

## Outback Wilderness Orientation Assessment

 Public

**Name of Assessment Project:** Outback Wilderness Orientation Assessment

**Name(s) of Person(s) Responsible for Assessment Project:** No Roles Selected

**Email Address:** trottler@ucsd.edu  
**Phone Number:** 858-534-9098

**Other Contacts:** Director of Outback Adventures (Tom Rottler)  
**Providing Department:** Campus Recreation

**Other Units/Departments Involved in Assessment Project:**

**Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project:** Students had the opportunity to choose from ten orientation trips ranging in length from 5-8 days. Each trip had up to 12 participants on it composed of incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year and Transfer students. The trips provide a unique small group onboarding experience for incoming students. All trips were open to both CA residents and non-residents.

**Assessment Project Description:** Wilderness Orientation-Wilderness Orientation participants were emailed a link to an assessment form at the close of the program with a number of demographic, scaled assessment and open ended questions. All survey responses were entered into Baseline to provide analysis.

**Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes:**

1. Provide a unique onboarding experience that provides incoming students community & social support structure, especially to help them adjust to UCSD life in their first year.
2. Increase residents sense of resiliency to better address the academic rigors of UCSD and living away from family and friends.
3. Increase incoming student cross cultural and interpersonal abilities.

**Relationship to Student Affairs:** Communicate Effectively, Lead in a Diverse Global Society, Engage in a Healthy Lifestyle

**Learning Outcomes:**  
**Assessment Project Start:** 7/15/2013

**Assessment Project End:** 7/14/2014

**Population/Sample:** **Wilderness Orientation** - 14 programs, 162 participants, 7536 participant program hours. 115 responses to post-program survey.

**Type of Assessment:** Student learning outcomes and/or behavioral outcomes, Satisfaction study

**Other Assessment Type(s):**

**Assessment Methods:** Surveys, Participant Narratives/Journaling

**Other Assessment Method(s):**

**Data Collection Tools:** Participants on Wilderness Orientation were emailed a link to an online assessment form at the close of the trip. The assessment had a demographic, scaled assessment and open ended questions. There were 115 survey responses, representing a 71% response rate.

**Data Analysis Methods:** All survey responses were entered into Baseline to provide analysis.

**Presentation of Findings:** UCSD Recreation

**Findings:** Wilderness Orientation Assessment Highlights – Learning Outcomes and Satisfaction

115 Respondents

Q54. What were some of your favorite experiences and significant things you learned during the program?

Meeting new people and getting to the top. Mental strength > physical

All the memories with all the new friends, watching sunrise, sunset and the moon and stars

The talking, laughing and sharing with the team. Also, I learned to appreciate the wilderness and outdoor activities so much more.

My favorite experience was getting to know everyone so well during the trip, it really helped me to build a community at UCSD

Favorite experience: bonding with fellow marmots, hiking up a steep mountain and reaching the top with team cheers. Learned: so much to gain from getting know other diverse UCSD students

Q58. Was WO program a beneficial way to begin your time at UCSD? Why or why not?

Absolutely because I met a ton of cool people. I feel more comfortable going to UCSD.

Yes! I learned and received an abundant amount of information from college night. I also learned that many skills we learned in WO will apply to daily life.


Yes. Friends/centering myself through appreciation of nature's grandeur. Got in touch with my inner self.

YES! It was great to get advice from real UCSD students while making friends who are going through what I am

Yes. It was great meeting new people. So happy to have been in a chill, laid-back group. Learned about how to relate to others it was nice that alcohol wasn't a concern.

Yes. I established a strong, determined mindset which is very relevant to a school mindset, plus I have already established a community

Definitely, I have 16 friends, I have a better feel for the area. I have an amazing UCSD experience and I haven't even started school yet!

 WO 2013-2014 Assessment Highlights

**Progress:**

**Link Assessment  
Project in Campus  
Labs Baseline :**

Name	Source
------	--------

No items to display.

**Summary of Findings:**

**Impact of Assessment:** Our assessment for Wilderness Orientation confirmed the impact and value of these programs on incoming students. 94% of incoming student reported that felt better prepared to start UCSD after participating in Wilderness Orientation and 87% had a new perspective about being a college student. This assessment confirms the value of the WO experience and challenges us to find ways to provide a WO experience to more incoming students.

**Lessons Learned:** This was our first year using Campus Labs as part of the WO assessment and we were far better able to quantify the impact of the WO experience as a result of rewriting our assessment tool and having online responses from participants.

**Supplemental  
Information:**

Last modified 8/29/2014 at 4:56 PM by [Tom Rottler](#)  
Created 8/6/2014 at 4:25 PM by [Noah Kramer](#)