

SSO SOUL SURVIVOR OUTDOOR



"It was a great break from the daily life in the Marines that can take a toll on one's mental health, and this was a fun, exciting event. . . As a man who attempts but fails many times to maintain a relationship with God, over 6 years and 4 deployments in the Marine Corps, life can be hard and maintaining that relationship can be especially hard. SSO provided an opportunity to renew my relationship with the Lord that I wasn't even aware I needed until today.

As simple as I can put it, what they do is awesome . . . and I am extremely happy I had the opportunity to attend. Thank you guys a lot."

- Corporal Wayne Campbell, USMC



To give or learn more, visit
SoulSurvivorOutdoor.org





THE SPARK

The Spark that ignites SSO began while LtCol Rick Wolf served at Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms in charge of wounded Marines in 2013.



Nearly 20,000 active duty service members and counting have heard the Gospel message through SSO's Christ-centered outdoor adventure program.



Soul Survivor Outdoor Established - "If it isn't about Jesus, it's not about anything."

Outdoor evangelism with active duty military takes shape with Rick and his USMC unit at Twentynine Palms rock climbing in Joshua Tree National Park. The success of the program was significant and prompted Col Willie Buhl to say it was the "best physical spiritual event I've been to in two years commanding the Wounded Warrior Regiment."



April 2014 - Rick takes his USMC detachment to Joshua Tree National Park for an outdoor adventure event with rock climbing. Thank you Cliffhanger Guides.



May 2014 - The outdoor adventure program concept is named Soul Survivor Outdoor.

September 2014 - Rick meets and quickly becomes good friends with Coach Shane Goodwin, who offers encouragement and godly advice related to starting SSO. When asked what SSO will stand for, Rick responded "if it isn't about Jesus it's not about anything."

October 2, 2014 - Application filed for Incorporation in the State of California.



Are You There God?

With the paperwork done, but no funding secured, Rick did anything and everything trying to make ends meet while developing SSO, going through an exceptionally difficult time financially, mentally, and spiritually. Resiliency and Spiritual Fitness became key issues for the Marine Corps under the leadership of Commandant General Robert Neller, which elevated the priority of using a program like SSO with service members.



October 2016 - General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, issued ALMAR 033/16, emphasizing the importance of spiritual fitness for Marines and Sailors, in addition to physical, social, and mental fitness. "Research indicates that spiritual fitness plays a key role in resiliency, in our ability to grow, develop, recover, heal, and adapt. By attending to spiritual fitness with the same rigor given to physical, social and mental fitness, Marines and Sailors can become and remain the honorable warriors and model citizens our Nation expects."



December 2016 - First sailing program in San Diego Bay. Thank you Greg Price!

2016 Final Count: 100 service members; 3 programs

All Or Nothing

Still lacking funding to be full-time, but believing he was entrusted with the mission of SSO, Rick dedicates all of February raising support and is blessed with several large commitments and a dozen monthly givers. Finally having resources to invest in marketing materials, print and digital media was developed to share the mission of Resiliency and Spiritual Fitness with commanders and donors.

February 2018 - Rick spends the entire month raising support.

March 2018 - Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs donates \$25,000, becoming our first strong partnership and "kickstarter" organization. Thank you Chad Robichaux and Jeremy Stalenecker.

March 2018 - The Harbaugh Foundation partners with SSO at \$10,000. Thank you Joe Balla.

April 2018 - Rick begins full-time with SSO; Print and digital media created with Chris Thompson from Sky's The Limit Design.



June 2018 - First mountain bike program in California.

July 2018 - First wakeboard and jet skiing program in California; Rick meets Phil Dwyer of DNA Ministry and they host a Spiritual Readiness event at MCCES with 4,500 Marines in attendance.

August 2018 - Rick meets with numerous Twentynine Palms military leaders who report, "everyone is interested in SSO's program."

2018 Final Count: 5,400 service members - 400 at 9 programs; 5,000 at Spiritual Readiness event

Coast To Coast Expansion

Since SSO's program is centered around outdoor activities, it allowed us to continue serving active duty military even during COVID. The timing was right to grow outside of California into Texas and to the East Coast with programs for the Army and Coast Guard.

January 2020 - Tsuha Foundation partners with SSO at \$28,000. Thank you Jennifer Pelling.

April 2020 - First visit to Texas to explore opportunities with the U.S. Army.

May 2020 - First visit to Colorado to establish relationships at Fort Carson.

August 2020 - First Wild at Heart Military Leader Development Retreat in Mammoth, CA in partnership with Wild Warrior Adventure, led by Rick, Board Member Rob Broyles and Advisory Board Member Kevin Frye.

September 2020 - First Army program in Texas (trail ride); Tony Smit hired as Texas Area Director.

November 2020 - James L Stamps Foundation provides \$6,000 to purchase equipment. Thank you Rick Salyer.

December 2020 - First Coast Guard program in South Carolina (sporting clays).

2020 Final Count: 2,800 service members - 1,300 at 47 programs; 1,500 at Spiritual Fitness speaking engagements.



South To Georgia and North To Alaska

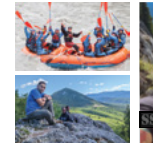
Aiming to broaden the reach to more U.S. Army commands, SSO became a Silver Sponsor at the world-renowned Best Ranger Competition where our team could meet senior leaders, military partners, and potential donors. Through relationships forged in the past, SSO was asked to bring the program to Alaska, where the suicide incident rate is over 40% higher than the national average.

January 2022 - Jeremy Cole, 1SG US Army Retired, hired part-time as Kentucky Area Director.

March 2022 - Tina Richards is hired as part-time Accounting Manager.

April 2022 - Silver Sponsor of the U.S. Army Best Ranger Competition in Fort Moore, GA.

July 2022 - The Charlie Daniel's Journey Home Project donates \$5,000. Thank you David Corlew.



August 2022 - First Alaska events (rock climbing and whitewater rafting); Amy's Legacy Foundation partners with SSO at \$50,000. Thank you Steve Grosser and Bob Reis.

December 2022 - Jeremy Cole departs SSO staff as he and his family become full-time missionaries with Free Burma Rangers in Thailand.

2022 Final Count: 2,300 service members; 91 programs



A Decade Of Adventure

After 10 years of Christ-centered outdoor adventure, SSO's program is now sought out by senior leaders in every branch of the US Armed Forces for resiliency and spiritual fitness across the nation. By including the Gospel message as part of SSO's discussion on identity and resilience, thousands of active duty military now have faith in Christ. With demand still outpacing capacity, SSO's team heads into the next decade ready to continue with the mission to serve those who defend and sacrifice for our freedom.

January 2024 - First Space Force/ Air Force program in Colorado (ice climbing).

April 30, 2024 - SSO logo officially trademarked.

August 2024 - Steve Workman, CW05 USMC Retired, hired as Assistant East Coast Director.



November 2024 - 4th year celebrating the USMC birthday with Marines from 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. Thank you SgtMaj Doug Gardner.

2024 Final Count: 2,520 service members; 100 programs



Jumping Into The Nonprofit World

After incorporation, Rick embarked on a huge learning curve to navigate functioning as a nonprofit. He filed for and secured nonprofit status, finished developing a business plan, created company branding, and started SSO's Instagram account to raise awareness. SSO's first skydiving event jumpstarted SSO's presence on Camp Pendleton.

January 2015 - Board of directors established.

February 2015 - Files for IRS 501c3 nonprofit status and six weeks later, in record time, receives IRS approval.

April 2015 - SSO Instagram page created.

September 2015 - First skydive program.

2015 Final Count: 10 service members; 1 program



You Know Who You Know

The year began with cultivating relationships with senior Marine Corps leaders to bring SSO's program to additional commands, resulting in the first official program at Twentynine Palms with rock climbing in Joshua Tree National Park.

January 2017 - Rick sits down with USMC MGen Daniel O'Donogue to discuss SSO's spiritual fitness program. MGen O'Donohue shares about the program with the entire 1st Marine Division senior leadership staff.

January 2017 - First rock climbing program in Joshua Tree National Park with Marines.



February 2017 - SSO partners with church and parachurch organizations to host Kutless at 5th Marines on Camp Pendleton.

June 2017 - Rick engages USMC Col Dom Ford to discuss SSO's spiritual fitness program for Marine Corps Communications Electronic School (MCCES), a potential audience of 4,500 Marines.

July 2017 - Chaplain (LCDR) Paul Armstrong arranges meeting with MCCES SgtMaj Charlie Wells. Both now serve on the SSO Advisory Board.

August 2017 - First rock Joshua Tree program with Marines from MCCES.

September 2017 - SSO experiences first loss by suicide of Marine volunteer.

October 2017 - SSO partners with church and parachurch organizations to host Switchfoot at Camp Pendleton; Tim Foreman joins SSO and Marines from Camp Pendleton for skydiving.



LtCol Wolf Goes To Washington

With SSO's program growing, Rick's expertise on the topic of resiliency and spiritual fitness becomes known. Through the relationship with Chad Robichaux of the Mighty Oaks Foundation, he is invited to participate in the Congressional subcommittee hearing on U.S. military suicide. Major donors are added, increasing the number of programs possible in a year.

May 2019 - CBN Helping the Home Front donates \$24,000. Thank you Dory Nissen.

May 2019 - SEEDS Foundation provides \$22,000 to purchase equipment. Thank you Lynda Jeffries.

August 2019 - SSO partners with Chad Robichaux of Mighty Oaks Foundation for I MEF spiritual readiness event with over 1,000 Marines in attendance.

December 2019 - Rick and Board Member Ryan Lamb travel to Washington DC and participate in the Congressional subcommittee hearing on the U.S. military suicide epidemic.

2019 Final Count: 2,123 service members - 930 at 42 programs; 1,190 at Spiritual Readiness event



New Horizons

Demand for SSO's program continued to increase, with calls and emails coming from commanders and senior military leaders nearly every day. Funding grew along with requests and we seized the opportunity to serve more units, traveling to 8 new states.

April 2021 - First Colorado program (fly fishing), first Florida program (sporting clays), and first Georgia program (sporting clays).

June 2021 - Board of Directors approves hiring Kim Wolf as part-time Marketing & Communications Director.

July 2021 - First surf program in Oceanside, CA in partnership with Trevor Berge, Degree 33 Surfboards, Cheyne Jobbins of Christian Surfers US-Carlsbad, and Board Member Brian Darisay.

July 2021 - First Idaho program (whitewater rafting) and first Montana program (Wild at Heart Military Leader Development Retreat).



September 2021 - First Arizona program (standup paddle board).

September 2021 - Served with Honor Foundation provides \$25,000 for programs in TX and across the country. Thank you Brian Reese.

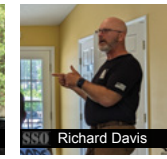
October 2021 - First Kentucky program (sporting clays) and first North Carolina program (rock climbing).

2021 Final Count: 1,483 service members; 66 programs

That The World May Know

SSO's expansion meant the need for another area director position, this time in Colorado which was filled by retired Marine, and one of SSO's original donors, Randy Garcia. Richard Davis took over as the Kentucky Area Director. His work with combat trauma and moral injury in Ukraine became the springboard to run SSO's program in Poland for deployed US Army soldiers, giving us an international reach.

February 2023 - Area directors in Colorado, Dr. Randy Garcia, LtCol USMC Retired, and Kentucky, Dr. Richard Davis, MSG US Army Retired, are hired.



March 2023 - First shipboard program on the USS Somerset. Thank you CAPT Chris Brown and Chaplain (LCDR) Ed Handley.

September 2023 - First overseas program in Poland, led by Richard Davis (high ropes course and zipline).



November 2023 - Manna Church in Fayetteville, NC partners with SSO, donating \$30,000 to expand program reach to more service members across the country.

2023 Final Count: 2,351 service members; 87 programs