

JOSH BERNSTEIN

EXPLORER | EDUCATOR | STORYTELLER

Josh Bernstein is the founder and chair of the [First Light](#) group of companies. This includes First Light Education, First Light Studios, First Light Expeditions, and the First Light Foundation. Together, this for profit / not-for-profit hybrid ecosystem focuses on the most important global challenge we face today: ensuring a sustainable future for humanity and our planet. First Light's carefully selected initiatives create engagement, build advocacy, and inspire actions on topics including oceans, climate, space, education, wildlife, health, energy, and humanity.

EXPLORER

A fellow of both The Explorers Club and the Royal Geographical Society, Josh has traveled more than 1,000,000 miles by train, plane, bus, bike, and camel to over 75 countries and all seven continents in pursuit of knowledge and discovery. He has traced the Ark of the Covenant from the caverns of Jerusalem to the sacred waters of Ethiopia, communed with tribal chiefs in the remotest jungles of the Amazon and Papua New Guinea, and ventured deep underground with NASA scientists to shed light on some of the most fascinating mysteries on our planet.

EDUCATOR

For 25 years, Josh was a wilderness guide with BOSS, the [Boulder Outdoor Survival School](#), the oldest and largest survival school in the country. Josh first attended BOSS as a student in 1988 and rose through the ranks from apprentice to instructor to marketing director to president & CEO of the company, which he then led for 17 years. In 2013, Josh sold BOSS and moved to Washington, DC to work with the Smithsonian Institution on a new STEM education initiative. With grants from the Smithsonian, the Department of Education, the Bezos Family Foundation, and others, Josh founded [Explorer At Large \(XAL\)](#), a program that gives students the *curiosity* to ask questions and the *courage* to seek answers. The success of Josh's work with the Smithsonian led to the opportunity to create two additional STEM programs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): [Project Ianos](#) with the Aldrin Family Foundation in 2021 and [Students To Launch](#) with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2022. All of these initiatives, plus others, now run under [First Light Education](#), where Josh and a team of educators use best-in-class methodologies to help the students of today prepare to face and solve the challenges of tomorrow.

STORYTELLER

A critically acclaimed author and public speaker, Josh connects and communicates with audiences through a variety of media, including books, photographs, documentaries, and feature films produced by [First Light Studios](#). As a television presenter, Josh is known to audiences in 220 countries and territories around the world for his approachable, authentic style and insatiable curiosity. For three years, Josh hosted the record-breaking hit series *Digging for the Truth* on the History Channel which, to this day, is still the highest-rated and most respected adventure-archaeology series on TV. He was also the host and executive producer of the Discovery Channel's epic series *Into the Unknown with Josh Bernstein*. In the years following, Josh hosted and consulted on a number of other shows, including



working with the National Geographic Channel, NBC News, and Animal Planet. In addition to his current work on camera, Josh executive produces and narrates feature films, documentaries, and short-form videos for clients around the world including governments, government agencies, and other high-profile institutions and foundations committed to quality storytelling that makes a difference.

PHOTOGRAPHER

A professional photographer for over 30 years, Josh has created images for *Vogue*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Men's Health*, *Men's Journal*, *Backpacker*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and for solo gallery exhibitions stretching from New York to California. His work today blends the use of still images and video to engage audiences on important topics.

AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (Member)
Explorers Club (Fellow & Former Board Member)
Royal Geographical Society (Fellow)

SeaSpace Symposium (Board Member)
Sierra Club (Lifetime member)
Boulder Outdoor Survival School (Board member)

CERTIFICATIONS

International Association of Nitrox & Technical Divers (IANTD) – Cave Diver, Nitrox Diver
Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) – Master Diver, Emergency O2 Provider
Technical Diving International (TDI/SDI/ERSI) – Advanced Wreck Diver, Deco Procedures Diver, Evolution Air Diluent Diver, JJ-CCR Air Diluent Diver, Exosuit ADS Pilot, Full Face Mask Diver, Sidemount Diver

COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES VISITED

Antarctica, Antigua, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Easter Island, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Guatemala, Guinea, Hong Kong, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Palestinian Territories, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Rwanda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turks & Caicos, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States, Vatican City, Virgin Islands, Wales, Yemen, Zimbabwe

PERSONAL

Born and raised in New York City, Josh studied at Cornell University, where he double-majored in Anthropology & Psychology and double-minored in Near Eastern Studies and Native American Studies. When not home in Manhattan, Josh travels approximately 120+ days per year. His passions include technical SCUBA diving (cave, wreck, rebreather), admiring/restoring vintage Land Cruisers, and enjoying the occasional Cuban cigar with friends.

CONTACT

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