

PEAK 7 ADVENTURES

MARCH 2015 Newsletter



the challenge of sahale peak

"If you want to be a mountain climber, you've got to climb mountains - and that can be really hard." We're at a campground in North Cascades National Park. Before me are eight teenage boys. Some of them really struggled with the ascent, while others relished the challenge.

"Now that we're up here, look around. What do you see? How do you feel? Is it not worth the climb?" I ask.

Glances back and forth. For some, yes- this is definitely worth it. This is why they had come: to conquer Sahale Peak. Others still aren't so sure. The mixture of accomplishment and exhaustion is evident on their faces.



"Some of you may be thinking, 'That was really hard. And I'm glad that I did it. But if you asked me to do this again? No thanks. And that's ok. Not everyone wants to be a mountain climber. But I can tell you this: if you want anything in this life, you've got to work for it like we worked to get up the mountain. If you want to be a pilot, you've got to learn to fly, right?'" That sounds reasonable enough, nods all around.

"Meeting a big goal is hard. But you know what? If you truly go after it, it must be worth it. Jesus said that if you want to follow him you have to put down what you're doing and go. Anyone think that might be kind of a challenge?"

"Let me ask another question: for the pilot learning to fly - does he like it? What about the mountain climber, during his ascent? Don't these people, during the heat of it, enjoy doing the things that make them pilots and mountain climbers?"

"I'll be honest with you guys. Being a follower of Christ is a challenge. But it's also worth the challenge. Just like the pilot learning to fly, the challenge of following Christ is worth it because of what you learn and gain along the way."

Christ told us up front that following him would be a challenge. What we learn along the way is that, while sometimes still painful, the challenge can also be joyful. And for the kids on this trip, the climb up Sahale Peak was a very tangible taste of that journey.

~Tucker Walker, Ascent Leader

a letter from Ryan

Dear Friends,

As the sun starts to come out and the temperatures outside tell us that spring is coming, I can't help but get excited about the adventures to come with Peak 7. After a winter of some beautiful (and some dreary) snowshoeing trips, we are ready for summer. Across Spokane, Seattle, and Oregon, our staff are gearing up for a season of backpacking, rafting, and rock climbing with some incredible groups that deserve to experience God's creation.

In Spokane, Jubilee Youth Ranch will return for its 6th year of Peak 7 trips. Their willingness to be authentic and work through their struggles makes this group one of the most rewarding.

In Seattle, our guides are working on a hiking program with the Wounded Warrior Project that will culminate with a multi-day backpacking trip designed to encourage and support injured veterans.

In Oregon, 12 homeless youth from Open House Ministries will travel outside their hometown for the first time ever to raft 42 miles and swim rapids, cliff jump, and rappel along the way.

These groups (and many others like them) will get to immerse themselves in the beauty of creation this year because of your love and support for Peak 7. We are so grateful for your generosity and we can't wait to share stories about the youth we serve this year. We know there will be some great ones.

Ryan Kerrigan

highlighted giving opportunity

Sponsor a Rafter

Peak 7's goal is to brighten the lives of young people through meaningful outdoor adventures. This June we'll be taking over 2,000 kids on rafting trips. Many kids have never experienced the thrill of whitewater rafting and they're relying on Peak 7 and our supporters to be able to go!

~For \$80, you can give one youth a whitewater adventure this summer

~For \$20/month, you can sponsor 3 rafters over the course of a year

Check out our website www.peak7.org to donate!



upcoming events

April 2015: Summer trips for youth start with rafting and then mountaineering and rock climbing all summer long!

Spokane Dessert Fundraiser: April 16, 2015, 7- 8:30 p.m.
Lincoln Center, Spokane
Contact us for more info!

Spokane LANTERN FEST: May 30, 2015
Sign up to *volunteer* with us or *register* to attend using promo code *peak7*
Contact us for more info!

Spokane COLOR ME RAD: Saturday, June 13, 2015
Sign up to *volunteer* with us or *register* to run using promo code *peak7*
Contact us for more info!

DIRTY DASH (ES)!
Saturday, June 27: Olympia
Saturday, July 18: Spokane
Saturday, July 25: Oregon
Contact us to *volunteer* or go to their website to *register* using promo code *peak7*. Both ways earn funds for Peak 7!

Spokane SLIDE THE CITY: Saturday, August 15
Sign up to *volunteer* with us or *register* to run using promo code *Peak7Slider*
Contact us for more info! All summer events support Peak 7's efforts to serve youth!