

ALZAR SCHOOL
Annual Report | 2011-2012

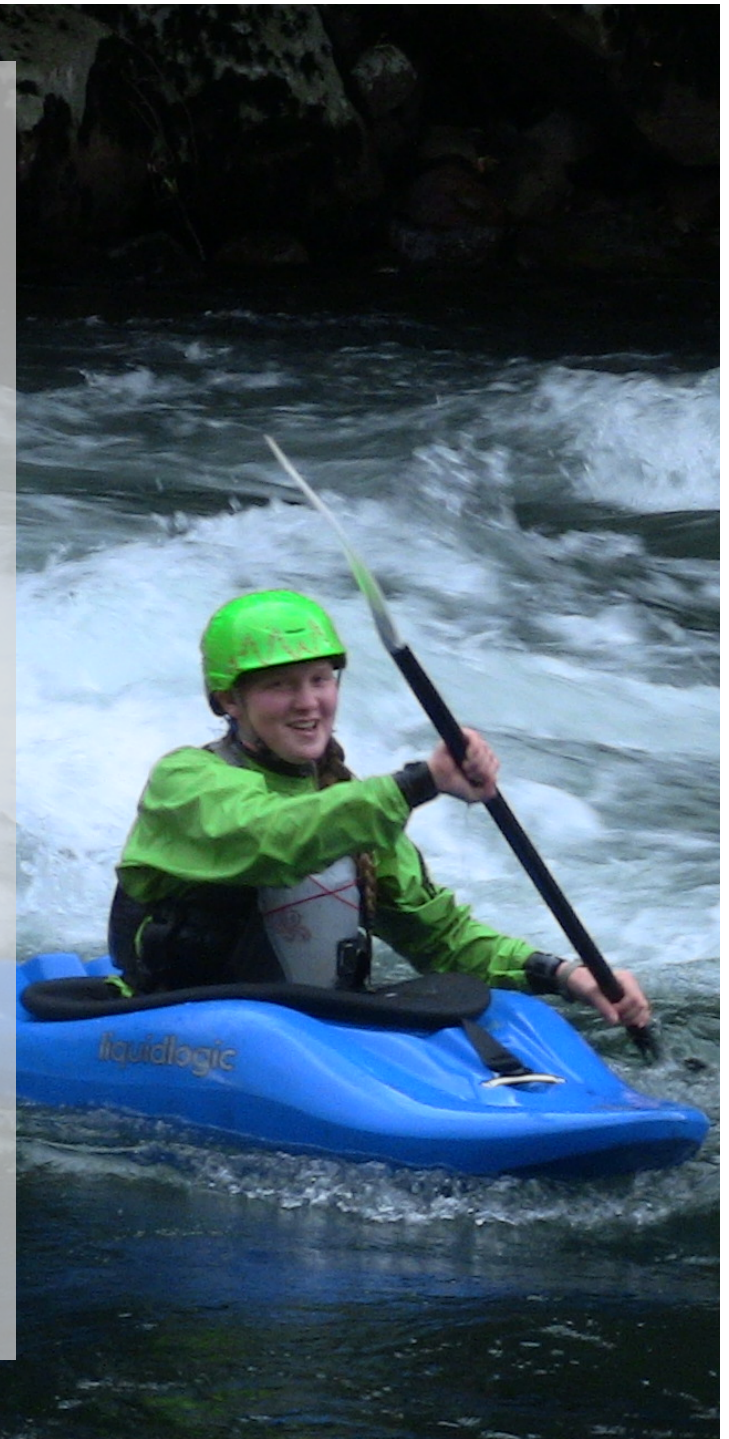
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Alzar School is to educate and facilitate the leadership development of high school students.



“The Alzar School is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the world and yourself like never before. It’s such a perfect combination; you’re in the safe hands of your instructors in this far away country, yet you have been placed just enough out of your comfort zone to where you can learn more than you ever thought possible at any school program. From learning how to confidently kayak down any river, to learning how to be a leader, to learning the culture and ways of life in Chile, the opportunities are endless. In every experience, there are a million things to learn, and Alzar fills you with them. *The world gets a little bit larger as you learn to open up your eyes and see another dimension of life and people; a global perspective.* The Alzar School surrounds you with young, supportive individuals who want to see you succeed in whatever you might try, and it’s all about getting out there. My experience here is one I will look back on for the rest of my life as a time where I really got out there, and as a time that really inspired me to explore more.”

- Hannah, student on *Rivers of Chile 2012*



Letter from the Executive Director

The Alzar School is at the cusp of realizing goals eight years in the making. The Alzar School is primed to better serve our mission of educating and developing young leaders with the launch of the semester programs.

This past year's activity has been geared towards preparation for the academic semesters. The school has a home along the North Fork of the Payette River, and construction is underway. Most importantly we had the time to think big about what we want our students to accomplish, worked on creating a curriculum that will challenge young people.

We await the arrival of the first semester school students with great anticipation. We look forward to educating students across the school's six foundations (Academics, Leadership Training, Service Learning, Outdoor Adventure, Cultural Exchange, and Environmental Stewardship), creating generations of Alzar School alumni prepared to lead themselves, their peers, and their communities.

Thank you to everyone who has lent us support and encouragement over the past year. The Alzar School is onto something powerful, but we would not be here without your support. Thank you.

With gratitude,

Kristin Bierle
Executive Director

This year, a transition year, has been pivotal to establishing the school as a semester program. We operated our last three-week program, fittingly in Chile, where we operated our first such program back in 2007. We also saw construction begin on campus, giving a home to our programs.

We spent much of the year on the road, visiting over 200 schools across the country. The purpose of these visits was two-fold. First, we wished to expand our connections with schools, in hopes of developing a strong base of applicants for our new semester programs. But it was also a chance for us to see how schools around the country are operating, and for us to cherry-pick the best ideas for the school we are creating. We poked into classrooms and reaffirmed our belief that teenagers are capable of much more than they are generally given credit for.

Programmatically, we added permits for multi-day rafting and backpacking permits to our options of “classrooms.” This aligns even more closely with our mission, and we are excited to spend more time in the backcountry.

We also recruited our team of founding teachers. These top-notch professionals will be shaping the generations of leaders that pass through Alzar School. Each member brings a unique perspective, but also an understanding that the strength of our school depends on working together. I am very excited to have them all on board, and to see how we expand our core leadership curriculum across all disciplines.

Look for many great things during the first semesters in 2012-2013!

**Sean Bierle
Head Teacher**

Letter from the Head Teacher



Student Programs - Year in Review

Rivers of Chile 2012

5 applicants

5 students enrolled

2 instructors

1 intern

Notables:

80 service hours performed, awarded high school credit, last short program for school before launch of semester programs

Camp Cup 2011

152 participants

~35 volunteers

Notables:

10 participating camps, guest coaches from NC, free raffle, new addition of ice cream social at Endless River Adventures.

Enrollment

of Students



Outreach & Visibility

An aerial photograph of a river rafting campsite. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right. Along the left bank, several colorful inflatable rafts (red, blue, orange, green) are parked on a sandy shore. Numerous tents in various colors (blue, yellow, orange, green, white) are pitched on the grassy bank. The background shows a rocky riverbank and some sparse vegetation.

927 Fans on Facebook

438 Followers on Twitter

709 Members on e-newsletter list

356 Potential students in database

Research gathered on over 1400 schools nationwide, over 400 contacted, over 200 visited.

Publications Star News and American Whitewater



Scholarships

Awarded 1 full scholarship for the Jean Bierle Scholarship Initiative for the Rivers of Chile 2012 program.

One Chilean female enrolled in each semester for the 2012-2013 school year.



“From my time with Alzar School, I accomplished so much. This experience was the most challenging yet most fun event I have ever been a part of. It gave me a sense of education I have never thought possible. My will and strive to learn has increased greatly. I find that I am eager and ready to learn and apply what I can to everyday life. *On a personal note, Alzar has made me more responsible, mature, courageous, and strong.* I never thought I would be able to accomplish what I did, but taking what I have learned, I could face my fears and conquer any obstacle. This was the most eye-opening experience and I came home wanting to do and see and learn everything I possibly could. I was amazed by how confident I was in my abilities and myself. The Alzar School is an absolutely amazing program that has certainly changed my life.”

- Maggie, student on *Rivers of Chile*
2012

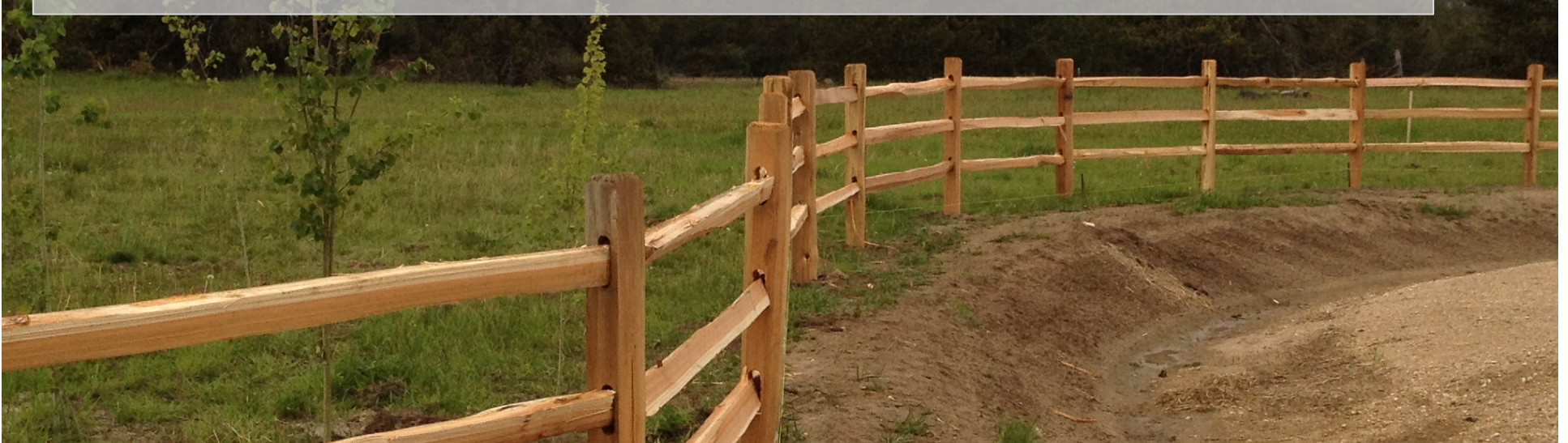
Facilities Update

Closed on 102-acre property in Cascade, Idaho, with over 1.3 miles of river frontage.

Constructed 4,600 foot road, completed one of two proposed wells, and built over 3/4 mile of fencing.

Completed 3,600 square foot "Barn" to house school's equipment, bouldering wall, outdoor program office, and senior staff housing.

Began construction on 3 yurts, a bathhouse, staff housing, and a 5,000 square foot Confluence Building.



Faculty

In 2011 and 2012, the administrators of the school performed a wide search for a team to found the school. Over twenty qualified candidates applied for each position. Two of the faculty that were brought on full-time had previously lead a short program for the school. All of the new members of the team bring a wealth of experience and ideas to shape our programming.

Name	Role(s)	Background
Kristin Bierle	Executive Director & Capstone Leadership Course	Co-founder of Alzar School
Sean Bierle	Head Teacher & Capstone Leadership Course	Co-founder of Alzar School
Sam Goff	Science	Centennial High School, Adventure Quest
Evan Kramer	History & Spanish	Summit Academy, NOLS
Ellie Moore	English & Spanish	Boojum Institute, Island School
Dan Thurber	Mathematics	OARS, World Class Kayak Academy

A person wearing a blue jacket and a colorful striped beanie is sitting on a boat, looking at a yellow map. The background shows a wide river flowing through a canyon with high, rocky walls under a blue sky with some clouds.

Campaigns & Fundraising

April 28, 2012 Fundraiser

~\$22,300 Donated

~\$5,300 Pledged

Special Donations

Grants

\$1,000 from American Canoe Association

Build Campaign

\$12,600 donated or pledged

Pledged Foundation Support for 2012-2013

\$600,000

Corporate Sponsorship

~\$15,000 from NRS

~\$3,000 from Asana



Summary of Contributions

Pupil - \$50 - \$99

11 donors

Scholar - \$100 - \$199

18 donors

Graduate - \$200 - \$499

9 donors

Honor Roll - \$500 - \$999

8 donors

Dean's List - \$1,000 - \$1,999

4 donors

Valedictorian - \$2,000 and up

6 donors

Pupil

Kellee & Dan Crockett

Mary Kneip

Scott & Monica Morell

Network for Good

Lauren Perreault

Bill Basham

Challis Cates

Julia Davis

Terri Rodger

Michael Bixby

Sam & Andie Goff



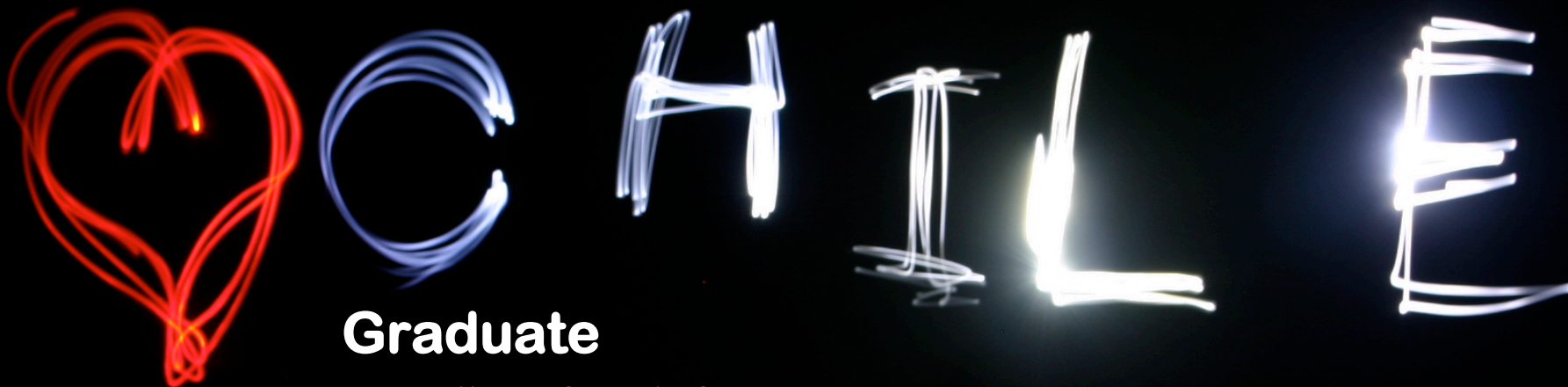
Scholar

Britta Weisner
Camp Glen Arden
Camp Chosatonga
Doug & Tonya Hardesty
Ellen Chewning Eller
John & Sidney Gargiulo
Lisa & Roger Cates

Microsoft
Jeff Hills
John Scott
Monique McCleskey
Josh Unger &
Jenaleigh Kiebert
Cailin O'Brien-Feeney
Susan Olson & Ric Colby

Bryan Biggs
Shawn O'Brien
Katie Hawkins
Turin &
Kyle Dickman





Graduate

Falling Creek Camp

Merrie-Woode Foundation

Patrick & Chris Ryan

Todd & Amy Rustad

Scott & Bev Pressman

Kelly & Mike McLeod

Katie Basham & Andy Pressman

Jessica Padour

Sam & Cindy Chewning

Honor Roll

Jean Bierle

John & Marilyn Stott

Michelle & Rod Burks

Dr. Michael & Margaret Henbest

Michael Petty

Tony Pori

Kim Tanabe

Jan Peterson





Dean's List

American Canoe Association

Ben & Libby Hill

Molly Mannshreck & Matt Schwarz

Stacy & John Slattery

Helping people enjoy the outdoors using kayaks, canoes and rafts since 1880.
www.americancanoe.org



Valedictorian

Kevin Arrien

Larry & Tricia Bierle

Sean & Kristin Bierle

Tyler Jones

NRS

Asana

Four year financial history

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Support & Revenue				
Tuition	\$20,769	\$41,475	\$52,610	\$14,900
Donations	\$8,625	\$19,205	\$4,039,341	\$31,810
Total Support & Revenue	\$29,394	\$60,681	\$4,091,951	\$46,710
Expenses				
Operating Expenses	\$16,995	\$39,220	\$75,022	\$104,194
Other Expenses	\$8,944	\$110	\$6,775	\$27,142
Total Expenses	\$25,939	\$39,330	\$81,798	\$131,336
Net Income	\$3,455	\$21,352	\$4,010,154	\$84,626



“In these three weeks I learned more about leadership, who I am, and the power of friendship, than in the last seventeen years of my life. Chile was truly a prodigious experience... whether I was kayaking the Rio Enco, hiking to the most breath-taking lake I have ever seen in my life, or playing a game of Pictionary beneath the stars on the border of Chile and Argentina.

The school really opens your eyes to how much you can accomplish using pure determination, as you are working the hardest you have ever worked but are also having the best time of your life.

Before Alzar I was close-minded, stuck in the rut of my school schedule, but this program showed me the power and possibilities that learning really holds while also immersing yourself in another culture. I know it seems scary to take the leap to participate in such a daunting program, but trust me Alzar is waiting on the other side to catch you and offer you a one-of-a-kind experience that you will not find anywhere else.”

- Lexi, student on *Rivers of Chile 2012*

Board of Directors

Name	Position on Board	Occupation / Employer	Residence
Kim Tanabe	President	Physician, St. Luke's	Garden Valley, ID
Katie Basham	Vice President	Doctoral Candidate, University of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Cailin O'Brien-Feeney	Treasurer	Graduate Student, University of Idaho	Boise, ID
Turin Dickman	Secretary	Biological researcher, Los Alamos Laboratory	Albuquerque, NM
Katie Hawkins	Advisory Committee Liaison	PA Student, Idaho State University	Boise, ID
Kristin Bierle	Ex-officio member	Executive Director, Alzar School	Cascade, ID
Sean Bierle	Ex-officio member	Head Teacher, Alzar School	Cascade, ID



Advisory Committee

Name	Occupation	Residence
Harry Bergmann	Student, George Washington University	Washington DC
Heather Bierle	Pharmacist	Austin, TX
Ryan Bierle	PA	Austin, TX
Jean Bierle	Flight Attendant	Chicago, IL
Sam Chewning	MD	Cornelius, NC
Jeff Cole	Student	Boise, ID
Ryan Cozens	Retail Manager	Aspen, CO
Katherine Edmonds	Professor/Nonprofit activist	Athens, GA

Advisory Committee

Rich Gardunia	Owner of ESH Clothes	Boulder, CO
Geoff Harrison	Associate Director for Recreation and Education	Boise, ID
Cathy Hearn	Slalom Coach	Durango, CO
Elizabeth Hester	Student	Boone, NC
Jenaleigh Kiebert	Student	Boise, ID
Cissy Madigan	Editor	Boise, ID
Conner Madigan	Student	Seattle, WA
Jake McGrath	Wind Turbine Technician	Coloma, CA
Connor McLeod	Student	Boise, ID



Advisory Committee

Kelly McLeod	Teacher	Boise, ID
Nate Ostis	Owner of Wilderness Rescue International	McCall, ID
Erik Quissell	Teacher	Boise, ID
Olivia Schwarz	Student	Walla Walla, WA
Ted Singletary	Professor	Boise, ID
Catherine Smith	Marketer	Lyons, CO
Alison Ward	Teacher	Boise, ID
Britta Wiesner	Marketer	Atlanta, GA
Brent Wilson	Lawyer	Boise, ID
Tracy Wilson	Teacher	Carbondale, CO

ALZAR SCHOOL

When we need a classroom,
the world awaits.



Mailing address:
PO Box 1609
Cascade ID 83611

Physical address
1600 Airport Way
Cascade ID 83611

www.alzarschool.com
info@alzarschool.com

P: 208.639.9891