

Reading the Shifting Water: A Conversation about Sexism & Sexual Harassment in the Outdoor Industry AO Conference | December 2019 | Salt Lake City, Utah

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Outfitter/	Multiday raft outfitter	Multiday raft outfitter	Outfitter, primarily day trips; rafting,	"Supporting the health and strength
Organizational			zip lining, canoe & kayak instruction,	of Idaho's guiding Community"
Work	Cuideo 15	Cuides 8 essential staffs 100 suides	lodging, retail, food & beverage	One Directory One Contract lineared
Staffing/Leader	Guides - 15	Guides & seasonal staff: 100 guides -	Total Employees – 900, FTYR – 80,	One Director + One Contract Licensed
ship Structure	Staff	120 with drivers, orientation	9mo/12mo – 25, PTYR – 50, Variable	Clinical Practical Counselor + 10
	1 year round salary manager	hostesses, etc. Office staff and warehouse: 10	– 745 (370 new hires, 370 re-hires) Guides - 350ish River Guides	person Board of Directors + 12 Person Guide Liaison Team (Volunteers)
	1 summer manager	office; 15 combined	Office Staff - 50	Guide Liaison ream (volunteers)
	I Summer manager	Managers: 7	Managers - 75	
		Additional structures: Respect and		
		Inclusion Task Force; partnering with		
		Grand Canyon Youth on a Rising		
		Guides initiative		
Gender Ratio	55/45 – Trip Leads 70/30	65/35/?	65/35 or 60/40	50/50 in Redside, 20/80 in Idaho
Breakdown	(female/male)	(male/female/non-binary)	(male/female)	guiding
				(female/male)
Guests	800	1,800	250,000	N/A
Served/Season				
Org Beginning/	2009	Founded in 1965; 3rd generation of	1972	Founded 2010, first full-time staff
Evolution		ownership		hired 2016
Was there a	Outside Magazine article	"A bungled sexual harassment	"Mostly the readily apparent trend	"Spending a decade as a woman in
"spark"/initiati	came out; Jamie Moye	complaint I'll explain."	in the industry and industry	Idaho's guiding industry, and
ng event which	articles; guide realities		publications. I had observed	supporting/mentoring women
brought this	from other river users		situations as a Guide and managed	entering the industry. A spark was
topic to the			through a few situations as G.M. that	also interacting with men in the
forefront for			brought it into the conversation with	industry who wanted to make
you?			my Leadership Team. While it is not	meaningful change in gender
			pervasive, we do deal with incidents	dynamics and support they offered
			every year."	but weren't sure where to start (or
				occasionally were doing more harm
				than good as they began the
				conversation)."

Sexism: Any act, gesture, visual representation, spoken or written words, practice, or behavior based upon the idea that a person or a group of persons is inferior because of their sex, which occurs in the public or private sphere, whether online or offline. (Global Citizen, Internationally agreed upon definition.)

Sexual Harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. (https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/fs-sex.cfm)

- Intent vs. Impact: The ways we hope things are communicated sometimes are not the way they were received. A negative impact can occur that was not intentional. Even so, acknowledging and owning the impact is important.
- **Pile-on-Principle:** Seemingly "small" aggressions can pile up over time when they occur over and over again. This can cause people to be frustrated, and someone who does not realize the cumulative impact may think they are over reacting.
- Allies: Acting as an ally to someone from a marginalized group is a continuous process of challenging common practices and beliefs and showing up for people.

Four Approaches to Inclusive & Respectful Work Environments: Addressing Sexism & Sexual Harassment

Leadership

Managers, owners, supervisors, lead guides must be willing to communicate inclusion and respect as values and expectations – over and over again. This is done through messaging, marketing, encouraging staff to share when this isn't done, training, and hiring. Trust of leadership is a huge component of this work.

<u>Assessment</u>

It's difficult to understand how employees and customers are experiencing your organization without asking. Being willing to survey your people about how they think your company is doing will give you a starting point. It will also communicate to your people that this is a priority, and something you care about.

<u>Training</u>

Providing opportunities to learn about skills and practices of inclusion and respect. For many this will feel like a culture change and shift; people cannot be expected to do it without the understanding why this is important and how to go about fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment. It must happen often and be seen as just as important as other training.

Policy & Procedure

Crafting statements in your employee handbooks, websites, orientation materials, etc. regarding the values of inclusion and respect will communicate the expectation and importance.

A willingness to address when the expectations are not met – through accountability and consequence if necessary will encourage the sustainability of creating this environment.

Websites (and many others):

- <u>A #MeToo Guide for Outdoorsy Dudes</u> via Emerald Lens Media
- <u>https://www.workplacesrespond.org/</u>
- Workplaces Respond to Sexual Violence: A National Resource Center
- <u>https://iwpr.org/publications/sexual-harassment-work-cost/</u>
 Institute for Women's Policy Research

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