





**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Sean Gobin is a United States Marine Corps veteran who served 12 years as an Infantry Rifleman and Armor Officer. After returning home from deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, Sean hiked the Appalachian Trail. In 2013, Sean founded Warrior Expeditions and now serves as the Executive Director.

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**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:** Christine Walters is the former Chief Executive Officer of National School Forms Inc. After volunteering with Warrior Expeditions in various capacities since 2013, Christine now serves as the Chief Operating Officer.

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**DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION:** Angela Miller is a United States Navy veteran who served 20 years as a Line Officer and Judge Advocate General Officer. After volunteering with Warrior Expeditions in various capacities since 2014, Angela now serves as the Director of Administration.

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**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:** Natalie Koffarnus is a United States Army veteran who served 15 years as a CBRN Specialist and Environmental Science Officer. After returning home from deployments to Iraq, Natalie hiked the Ice Age Trail with Warrior Expeditions. In 2015, Natalie began volunteering with Warrior Expeditions and now serves as the Director of Operations.

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**MISSION:** Warrior Expeditions is a veteran nonprofit outdoor therapy program that supports combat veterans transitioning from their military service by participating in long distance outdoor expeditions.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically, military units would experience a lengthy journey home after fighting a campaign abroad. During this journey home, warriors would process and come to terms with their wartime experiences. In today's age of modern transportation, military personnel can find themselves home within a few days of serving in a combat zone. Since 2001, over 2.5 million veterans have returned home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but many of them have never transitioned from their experiences. This is evident by the recent report from the Department of Veteran Affairs which states that over 20% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

**2012:** After returning home from three combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, Sean Gobin hiked all 2,185 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Recognizing the therapeutic effects of long distance hiking, Sean founded Warrior Expeditions.

**2013:** Warrior Expeditions launched the first Warrior Hike program and supported **14** combat veterans along the **Appalachian Trail**.

**2014:** Due to an increase in demand, Warrior Expeditions added the Continental Divide Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail to the Warrior Hike program and supported 25 combat veterans along 3 trails.

**2015:** To support veterans with physical injuries, Warrior Expeditions launched the Warrior Paddle program along the **Mississippi River**. Warrior Expeditions also added three state trails to the Warrior Hike program along the **Arizona Trail**, the **Florida Trail**, and the **Ice Age Trail** to support local veterans from those states. In total Warrior Expeditions supported **32** combat veterans along **7** trails.

**2016:** To support more veterans with physical injuries, Warrior Expeditions launched the Warrior Bike program along the **Trans America Trail**. Warrior Expeditions also added two more state trails to the Warrior Hike program along the **Buckeye Trail** and the **Mountains to Sea Trail** to support local veterans from those states. In total Warrior Expeditions supported **38** combat veterans along **10** trails.

Soldiers marching from the battlefield during WWI.



Sean Gobin deployed to Afghanistan in 2011.



Sean Gobin hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2012.





**PROGRAMS:** Warrior Expeditions offers 3 programs (Warrior Hike, Warrior Bike, Warrior Paddle) comprised of 10 long distance trails that vary in duration from 3 to 6 months to complete.

## WARRIOR HIKE

- -The Appalachian Trail is 2,185 miles long and crosses 14 states from Georgia to Maine.
- -The Continental Divide Trail is 3,100 miles long and crosses 5 states from New Mexico to Montana.
- -The Pacific Crest Trail is 2,650 miles long and crosses 3 states from California to Washington.
- -The Arizona Trail is 800 miles long and crosses the state of Arizona.
- -The Buckeye Trail is 1,400 miles long and circles the state of Ohio.
- -The Florida Trail is 1,200 miles long and crosses the state of Florida.
- -The Ice Age Trail is 1,200 miles long and crosses the state of Wisconsin.
- -The Mountains to Sea Trail is 1,200 miles long and crosses the state of North Carolina.

## WARRIOR BIKE

-The Trans America Trail is 4,229 miles long and crosses 10 states from Oregon to Virginia.

## WARRIOR PADDLE

-The Mississippi River is 2,320 miles long and crosses 10 states from Minnesota to Louisiana.

**SUPPORT:** Warrior Expeditions provides veterans with everything they need to complete a long distance outdoor expedition at no cost to the veteran.

**EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING:** First, Warrior Expeditions outfits veterans with some of the most highly rated equipment and clothing available from the outdoor retail industry.

**RESUPPLY ITEMS:** Next, Warrior Expeditions provides resupply items by issuing a monthly \$300 stipend to purchase resupply items and by shipping biweekly resupply boxes during the journey.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** Last, Warrior Expeditions coordinates community support in the forms of transportation, lodging, and food from veteran and community organizations located along the route.

2016 Warrior Hike veteran Daniel Brumbles hiking along the 2,185 mile long Appalachian Trail.



2016 Warrior Bike veteran Kristi Black biking along the 4,229 mile long Trans America Trail.



2016 Warrior Paddle veteran Kevin Wilson paddling along the 2,320 mile long Mississippi River.

























**IMPACT:** Since 2013, Warrior Expeditions veterans have reported significant improvements in their physical, mental, and social well-being during and after their journeys.

**OUTDOOR THERAPY:** During their 3-6 month outdoor expedition, veterans have the opportunity to decompress from their military service and come to terms with their wartime experiences.

**VETERAN CAMARADERIE:** Veterans participating in Warrior Expeditions programs experience their journey with the camaraderie of other veterans who understand the challenges of transitioning from military service to civilian life.

**SOCIAL REINTEGRATION:** Interaction with veteran and community organizations during their journey facilitates a veteran's reintegration into society, restores their faith in humanity, and builds a network of life-long friendships and relationships.

**RESEARCH:** Since 2013, psychologists from Georgia Southern University, Dr. Shauna Joye (Air Force veteran) and Zachary Dietrich (Marine Corps veteran), have partnered with Warrior Expeditions to research and publish the effects of long term wilderness experiences on combat veterans.

**SURVEYS:** Before, during, and after their journeys, Warrior Expeditions veterans complete surveys comprised of five measures that assess post-traumatic stress, depression, anxiety, emotional expression, and psychiatric symptoms. This data has shown significant positive qualitative changes in veterans that have participated in Warrior Expeditions programs.

**MESSAGES:** Once per week, Warrior Expeditions veterans receive strategies based on the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy framework to help normalize post combat reactions and to help reintegrate back into society. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy is a problem-focused and action-oriented approach that helps recognize and alter dysfunctional or maladaptive emotions, thoughts, and behaviors.

**COUNSELING:** Dr. Shauna Joye is a licensed clinical psychologist and offers tele-counseling services to Warrior Expeditions veterans at any time during their journey.

Warrior Expeditions veterans experience the therapeutic effects of nature and the outdoors.



Warrior Expeditions veterans experience the camaraderie of fellow veterans during their journey.



Warrior Expeditions veterans connect with veteran and community organizations along their route.







Jordan Burke - 2016 Arizona Trail Warrior Hike veteran: "I have grown as a person, a man, and enriched my spirit more out here than I have in the 5 years since my deployment. Being on this hike is more than just enduring the physical challenges. It has given me the path literally and figuratively to work on the aspects of my life that have hindered my growth as a person. Being self-reliant out here has become the catalyst for changes that were seemingly impossible back in the "real world" even though life seems much more real out in nature. I spend every morning thanking God for the amazing blessings I have in my life, instead of focusing on what I want or don't truly need."

Daniel Caballero - 2016 Florida Trail Warrior Hike veteran: "The hardest part of going to war is coming home and facing the routines of civilian life while trying to decompress from the intense situations I experienced overseas. I was left with many unpleasant memories and underutilized skills which left me feeling helpless, angry, confused and depressed. But after hiking 1,200 miles this enduring, yet unforgettable experience, I learned to listen to my thoughts and start controlling my emotions. I have found that being out on the trail has benefited me and my family by teaching me to deal with my anxiety and racing thoughts. The quietness of nature allowed me to meditate, do a little soul searching, and meet so many wonderful people along the way."







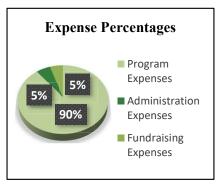
Michael Maziarka - 2016 Ice Age Trail Warrior Hike veteran: "The hike gave me a chance to leave some of the emotions of the war along the trail. I definitely learned more about myself talking with other combat veterans. It's helped me unload some things that were on my mind that I hadn't thought about or cared to think about before."

**Diana Brown** - 2016 Appalachian Trail Warrior Hike veteran: "The whole experience was like hitting a reset button. I rediscovered my adventurous side, my strength and determination, my humanity, and my faith in God."

Joseph Jamison - 2016 Pacific Crest Trail Warrior Hike veteran: "When I got out of the military the adjustment period was pretty rough. It's hard to adjust from the rigid military life to civilian life. But during my hike I was able to press the release button, clear my mind out, and process everything that's happened to me over the years."



**FINANCES:** In 2016 Warrior Expeditions provided \$520,399 worth of support to 38 veterans that participated in our 10 Warrior Hike, Warrior Bike, and Warrior Paddle programs.



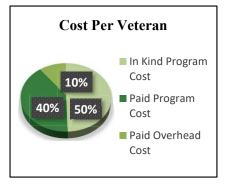
**Program Expenses**: In 2016, Warrior Expeditions ensured that 90% of every dollar donated was used to directly support the veterans enrolled in our programs. We reduce overhead expenses wherever possible to maximize the amount of funds used to directly support our veterans.

**Overhead Expenses:** Warrior Expeditions takes great pride in maintaining the lowest overhead percentage possible at 10% which is comprised of 5% in administration expenses and 5% in fundraising expenses.



**In Kind Program Support** (\$256,750): In kind program support includes all the outdoor equipment, clothing and supplies donated by our 64 sponsors and the transportation, lodging, food donated by our 168 community supporters.

**Paid Program Support** (\$209,473): Paid program support includes all the outdoor equipment, clothing, supplies, transportation, lodging, and food required to support our veterans that was not provided by our sponsors or community supporters.



**Total Cost** (\$13,695): Warrior Expeditions provides approximately \$13,695 of total support per veteran per expedition.

**In Kind Cost** (\$6,757): Warrior Expeditions provides approximately \$6,757 of in kind support per veteran per expedition.

**Paid Cost** (\$6,938): Warrior Expeditions provides approximately \$6,938 of paid support per veteran per expedition which is comprised of \$5,512 in paid program support and \$1,426 in overhead cost.

**DONORS:** Warrior Expeditions offers three ways donors can support our veterans:

**CASH DONATIONS:** Cash donations to offset the paid cost to support individual veterans.

**CORPORATE SPONSORS:** In kind outdoor equipment, clothing and supplies to outfit our veterans.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** In kind transportation, lodging, and food support from veteran and community organizations located along our expedition routes.