



To Donors and Supporters,

*I have **HUGE** news about the growth of Return to Dirt.*

After four years of partnership and many successful collaborations, the High Fives Foundation has absorbed Return to Dirt to make us a program service of their organization. Our activities will be largely the same but with the stability, experience and mighty reputation of High Fives.

What is the High Fives Foundation?

High Fives is the safety net of the outdoor sports community. They focus on preventing life-changing injuries and providing resources and hope if they happen. Of the \$6 million that they've disbursed since 2009, much of that has been in the form of Empowerment Grants for injured athletes and first-time adaptive experiences in sports such as surfing, skiing, biking, fishing, and (my favorite) DIRT.

How did this relationship begin?

When I broke my neck backcountry skiing at 19 years old, Roy Tuscany (High Fives Founder and CEO) and the High Fives Foundation started supporting me and my family before I had even survived the ICU. You can imagine what it was like for us to get a message from a stranger, who also sustained a spinal cord injury while skiing, offering advice that has become gospel: "It will never be the same, but it can still be awesome." Roy has been this same positive force for hundreds of other injured athletes since then.

Long after my immediate recovery, the High Fives Foundation gave me opportunities to try adaptive skiing, surfing, mountain biking, fly fishing and, most importantly, an introduction to a community within their organization referred to as the "Ohana." They've since supported Return to Dirt from inception to present.

Takeaways

-The Return to Dirt program is still open to anyone with a physical mobility impairment and a passion for the outdoors (you don't have to be a High Fives Athlete to apply for Return to Dirt trips).



highfivesfoundation.org



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-When you donate in the future, you will be donating to the High Fives Foundation and will receive tax exempt information from High Fives. However you can still donate directly to the Return to Dirt program at-<https://highfivesfoundation.org/programs/return-to-dirt/>. Or in the case of checks, they will be made out to the High Fives Foundation with **Return to Dirt** in the memo section if you'd like to support the DIRT program directly.

-Our goal has always been to bring as many deserving individuals into the backcountry as possible. Integration with High Fives will help us achieve that goal faster and more efficiently. High Fives has also connected us with new partners, including Muc-Off, GoPro, Spy Optics, Eddie Bauer, Yeti, Monster Energy Cares, Xtratuf, Darn Tough and Ski Town All Stars, that will contribute to our program and our athletes. The "stoke" is real!

Conclusion

Return to Dirt is growing significantly by integrating within the High Fives Foundation, and I see only more great things in our future.

And with that, I'd like to offer you one huge and DIRTY, HIGH FIVE!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim Burr'.

Tim Burr
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