



**BACKCOUNTRY
MEDICAL GUIDES**

**2023
ANNUAL REPORT**

BACKCOUNTRY MEDICAL GUIDES // MARITIME MEDICAL GUIDES

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on the past year, I am thrilled to share the highlights of our journey—one marked by significant achievements, inspiring team efforts, and profound moments of growth and change.

This December brought a moment of striking reflection aboard Swiftsure, our new 58-foot program 'vessel-in-the-making'. Our administrative team, alongside my wife and two children, embarked on a test sail from Long Beach, California to Catalina Island. The trip was challenging: we battled leaking hydraulics and malfunctioning toilets while caring for two sick, emotional children. Yet, despite these hurdles, the sailing improved remarkably throughout the weekend, and a sense of calm eventually settled in as our children drifted into spontaneous naps, the youngest cradled against my chest.

In that instant, the contrast with years gone by was stark. In a year, we've transitioned from a team of remote workers with a storage unit into a beautifully built-out, multipurpose office on the waterfront. Our administrative staff has grown into an exceptional team. Our programs exceeded expectations with talented new healthcare educators. And we were aboard a boat destined to become a



fixture in maritime and adventure medical education.

Observing my wife, who once again had sacrificed comfort to support my dream and manage a week on the boat with a toddler and an infant, I was reminded of the incredible personal journeys we've all undertaken. The transformation of Backcountry and Maritime Medical Guides (BMG) in 2023 compared to the last decade fills me with immense gratitude.

This evolution is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. A heartfelt thanks goes out to each one of you for making this possible.

JOHN TAUSSIG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

1086

STUDENTS

82

PROGRAMS

39

LOCATIONS

27,624

TRAINING HOURS

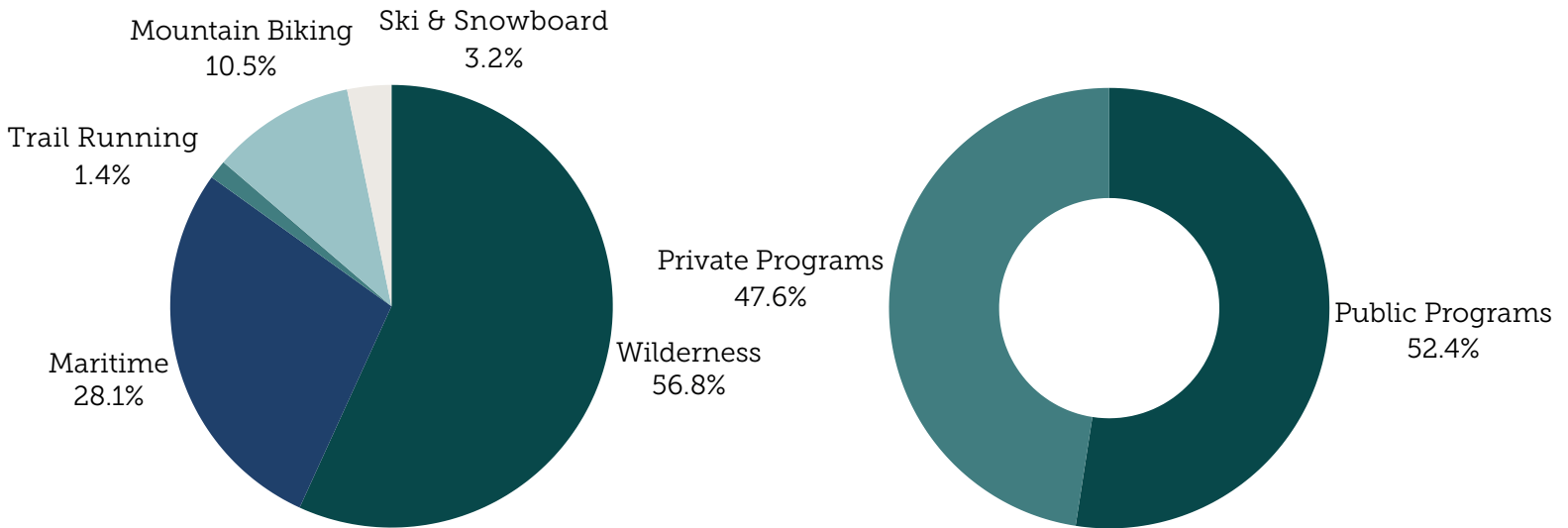
\$9,732

IN SCHOLARSHIPS

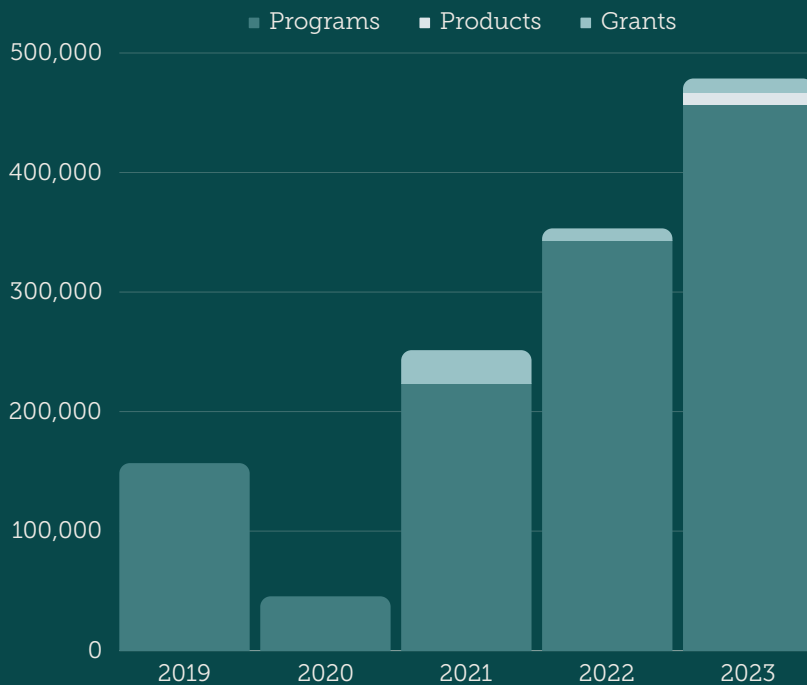


These numbers represent all Backcountry Medical Guides and Maritime Medical Guides programs together. Stars may represent several locations within a region.

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN



ANNUAL REVENUE



DIVERSIFYING OUR REVENUE STREAMS

In addition to our public and private programs, we ventured into the worlds of medical supply sales and grant writing to broaden our income sources in 2023.



A NEW MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to empower everyone to adventure well.

From the backyard to the backcountry, we believe in the joy of exploration. The freedom to adventure well lies in preparation and remote self-sufficiency, helping to save lives and mitigate injuries when unforeseen circumstances arise.

We're here to offer the best and most comprehensive set of skills, tools, and resources available for responding to medical and rescue emergencies in the most challenging environments.

Our commitment extends beyond traditional guiding services; from basic outdoor skills to advanced medical preparedness, we strive to educate and inspire a diverse community of adventurers.

At BMG, we're more than just guides—we're your partners in adventure and resilience.

FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

NORTHWEST TUNE-UP BIKES / MUSIC / BEER

We partnered with Northwest Tune-Up to create an Emergency Management Plan for their 2023 festival and run medical operations at the waterfront venue. From sunburns and concussions to broken clavicles and lacerations, the weekend never had a dull moment.



American Alpine Institute

In a great example of local partnership and collaboration, AAI and BMG have been able to bring a medical training program to their extensive rescue catalog, outfit their guide staff with custom medical kits, and train staff for upcoming guiding seasons.



As a place for everyone to learn boating skills, the Northwest Maritime Center is the exact kind of community hub where maritime medicine belongs. Providing an Advanced First Aid course to Race to Alaska participants is something we look forward to every year.



THE MOUNTAINEERS

The Mountaineers strive to ensure the outdoors are a safe and accessible space, so training their staff in wilderness medicine was rewarding, as this knowledge and skillset will help ensure our outdoor community is better prepared for when emergencies arise.



MARITIME MEDICINE

This year our maritime medicine programs grew with new host sites and partnerships, including the Spaulding Center in Sausalito, CA and a collaboration with multiple US Sailing Safety at Sea programs. Furthermore, adding medical first aid kits and supplies to our website and inventory has been part of our long-term vision, and we successfully launched this initiative in 2023.

We also piloted new offshore services for the first segment of Randall Reeve's latest expedition and outfitted his sailboat with 30 prophylactic prescription meds, medication guidelines, 24-hour telehealth support, and tracking en route to Alaska this past fall. It was so much fun (for us, Randall on the other hand was stuck in three gales) that we are building a plan to see it to full fruition in the coming year.

305

MMG STUDENTS

180%

PUBLIC ENROLLMENT

(Compared to 2022)

A NEW PROGRAM VESSEL

The dream is now real. In late 2023, Maritime Medical Guides acquired the lease on a new program and training vessel. Thus began the process of refitting the aluminum 1977 Frers 58, an endeavor that will be difficult and timely. But once the retrofit is completed this summer, we hope to have a charter capacity of 24 people, ideal training spaces for 12, and expedition capacity of six, plus crew. We have a grand vision of cruising the Pacific Northwest in summers, sailing

through Northern California each spring and fall, and spending winters in Southern California, bringing maritime medicine programs everywhere we go. Thanks to an equipment grant from the State of California, we will be purchasing submersible, 150-pound manikins, VHF radios with DSC and AIS, Life Sling systems, and Dan Buoys. This generous gift will help us to achieve our goal of putting together the best maritime medical and rescue programs that we can conceive of.



THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD, PARTNERS, STUDENTS & DONORS

Board:

Tara DeZao

Brandon Watts

Timothy Taussig

Dan Petrzelka

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Chartwell School

Cal Sailing

Natural Systems Design