

The Mosaic Project

Outdoor School Alumni Survey Report Brief

The Mosaic Project is seeking to understand the long-term impact of its one-week residential, human-relations Outdoor School. Students of the Outdoor School are assessed for their affect, experience and understanding of key concepts and skills just before and immediately after their outdoor school experience. We also have a complementary suite of surveys taken by the teachers, parents, and cabin leaders.

The alumni survey is completed by students five or more years after they have attended the Outdoor School. Questions focus on measuring the endurance of Outdoor School goals related to socio-emotional skills, drive to act justly in a diverse society, and self-efficacy.

Evaluation Highlights

- Demographics: Demographic information of attendees surveyed
- Enduring Learning: Quantitative feedback of on lasting impact of Mosaic lessons
- Appreciations and Recommendations: Qualitative feedback from attendees and suggestions for the future
- Summary, Successes and Lessons: Summary of report and objectives achieved and spaces for improvement



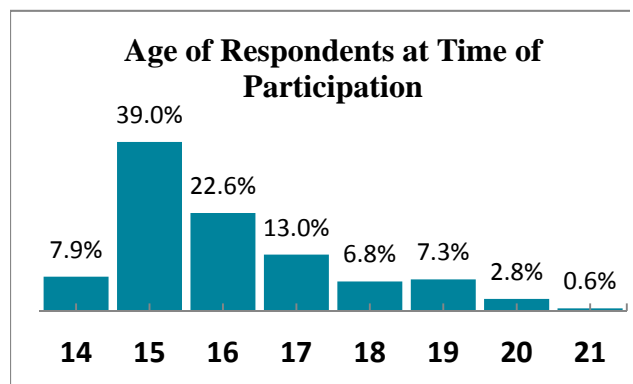


Overview of Respondents Demographics and Recruitment

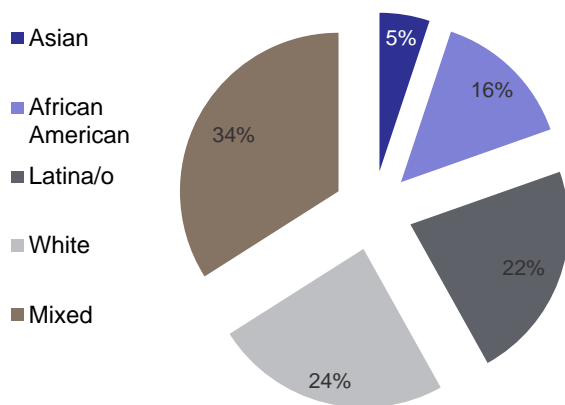
All respondents completed the alumni survey between August 2010 and April 2016. Responses were counted for all participants who had attended the Outdoor School more than 4.5 years ago. The survey was completed online and outreach was done primarily through an email to parents and through a direct mailing sent to students in the summer five years after they attended the Outdoor School. Mosaic staff also encourage alumni to complete the survey when they reach out to Mosaic, typically because they are interested in becoming a Youth Leader or have attended one of Mosaic's events. Respondents represent the diverse racial backgrounds that Mosaic reaches through its Outdoor School program. The largest contingency of students reported being two or more races. There was also great diversity amongst mixed race respondents with the most common responses being African American and White, Latina/o and White, and Asian and White.



The figure above shows respondents' home city. Size corresponds with frequency of response.



Race

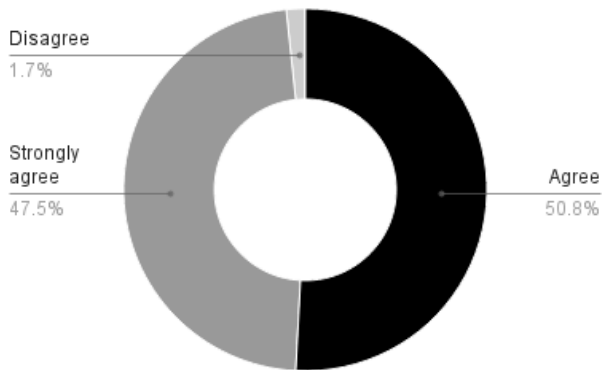


- The majority of participants live in Berkeley (22.3%), Oakland (21.2%), Concord (6.1%) and San Francisco (5.0%).
- All participants live in California.
- More than half of all respondents were 15 (39.0%) or 16 (22.6%)
- Over a third of attendees surveyed, 61 people (34.0%), reported being of two or more races
- All respondents attended the Outdoor School between Spring 2002 and Fall 2010.
- The largest number of participants attended the Outdoor School in Spring 2007 (17.9%), Spring 2009 (10.6%), and Spring 2004 (10.1%).

Responses

Multiple Choice: Surveyed participants were asked about 17 statements beginning with the lead, “As a result of your participation with The Mosaic Project, how strongly do you agree with the following.” Participants then chose their level of agreement from four options: strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. Responses to six of those statements can be found below. (The others are available upon request.) There were 179 responses to each statement.

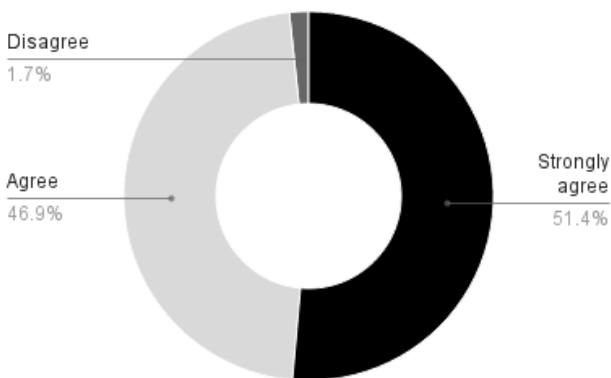
I am more able to resolve conflicts peacefully.



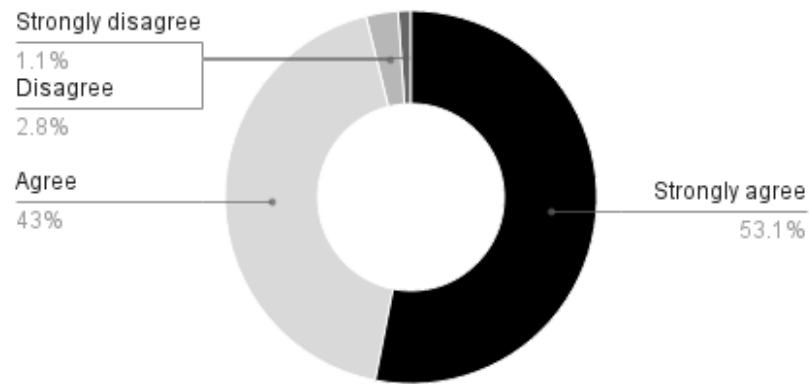
I manage my anger and other strong emotions more effectively.



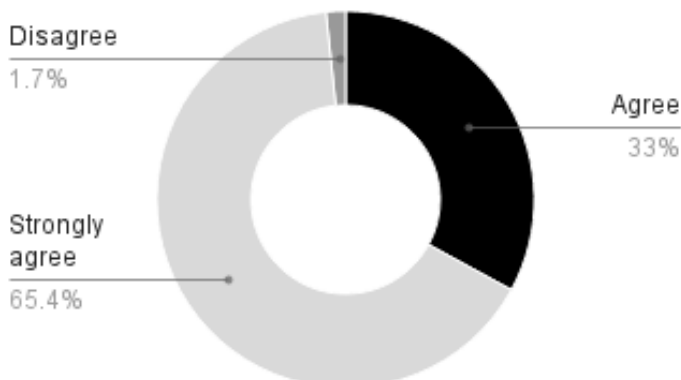
I am more likely to interrupt prejudice, discrimination and injustice when I see it.



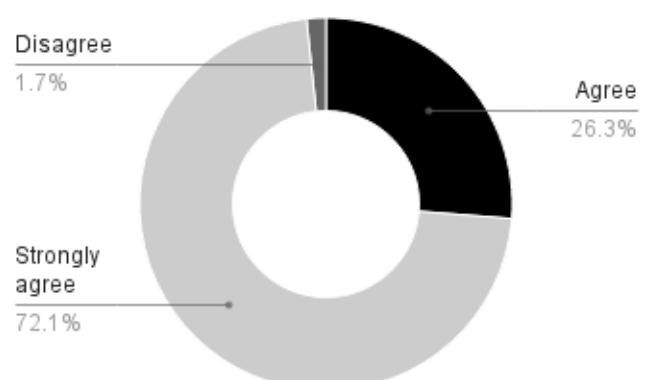
I am more likely to be an ally and interrupt bullying.



I am more likely to empathize with those who may think or act differently from me.



I am more confident working with people who have a different cultural or ethnic background than me.



Qualitative

2. Looking back, what was the most important thing you learned at The Mosaic Project? (n=171)

Answers reinforced the trends seen in the multiple choice responses.

Respondents focused on diversity (11 mentions), prejudice (11 mentions), assertiveness (21 mentions), communication (10 mentions), respect (25 mentions), empathy (26 mentions), and peace (32 mentions).

“Looking back, the most important value I learned from the Mosaic Project was conflict resolution. I learned to communicate my feelings in a way that others could understand and put them in a way that would not hurt them.”
– Fall 2009 attendee, age 15

“The most important thing I learned at The Mosaic Project was truly committing to spreading peace.” – Spring 2008 attendee, age 15

3. How did your experience of connecting with students from different backgrounds impact your life? (n=166)

Thirteen respondents said that connecting with students from other backgrounds was not impactful because of their own diverse backgrounds. However, the majority effused and several said that Mosaic was their first experience with people of different backgrounds.

“I have a much more open mind and I have a very diverse group of friends. I think that Mosaic had a lot to do with that.” – Spring 2003 attendee, age 18

“I met a girl named [redacted] and she was black. I never knew anyone who was black and I thought she would be mean but in the end she was my best friend and I've never felt more closer to any other person but her.” – Spring 2007 attendee, age 14

1. Please share any examples of ways that Mosaic influenced you in making positive change in your community or at your school. (n=148)

Respondents largely reflected on their memories of their week and discussed specific environments where Mosaic lessons were influential (e.g. home, school, activities).

“That week is like a giant string of support and love and understanding and I'm honored to be a part of it. Yes, life may have it's ups and downs but at the end of the day you are you and it's best to love yourself as you are.”
– Spring 2005 attendee, age 15

“Mosaic has really helped me to deal with conflicts within my family. There are a lot of times where I have felt very angry with my parents or my brother, but instead of blowing up at them I have been able to cool myself down and just communicate how I feel and why.” Spring 2005 attendee, age 16

Additional Themes and Thoughts

“I would like to share that the Mosaic completely changed my life and my perspective on the world and my own life. I was sort of a shy and quiet kid. I had a lot of controversial thoughts and feelings but I never felt comfortable sharing them with other people. Ever since I attended the Mosaic, I absolutely love having discussions on problems in our society and controversial topics and sharing my opinion.”
–Fall 2010 attendee, age 15

“Now that I'm attending a school that has students from over 46 different countries in attendance, I'm more comfortable in interacting with ANYBODY and I attribute that to my Mosaic experience.”
– Spring 2002 attendee, age 19

“I believe Mosaic is cultivating young intelligent minds to speak out about injustices around the globe. It is a place for Pioneers to use their empathy and knowledge as a positive weapon for a greater purpose, and that is Peace.”
– Spring 2005 attendee, age 17

- Only one respondent (Fall 2008, age 15) wrote that he had not had a positive experience. Though he noted aligning with The Mosaic values he cited disconnection with his cabin mates and cabin leader.
- A few students noted that they had a difficult time at Mosaic but upon reflection found it valuable such as this attendee: *“I didn't have a great time when I was here but after a lot of reflection I realized that I was so caught up in the drama and everything that was happening. I was too afraid of what others thought to participate fully and I think that personal reflection 7 years later was a very valuable lesson.”* Spring 2007, age 16
- The Mosaic songs were also a strong theme with 20 respondents mentioning songs or music. Though one respondent said they were “too catchy”, all noted their memorability and often their usefulness in retaining Mosaic lessons.

Summary

Respondents come from a diverse racial backgrounds, home cities and ages.

They overwhelmingly responded that they agreed or strongly agreed with statements that measured the value of Mosaic lessons. For the statements “I am more likely resolve conflicts peacefully”, “I manage my anger and other strong emotions more effectively”, “I am more likely to interrupt, prejudice, discrimination and injustice when I see it”, “I am more likely to be an ally and interrupt bullying”, “I am more likely to empathize with those who may think or act differently from me”, and “I am more confident working with people who have different cultural or ethnic backgrounds than me” respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed more than 95% of the time (n=179)

Qualitative response reinforced the positive reactions shown in the multiple choice questions with the large majority of respondents speaking about the endurance of their Mosaic lessons and Mosaic's contribution to the person that they have become in the last five years or more.

Data from this survey will continue as more students become alumni of more than five years and report back.

Finally, in February 2016 we videoed alumni from our original pilot Outdoor School sessions in August 2001 sharing Mosaic's impact on their lives. You can watch the original video created from the pilot sessions followed by the alumni interviews here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBv5npcFPJM&list=PLUiwGsQyHz_6kbeZufmgXz3CNqrCSYg5z&index=3 The alumni interviews begin at 10:10.