camp continued its longstanding record of achievements in 2016. Our accomplishments included:

- 263 first-year campers attended R.M. Pyles Boys Camp. Their two-week wilderness adventure gave them the skills and confidence to set and achieve life goals, develop positive relationships with both peers and adults, stay in school, and avoid poor life choices.
- Pyles Boys Camp also saw the return of 37 second-year (Lioneers) and 15 third-year (Voyagers) campers who continued training in outdoor skills and personal and leadership development.
- 25 young men in our leadership development training program received over \$26,000 in scholarship money to begin or continue college studies or vocational training. These men worked at Pyles during the summer as counselors and in other staff positions. When they complete their studies at school, they will be prepared with both the career training and leadership skills they need for productive lives as adults.
- We measured the effect the program has had on the boys who attend camp. Our camper survey tells us what we are doing well for our boys, and helps us design new and better activities for our program. As reported in our 2016 survey:
 - 97% of our campers agree that It's important to be a good student (up from 86% before camp)
 - 97% of our campers agree that we should take care of our planet (up from 91% before camp)
 - 72% of our campers agree that if kids were choosing a leader, they might be chosen (up from only 58% before camp)
 - 95% of our campers agree that they solve problems on their own (up from 72% before camp)
- Pyles Boys Camp continued to welcome boys from throughout Southern California who, represented the diversity of our region, as presented in these two charts:



- 30% Kern
- 29% Los Angeles
- 29% Ventura
- 11% Santa Barbara
- 1% Other



- 68% Latino
- 22% Caucasian
- 5% African American
- 1% Asian
- 1% Other
- 3% Mixed



Meet Our Staff and Volunteers

Jose "Tabs" Ruiz Staff

I was in middle school when I first heard about Pyles. Actually two camps were offered to me in the seventh grade. I was given the choice on where to go. My mother told me I would thrive wherever I went. I had to choose between a camp in Wyoming for a month of my summer or Pyles Boys Camp for two weeks in the Sequoias. I chose Pyles solely because it was shorter in time.

As a young 11-year-old I thought I had the world all figured out, when in reality I had no perspective. At home, I have a sister and two awesome parents, I lacked nothing in my life but the excitement camp could bring me as a kid. My parents raised me to be outgoing and adventurous, and so I was during my first year camp experience. By the end of being a first year camper I was awarded every badge possible, even the honor camper badge which has the highest value.

I had become part of a brotherhood that had my back, which I came to appreciate more and more each year of camp. I went back as a Lioneer, then Voyager, then to be a worker, then specialist, then counselor and director. Pyles Boys Camp has offered me personal growth and development to which I took every opportunity to be a part of. Being a counselor and giving back to the camp that has helped shape who I am now is in my opinion the best part of my Pyles camp

experience. I dedicate time out of every summer to make every camper that I come into contact with feel just as special as I did when I was 14.

Chris Hall Board Member

I have been actively involved with Pyles Camp since 1987 when I was invited to visit. I hiked into the outback with two other Board members to spend time with the young campers. Once I experienced this "Miracle in the Sierras," I was hooked for life. This has become the principle charity that I support, contributing both financially as well as committing time and resources. So what is so special about Pyles Boys Camp?

Pyles Camp focuses on a very special need: young teenage boys whose lives are at a cross roads and who can benefit from a hands-on program of individual counseling and group activities that helps them to realize there is a better way. It is so much more than just a summer camp; this camp has a purpose of helping boys by taking them out of their day-to-day home environment and exposing them to new possibilities; it helps boys to become men. This camp has a proven track record with the counselors and staff having been former campers; with boys who have gone on to graduate from high school and even college, thereby enabling them to work in industries they would never have thought possible. They were

given a vision, the belief that they can achieve anything, and the means to do it.

The camp is overseen by a very active Board of Directors who are engaged in the fundraising and oversight of the camp. Many have been involved for a very long time, thereby providing continuity and mature insight. While there are the usual quarterly Board meetings, many directors attend an annual hike into the wilderness to see the camp in action while ensuring that a safe program is carried out.

Especially amazing is the very large group of volunteer support throughout all aspects of the Camp. They are very active community and civil service volunteers who work with the school districts and police departments to select the boys who would best benefit from the Pyles Camp experience. Others help with the numerous fundraising activities without which none of this would be possible, including individual financial appeals, golf tournaments, BBQ's and solicitation of grants from foundations. There are others who spend significant time and resources to help open, maintain, and close the camp.

Pyles Camp definitely changes the lives of boys who attend the Camp. In my day-to-day work I have come across former Campers who stress that they would not be where they are today were it not for the camp. It is truly a "Miracle in the Sierras."

“I had become part of a brotherhood that had my back.”





“Pyles eases young boys into young men with the essential male skills and values that are needed in our world today.”

Norma Pérez-Sandford Volunteer Selector

Confidence. Leadership. Values. Courage. Respect. Rising to the Challenge. Hope.

These words and many others come to mind when I think of R.M. Pyles Camp and the successes that I have come to see in our youth over the years.

Our small town of Fillmore is only 30 minutes away from the Pyles office in Valencia where the camp buses leave every summer. Fillmore, and little Piru next to us, are isolated from the various services that are easily accessed by many youth in Ventura County. There is limited transportation -- only going West. There have been many times when college-age youth drop out of classes due to the early bus being full and not being able to make their Ventura College classes on time.

Many of our youth come from single parent homes with very low incomes; agricultural jobs or fast food employment for which many high school students and parents compete. Multiple families live together in one household, each in a bedroom, to offset living costs. I have seen where children sleep on the cement or dirt floors in the garages. Many a time parents have shared a meatless meal with me when I do a home-visit.

My volunteering with Pyles began in my early 20's (I am now 55) in community volunteering and in

the Fillmore Unified School District when I started as an instructional assistant. I have since worked as a school counselor in our elementary, middle and high schools, now promoted to FUSD District K-12 Counselor. Over the years, I have been witness to many young people getting involved more and more in violent crimes, drugs, and gangs. I have attended funerals of former students who did not have a clear direction or positive role models in their life. I know of young men and women who use their bodies to obtain drugs or earn a living.

Recently, there was a suicidal young man whom I asked, "Give me the name of a person you respect, admire, or care for?" As I watched him give me a blank stare and struggle to come up with a name, he answered, "No one." This is one of the times, when I clench my jaws, try to appear normal and turn my body away so that he cannot see my eyes tearing up.

I have repeated over and over again how I see Pyles as a way to give hope and help young men in similar situations. For many years now, I have referred many young boys to Pyles. When I visit them at Camp, I can immediately see the difference in their demeanor. They are happy to see me and thank me for signing them up. It is wonderful to see them healthy and smiling in the great outdoors, without electronics and enjoying new friends and camp activities. I see true joy, freedom, lifestyle alternatives and

a new life inside of them -- and all of this is free!

I am pleased to tell you that there are many, many R.M. Pyles Boys Camp success stories, and with your help many, many more to come!

Recently, there has been a particular student who has been stellar in his school behavior and grades. At one point, as his counselor, I, along with other school staff, thought we had lost him to gang activity and unexplained anger issues, BUT he has redirected his life in a very positive way due to his participation in Pyles for several years now.

I tell everyone how Pyles offers activities to help develop boys into good citizens, leaders, friends and follow the role-modeling of some of the BEST, MOST HONEST and RESPECTABLE men I have met in my life. For them, there is a chance, a good chance, to live a healthier, happier, safer, and normal boy's life.

There is nothing more important than living a normal childhood. Pyles eases young boys into young men with the essential male skills and values that are needed in our world today. Please continue this great program by donating from your company or person, it will be one of the best contributions you will ever make in your life. It would be a great honor and with endless gratitude to speak to your company on the excellent work and outcomes that R.M. Pyles Boys Camp and their staff have accomplished for our community's young men.



Our Partners

R.M. Pyles Boys Camp's transformational program would not be possible without the generous support of our volunteers, partner agencies, and individual, corporate, and foundation donors. We are extremely grateful for their significant role in transforming the lives of our campers, their families, and their communities.

School/District Partners

Arroyo Seco Junior High School
Balboa Middle School
Bakersfield City School District
Bassett Unified School District
Briggs School
Edwards Middle School
Fillmore Unified School District
Fremont Middle School
Hart Union High School District
Jackie Robinson Academy
LaMesa Junior High School
Long Beach Unified School Dist.
Montebello City School District
Oxnard School District
Pacoima Middle School
Peary Middle School
Perry Lindsey Academy
Washington Middle School
William S. Hart High School Dist.

Youth-Serving Agencies

Centro CHA
City Impact
Hathaway-Sycamore
Masada Homes
Oxnard Youth & Family Services
Parent Partner
Piru Neighborhood Council
Project Renew
Santa Maria Youth & Family
Sylmar, Biotech – Medical Acad.
The Guidance Center
United Parents
Law Enforcement/Public Agencies
LA County Sheriff's Department
LA Department of Mental Health
Oxnard Office of Youth & Safety
Rec. & Comm. Services
Santa Clarita DCFS
Thousand Oaks Police Dept.
Ventura County Behavioral Health
Ventura County Fire Department
Ventura County Sheriff
Ventura Police Department

Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Club of Burbank and Greater East Valley
Boys & Girls Club of Oxnard and Port Hueneme
Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clarita
West Valley Boys & Girls Club

Foundation Support

Garrison Family Trust
MacDonald Family Foundation
Kern Community Foundation
Razoo Foundation
Denison Family Foundation
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Employees Community Fund of Boeing
The Rose Hills Foundation
Freeman E. Fairfield Foundation
The Green Foundation
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L.A. Water & Power Employees Association
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W.A. Thompson, Inc.
White Wolf Land Service
Whittier Host Lions Club
Western States Petroleum Assoc.

Individual Donor Support

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Vrevich, Tom
Westbrook, Michael
Williamson, David
Wilson, Eugene R.
Wilson, Jeff
Wreesman, Brett & Debbie
Yunker, Donald

*We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact Leslie McCann at (661) 294-1394 with any corrections.



2016 Financial Report



R.M. Pyles Boys Camp raises close to \$1,000,000 each year to give disadvantaged boys the opportunity for fun and adventure while turning around their lives and overcoming barriers to success. We receive no government funding. Thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers and staff members, we are able to devote the majority of our income to our program services.

Income

Fundraising Special Events	\$87,431
Trusts and Foundations	\$142,817
Individual Contributions	\$86,563
Corporations	\$97,806
Rental and Other Income	\$180,577
Investment Income	\$250,000

Total **\$845,194**

Expenses

Program Services	\$749,902
General and Administrative	\$257,159
Fundraising	\$44,762

Total **\$1,051,823**



**27211 Henry Mayo Drive
Valencia, California 91355**

661.294.1394 or
877.767.9537

www.pylescamp.com

R.M. Pyles Boys Camp operates in partnership with the Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument on a non-discriminatory basis.

Board of Directors

Officers

George Sylva, Jr.
President

Eugene Voiland
Vice President

J.C. (Mac) McFarland
**Secretary &
Chief Financial Officer**

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Bill Stevenson
Robert Teitsworth
Don Yunker

R.M. Pyles Boys Camp Management Team

Adam "Stripes" Bell
Executive Director

Sean "Beaver" McEnulty
Camp Director

Anthony "Tank" Martinez
Program Director

Leslie McCann
Administrative Manager

Darren "Shotgun" King
**Facilities Operations
Manager**



R.M. Pyles Boys Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association, which demonstrates our commitment to the boys we serve. We comply with nearly 300 industry-established health and safety standards, which are developed as a result of collaboration and review by experts from many fields including risk management, child development and health care.