



Video Series

The completed video series is in full use with countless college-age men and men's groups across America. This video series is increasing the impact of the TG community nationally and serving as a great recruiting tool for our 3 month program. Additionally, the video series is being shared with our alumni as a reminder of the lessons learned during their program.

Partnerships & Campus Impact

The TG staff is passionate about engaging with leaders in local communities, on college campuses and with organizations such as Young Life and Campus Crusade. We are also grateful for our friendships with men's ministries like Ransomed Heart of Colorado and New Wilderness Adventures in North Carolina. In addition, we are very thankful for our developing relationships with local Colorado Springs churches and businesses too! We are especially appreciative for the Colorado Springs fly fishing shop, Angler's Covey. All of these relationships are mutually beneficial, and we are amazed at the generosity of these organizations and their leaders.

THE WHOLE PICTURE

When looking at the whole picture, we feel TG should add up to more than 100%! Truthfully, we have not even mentioned how we administer all of this, the time spent

fundraising for staff salaries and recruiting for our programs. Suffice it to say, God has blessed us with a full plate, a buffet of ministry if you will. We are satisfied and fulfilled as God is at work! We love what we do and we are blessed to have you in the TG family to walk alongside of us!

As you consider ministries to invest in and support, will you consider the staff and ministry of Training Ground? If you know someone that would like to join the TG family as a donor, prayer partner, a participant in a destination trip, or as a participant in the the summer session, please let us know!

As always, we appreciate your partnership and investment in men of all ages through the ministry of Training Ground

CORY, COREY AND LEE
-The Training Ground Staff



YEAR END
REPORT 2016

10-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

VISION
FOR 2017

TG EST. 2006 work wilderness worship

2017 CALENDAR

February 5	TG Colorado Super Bowl Party
April 14	TG Sarasota Graduation
April 27-30	Sarasota Fishing Trip // TENTATIVE DATES
May 17	TG Colorado Springs Open House
May 20 - August 12	2017 TG Colorado Summer session
September 10 - April 14, 2018	Sarasota Gap Year Program // TENTATIVE DATES
October 19-26	Outer Banks fishing trip // TENTATIVE DATES

2017 PROJECTIONS

Estimated Budget.....\$000,000	Estimated Program Revenue.....\$000,000
--------------------------------	---

STRATEGIC DONATION LIST FOR 2017

SOME SPECIFIC COLORADO NEEDS:

Some newer outdoor gear for summer 2017: \$4K
[We sent some of our older gear to Sarasota for their trips, so we need to replace some sleeping bags and backpacks]
TG House deck rebuild: \$5k
New Trip Trailer: \$5k

SOME SPECIFIC SARASOTA NEEDS:

Boat: \$6K
[There are many places to fish from shore in FL, but a small skiff that could hold all the guys would really change things for them]
300 Chickens: \$500
Barn Furniture for Program Participants: \$2k

How to Support TG? You can give by clicking the 'Donate Now' tab at trainingground.com, by mailing a check at PO Box 49595, Colorado Springs Co 80949, or by credit card over the phone to any staff. Your donations are tax deductible.

IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS. AND WHAT A RIDE IT HAS BEEN!



At the end of December, Training Ground officially turned ten years old. My mind quickly races to thousands of stories of young men being challenged in their faith through this ministry. Since we started with four young men in our summer session of 2007, Training Ground has added numerous weekend destination trips that have afforded us the opportunity to be involved in the lives of hundreds of men. Also in these ten years, the ministry expanded to the first campus outside of Colorado. This past September, the gap year program in Sarasota, Florida began, being led by one of our valued alumni, Corey Woosley.

The original vision back in 2006 included multiple campuses, but we didn't know how to get there. It was in our hearts to create something that would change the lives of Christian young men causing them to know and love the Lord deeper. Both Xan and I had grown up in more traditional styles of discipleship, which we were extremely grateful for, but we needed more. It was our hope to disciple young men as well, but in a different way. We wanted to change the way people thought about discipleship for young men. Our desire was to supply them with the necessary tools to be successful, godly leaders in their communities, families and churches.

2016 has been a great year, maybe one of our finest. With our destination trips to Florida and North Carolina, our twelve-week summer program in Colorado Springs, our continued work with alumni, and the work in Sarasota, it has felt very successful. One thing that I continue to be struck with is this: What we do in the lives of young men works! Because God has equipped us, we are able to give them the necessary training to grow and mature in their faith through the context of life changing relationships.

Corey Woosley, our director in Sarasota FL, is good fruit of the ministry. I am so proud of what he has done in the last five years since his time with TG in

Colorado Springs. He is now a married man, a leader in his community, and leading other young men to find their identity in Christ, largely due to the training he received. He has had some challenges, but seeing him love his wife well and lead young men brings a tear to my eye. If any of you travel through that area, you should grab coffee with him to hear his passion to see young men grow.

It is a good season to reflect on the last ten years and to dream about the next ten. Our hope is to continue training staff, and to start new campuses where young men will have the same opportunities to grow and be strengthened in their faith. This is most certainly a good time to reflect and be grateful for everything we've experienced, including the challenges. Without the pains of the first ten years, we never would have been prepared for the next ten. The lessons we have learned as a small non-profit have been invaluable in helping to create and build a ministry that allows us to see the desire of our hearts fulfilled. We are truly grateful.

Just as we needed your partnership for the last ten years, your involvement remains crucial for the next ten. Please see below for ways you can be involved in the continued ministry of Training Ground. If you have any questions, you can call or email me directly.

Thank you so much for being faithful over the last ten years. It has been a joy simply to know you as well as take part in furthering the Kingdom of God together. God's faithfulness is evident in the ministry and in our own lives. Lee, Corey W., and I pray that you will continue to partner with us in the years to come as we commit ourselves to impacting young men's lives for the Kingdom of God.



FROM OUR BEGINNINGS TO TODAY –

In 2006, Cory Smith and Xan Hood desired to make a difference in the lives of college-age men and birthed the ministry of Training Ground. It was a huge risk. Ten years later Training Ground continues to impact men all over the country!

Training Ground has ministered to over 250 men through our intensive programs. These men have spent over 170,000 combined hours in solid biblical teaching and being mentored. This would be equal to one guy being taught for 40 hours a week for almost 82 years!

We love it and are privileged to be in the lives of these men. With every marriage the Training Ground Family expands exponentially. In one 18 month time period [2014-2015], eighteen of our alumni were married and eight alumni were engaged.

In the beginning, Training Ground focused only on the 3-month TG sessions. Today, we are no longer just a summer discipleship program but have added a 7 month Gap Year Program in Sarasota Florida. We have also become a ministry that impacts our local community through are involvement at nearby colleges, churches, and our growing community of volunteers.

As you look at the pie chart graphic you can see there are three major areas where we invest 90% our time.

DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMS - 50%

Many of our supporters are familiar with the variety of amazing ways God works in our 3 month summer sessions and that in 2016 We added a 7 month gap year program.

Through the 3 pillars of valuing hard work, the importance of the wilderness adventure, and the necessity for worshipping our Creator,

the young men are engaged holistically in their journeys as men. This process is an intense, purposeful, and multifaceted training that challenges them physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.

During a typical week, a young man will work 40 hours, spend a day in nature fishing, listen to a guide talking about biblical interpretation, and participate in various topics from calling, finances, sexual addictions, caring for the heart of a women, or a man's story.

Out of the 2000 plus hours a young man spends in the TG program, he receives over 200 hours of individualized instruction. During this time, we also engage his story. Many of our guys may share of feeling entitled, wounded by abuse, passive from an overbearing parent, or feeling deep grief over the loss of a relationship.

As a community, we get to watch this beautiful process of brokenness, healing and restoration as God meets these young men in the most vulnerable parts of their hearts and stories. We are so grateful to be a part of what He is doing.

ALUMNI - 20%

When a young man participates and graduates the 3 month summer session, or the gap year program, it is just the beginning!

After the TG experience, our guys can participate in life-long discipleship with TG. The continuing contact with TG staff and the broader TG community offers them opportunities to sustain their maturity, growth and development. As a staff, we weekly make 20 - 30 contacts with our alumni. Simple text, phone calls, emails, social media, and face to face meetings all reinforce the valuable lessons of their Training Ground experience.

The TG staff invest 20% or more of our time intentionally in the lives of the men that have come through our program.

Our alumni can also stay in contact on the private TG Brotherhood Facebook page.

LOCAL COMMUNITY - 20%

It may seem strange to talk so much about our Local Community but for us it makes complete sense. We could not accomplish this ministry to college-age men without the 125 plus men and women who come alongside our staff.

We believe that everyone has something to offer and that involvement facilitates a broader community.

Our invitation to our guides and volunteers is to be who they are and offer what God has taught them.

Throughout our programs, we see older men walking in their own stories and offering the good, the bad and the ugly. Our young men sit wide-eyed, gleaning not just the lessons being offered but also the fathering they need. The women also offer a unique view of Godly femininity and intimacy with God that challenges and offers healing and invitation. Together, this broader TG community has donated over 15,000 hours of individual teaching and mentoring.

THE REMAINING 10%

We are excited about the ways we spend the balance of our time!

Destination Trips

Throughout the Fall and Spring, we lead and facilitate destination trips to the Outer Banks of North Carolina and to the shores of Sarasota, Florida. These trips take us to where men are located and offer an experience of what happens in our longer TG sessions. Men of all ages (including fathers and sons) receive solid teaching, hear men's stories and share adventures. Destination trips' locations are selected for some great fishing!

These trips continually lead young men to enroll in our 3 month sessions in Colorado!