



*Gear & Clothing
for the Great Outdoors*



"GIVING NEW LIFE TO OLD GEAR"

ADVENTURE 16' DONATE-A-PACK FOUNDATION

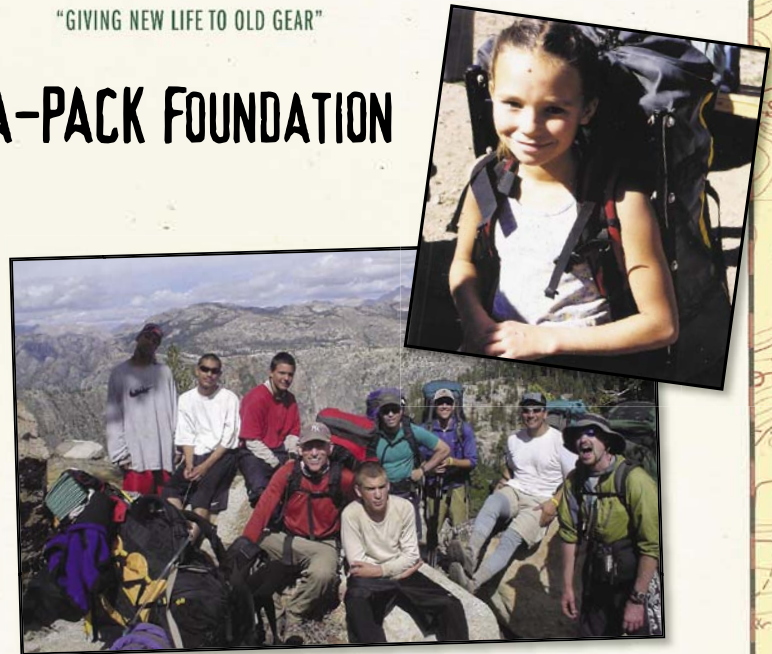
Growing up in a small town in Idaho in the 60's & 70's, I had outdoor opportunities many kids do not. My father was an avid backpacker, my Uncle owned an outdoor company (Adventure 16) and I belonged to an active Boy Scout Troop and lived within biking distance of deep canyon walls and pine-covered hills.

When I joined Adventure 16 (A16) after college, I began to appreciate the lessons I learned from my experiences growing up in and around wilderness and realized that many kids, especially in the inner cities of Southern California, didn't have the same opportunities. I knew first hand that a positive outdoor experience could have a profound and lasting affect on anyone, especially a child.

Over the years, we at A16 were approached continuously by organizations seeking gear donations. As both my sons grew, I would sit in Scout meetings and watch the parents wince as I read the list of equipment that Robby Jr. would need for our next outing. As much as I wanted to, it simply wasn't possible that A16 could afford to help with all the requests. Like most outdoor retailers, we did what we could, but the effort was modest and the impact minor.

I was at one of Adventure 16's many Backpacker Swapmeets when it occurred to me that thousands of backpacks and other outdoor gear were likely collecting dust in attics all over Southern California. I suspected that given a good cause, outdoor enthusiasts would happily relinquish their used equipment to help local community organizations provide children with quality outdoor experiences.

With that idea in mind, I recruited a Board of Directors dedicated to the cause and together we founded Adventure 16's Donate-a-Pack Foundation as a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation. The non-profit designation gave us instant credibility and the tax status needed to allow donors the ability to deduct their gifts. That along with a 10% discount on a brand new Gregory Mountain Products pack and the satisfaction of giving, was more than enough to motivate people to give.



Over the past 8 years Donate-a-Pack has served as the conduit for thousands of pieces of donated gear to 108 worthy non-profit organizations throughout Southern California. I'm proud to say that the gear has helped to enrich the lives of thousands of young people.

Our gear donations have helped many local organizations expand their reach and grow their programs. Over the years, A16 customers and a handful of vendors have been extremely generous with their giving and as a result, countless numbers of disadvantaged kids and young adults have been given an opportunity to learn the invaluable lessons best taught in a wilderness setting.

John D. Mead
Founder, Donate-A-Pack Foundation

Mission Statement:

The Donate-a-Pack Foundation seeks to benefit grade through high school aged children in Southern California by enabling them to have a meaningful wilderness experience. The Foundation focuses its resources on seeking out and channeling donated backpacks and other gear to non-profit organizations with programs for disadvantaged youth. Our ultimate goal is to help young people learn outdoor skills and foster an appreciation for the natural environment. All the while understanding that such exposure helps develop responsible, healthy, confident and enlightened adults, who in turn will pass on their meaningful experiences and good values to the next generation.

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Steps to forming a similar Foundation:

Gather a small group of like-minded people to serve as members of your Board of Directors. An attorney, an accountant, a graphic artist, an outdoor guide, an educator and a good cook (think fundraising) should all be on the list. Volunteers to help clean and distribute gear and help with fundraising will be needed as well.

Identify a list of recipient organizations in your area and have a conversation with their Executive Directors about the concept and their needs.

Ask for the support of your company in providing storage space, a place to meet and perhaps help with administrative work. In the case of Donate-a-Pack Foundation, Adventure 16 helps with all these things plus printing, web hosting and a constant supply of discontinued and damaged (but usable) merchandise.

Incorporating the organization costs money and creates some red tape but the formal designation helps legitimize the organization and allows donors to deduct their gifts.

Develop a grant request form and organize a committee to review and process requests.

Create a website, make posters, send press releases and mail your Customers a brochure to let the world know that you need their help in spreading the word in gathering gear.

Set-up a booth at sales and other events to sell food/drinks and spread the word about the good work you're doing.

Schedule regular Board Meetings to monitor progress, review donations and giving, review procedures and record keeping, plan fundraisers and recruit new Board Members and other volunteers.

Other ideas that will help get youth outdoors:

Sponsor a scouting or other youth group that is especially committed to providing outdoor adventures.

Provide meeting space for the group and/or for non-profit organizations that take kids outdoors.

Display brochures and posters that promote youth-oriented outdoor organizations.

Give talks to kids preparing for an outdoor adventure. Handout discount coupons and schwag.

Help a youth group organize, run and collect a commission at a used gear sale.

Let an outdoor youth organization sell food and drinks at a sale or grand opening event.

Run an environmental essay contest at an inner-city school and give gear to the winners.

Encourage a local guide to offer youth-oriented trips or classes; and help promote them.

Volunteer your time to help lead a trip of any length.

Give a discount to members of organizations that are focused on getting kids into the outdoors.



“We are truly appreciative of Adventure 16’s equipment donations. Without you guys, many of our kids would have missed out on a life-changing experience in the wilderness.”

~ Charles Thomas, Outward Bound Adventures

“Many of our children arrive to camp without even a coat. Very few have ever had camping gear. The need for packs, sleeping bags, pads and tents is great.”

~ Elaine Manso, Adventure Nature Camp

Adventure 16 is an employee owned specialty outdoor retailer with 6 stores in Southern California. It is also a Wholesale Distributor of outdoor accessories and climbing equipment for specialty retailers throughout the world. A Boy Scout Explorer Post founded the company in 1962.



Adventure 16’s Donate-a-Pack Foundation accepts all types of outdoor gear in usable condition, in addition to backpacks. The most needed items are sleeping bags, pads, tents and backpacks, but we also accept cook sets, stoves, water filters, footwear, apparel and more. Unless an item is badly damaged or falling apart, go ahead & donate it!

For more information contact:

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