

Chris Stakich

Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Rustic Pathways

Chris Stakich serves as the chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Rustic Pathways. He has worked at the intersection of education, community service, and student travel his entire career. Since joining Rustic Pathways in 2002, Stakich has worked in virtually all areas of the organization, from running programs in Costa Rica to managing the global team. Stakich was named CEO in September 2014 and in his first year in the role, Rustic Pathways set organizational records in students traveled, impact on the ground, and in profitability. With operations in more than 20 countries around the world, and recruiting students from 60 plus countries, Rustic Pathways is widely viewed as the global leader in community service and education-based travel for students.

In 2006, Stakich took a hiatus from Rustic Pathways to co-found Thinking Beyond Borders, an educational organization that takes graduating high school seniors around the world for eight months to study global development issues from social, political and economic perspectives. The goal in creating Thinking Beyond Borders was to develop the most academically and experientially intense program in student travel. Stakich served as CEO and executive director of Thinking Beyond Borders from 2006 to 2009. He has served as chairman of the board since returning to Rustic Pathways in September of 2009. With his return to Rustic Pathways, Stakich was able to focus on scaling programs on a global basis.

In addition to serving on the boards of Rustic Pathways and Thinking Beyond Borders, Stakich is also a board member of Compass Academies and University High School.

Stakich is a 2001 graduate of Harvard University. He now lives in San Francisco with his wife and three young sons, and is committed to developing future leaders who embody compassion and global understanding.

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