



2016

Annual Report



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Our Mission

To revolutionize lives through adaptive climbing opportunities that defy convention.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Paradox Supporters,

It has been one year since I officially took over as executive director at Paradox Sports. It has been great connecting with the Paradox community and seeing first-hand the overwhelming amount of support we have.

Adaptive sports can be transformative experiences for people with physical disabilities by increasing their fitness level, enhancing their happiness, and revitalizing their social lives. And while access to adaptive sports has steadily been increasing, there are still millions of people – many of them military veterans – who have yet to experience the joy of climbing, hiking, or just spending time in the mountains.

We continue to adapt, grow and improve our programs moving in to 2017, including brand new weekend trips, higher level skills camps and a new curriculum for our adaptive climbing courses. In an attempt to increase participation among people with disabilities, we created the Adaptive Climbing Initiative to help climbing gyms and university recreation centers across the U.S. get the training and equipment needed to give people with disabilities the thrill and achievement of climbing. Through the initiative, we will host courses for climbing facilitators who want to support climbers with disabilities in major metropolitan areas across the country in 2017. The course will empower them to have the knowledge and skills required to provide the highest-quality climbing experience.

In order to carry out this program, we assembled a world-class team of individuals and partners. Our instructor crew includes some of the most talented rock guides in the industry – as most have decades of professional experience and are certified by the American Mountain Guide Association.

Although we have been very focused on the educational aspect of our programs, youth, adults and military veterans with physical disabilities also now have more opportunities to come climbing with us in Boulder - one of the best climbing destinations in the country. Paradox Sports is committed to making our local parks and open spaces more accessible by providing adaptive rock climbing programs in Boulder Canyon, Eldorado Canyon State Park and up Boulder's famous Flatirons.

It has been an honor leading Paradox into the future and I'm looking forward to doing so for a long time. Thank you for all of your support and we are looking forward to sharing a few more surprises during the next year.

Sincerely,



Michael Neustedter
Executive Director, Paradox Sports

Our Programs

In 2016, Paradox Sports facilitated **1169** climbing experiences across **8** states for **466** participants and over **170** volunteers during our **6** annual adaptive climbing trips, **10** adaptive climbing trainings, and monthly Front Range adaptive climbing club.



“**Approach** (*n.*) – In climbing, the path or route to the start of the technical pitch. Although this is generally a walk or, at most, a scramble it is occasionally as hazardous as the climb itself.”

The Paradox Sports Approach

Sometimes the hardest part is making the approach, getting started, overcoming doubts and fears. The Paradox approach to adaptive adventures is unique. We seek to recognize and foster an individual's potential and strength, defying the assumption that people with a physical disability can't lead a life of excellence. We empower our participants to push their vertical limits and be self-sufficient climbers. We want to challenge all members of our community to change perceptions.

Our Trips

North Conway, NH
Ouray, CO
Eldorado Springs, CO
Yosemite National Park, CA
The Gunks, NY
Shelf Road, CO

Gunks 2016
Photo by Andrew Skobac

Paradox Sports was founded on the idea of transformative outdoor experiences and the community that surrounds these. This year we scaled back our scope to only offer the most valuable and unique adaptive climbing opportunities for people who want to push their vertical limits. We provided 494 climbing experiences for civilians and veterans with physical disabilities during these six adaptive rock and ice climbing weekends from coast to coast.

Shelf Road 2016

Ouray 2016
Photo by Malcolm Daly



Our Trainings

2016 Training Locations:

Colorado State University - Pueblo, CO
Climbing Wall Association Conference -
Golden, CO

Disabled Sports USA - Houston, TX
Disabled Sports USA - Medford, OR

Evo Rock - Indianapolis, IN

Evo Rock - Concord, NH

Grand Valley Climbing -
Grand Junction, CO

Pathfinder Ranch - Mountain Center, CA

University of New Hampshire -
Durham, NH

Yale Climbing Club - New Haven, CT

In 2016 we led 341 climbing experiences during our 10 adaptive climbing trainings in North America. These individualized multi-day trainings provide hands-on experiences for universities, climbing gyms, and other programs to learn the technical skills necessary to serve all ability levels in their local communities. We also worked with the American Mountain Guide Association (AMGA), the Climbing Wall Association (CWA), the Petzl Technical Institute and The North Face to enhance our adaptive training curriculum - which will be rolled out as a refreshed program in 2017.

New Local Programs

Over the years, we've had numerous inquiries from people that want to join the Paradox Sports experience but can't attend one of our multi-day weekend trips for various reasons.

In 2016, we took major steps toward creating a local climbing program that we can offer at the request of people coming through Colorado. We want Boulder, CO to be the number one destination to try climbing for people with disabilities and their family. The local parks and open spaces in Boulder are incredible and we've been working hard to ensure they are accessible to all abilities.

Paradox Sports has secured permits, professional guides and an expanded equipment fleet to lead people on the picturesque Flatirons, Boulder Canyon and in Eldorado Canyon State Park - just minutes from our new office location! The area is steeped in climbing history and routes for all levels - we look forward to showing you around our backyard!



Our Community



Ouray CO
photo by Malcolm Daly

Paradox Sports' community is what sets us apart and in 2016 we continued to grow that community locally and nationally. We hosted 334 climbing experiences during our Front Range Adaptive Climbing Club that meets 3x per month in Boulder and Golden, CO.

We also partnered on adaptive climbing projects with elite educational institutions including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Open Style Labs), Yale University and University of Colorado - Boulder. We returned to lead adaptive climbing days at the No Barriers conference in Clear Creek Canyon, CO.

In September 2016, the Paradox Sports office relocated to Eldorado Springs, CO from downtown Boulder, increasing to 1,500 sq ft accessible outfitting space and facility in hopes of building a community hangout for people to come gather, climb and connect.

That same month, Paradox Sports Program Director Adam Fisher completed his AMGA Rock Guide Exam to become one of only 233 Certified Rock Guides nationally.



North Conway Ice, 2016



Adam Fisher
Shelf Road, CO

Our Numbers

Grants and Foundations	\$82,662
Corporate Donations	\$92,276
Individual Donations	\$115,834
Event Income	\$15,288
Peer to Peer Fundraisers	\$28,431
Program Income	\$45,593

TOTAL REVENUE	\$380,084
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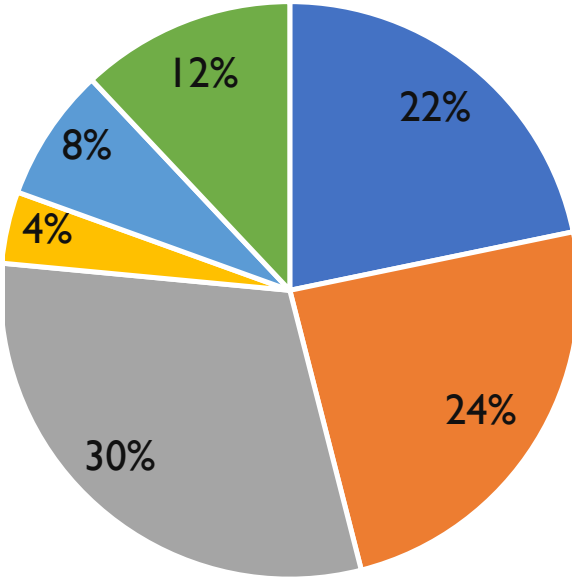
Program Expenses	\$202,841
Administrative Expenses	\$47,522
Fundraising Expenses	\$10,612

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$260,975
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NET REVENUE	\$119,108*
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*In an effort to guarantee longterm financial stability, Paradox Sports is striving to build its cash on hand equal to one year of total operating expenses. 2016 was a significant year for Paradox Sports to establish and maintain sustainability.

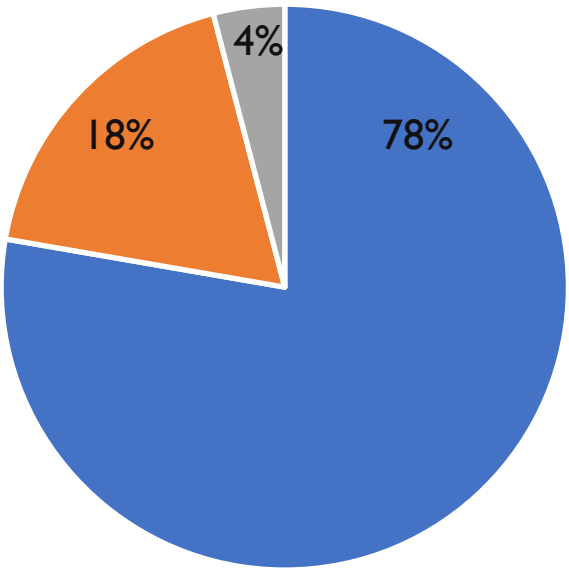
Revenue Sources



- Grants and Foundations
- Individual Donations
- Corporate Donations
- Peer-to-peer
- Event Income
- Program Income



Expense Allocation



- Program Expenses
- Fundraising Expenses
- Administrative Expenses



Our Ambassadors



Our Ambassadors are passionate and authentic adaptive athletes and advocates that are excited to share how Paradox Sports is revolutionizing lives through adaptive climbing opportunities that defy convention. These nine enthusiastic individuals are engaged in their local communities and increasing awareness and support for Paradox Sports adaptive climbing programs from coast to coast.

- I. Vasu Sojitra - Bozeman, MT
- II. Maureen Beck - Arvada, CO
- III. Enock Glidden - Bethel, ME
- IV. James Scheri - Morrison, CO
- V. Chad Jukes - Ridgway, CO
- VI. Aika Yoshida - Indianapolis, IN
- VII. Jess Sporte - Denver, CO
- VIII. Jeff Glasbrenner - Golden, CO
- IX. Dan Boozan - Boulder, CO

“It is an honor to represent Paradox Sports. Many non-profit organizations for people with disabilities simply offer opportunities for athletic activities. However, Paradox Sports also teaches independence. I would compare it to the proverb of “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Paradox doesn’t just give opportunities for climbing; they teach you how to safely engage in climbing activities independently so that you can climb for a lifetime.” - Jess Sporte

“I love the challenge that climbing brings to my life and I want to give others the opportunity to experience the challenge and the unique perspective of the outdoors that climbing provides.” - Enock Glidden

Our Future

Paradox Sports is taking programming to a whole new level in 2017.

We are kicking off our rock climbing season with two brand new programs in some of the most iconic climbing destinations in the country. Our Joshua Tree Skills Camp is a week-long individualized trip to provide climbers with technical skills to be independent climbers. Our backyard in Colorado provides endless opportunities and we are expanding our footprint locally, including local programming around Boulder and our first ever trip to Rocky Mountain National Park this summer.

In March 2017 we will launch the Adaptive Climbing Initiative sponsored by The North Face and with guidance from AMGA and the Petzl Technical Institute to continue to make climbing accessible to all by providing adaptive climbing courses at gyms and university programs across the country. Together we show the world that adaptive climbing has never been bigger and will continue to grow.



ADAPTIVE CLIMBING INITIATIVE

Our vision is that one day every gym in the country will be accessible.



Our Supporters

Paradox Sports had over **700** donors in 2016, four times as many as 2015! Whether you donate once or monthly, you are making an impact. We are incredibly grateful for your generous support of our programs and mission as we continue to grow and evolve.

Donors \$10,000+

Colorado Grand Inc
Ironman Foundation, Inc
National Park Foundation
Craig & Cynthia Smith
Sun Management Inc
The North Face

Donors \$5,000+

Boulder Mountain Institute
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Donors \$1,000+

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Donors \$500+

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Gigi Sohn
Jack Swift
John Thacker
Gina Varra
Lee Wandling
Chris Weidner
Kenichi Yoshida



Vijay Viswanathan on the Bastille in Eldorado Canyon, CO
photo by Grey Satterfield

2017 Paradox Sports Staff

Mike Neustedter, Executive Director
Adam Fisher, Program Director
Shelley Brook, Operations Manager

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Paradox Sports

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