



TURN UP THE HEAT

Rafting Wrap-up

"I had the best time of my young adult life so I thank you from the bottom of my heart and I will never forget this experience!" - Aaron.

Quotes like these help us remember how great an opportunity God has given us at Peak 7 to not only guide rafting trips with young people, but to impact their lives long term. Yesterday we ran the river for the last time this year and couldn't believe how fast the rafting season flew by. We thank God for



the safety that He gave us during these adventures and the way He controlled the rivers to allow us to take so many participants down the rivers.

In Wenatchee, we ran trips for two weeks with youth from Seattle. We built relationships with street kids from intervention schools, treatment

centers, YMCA's and discipleship programs. Many of these kids were growing up on the streets, struggling with all kinds of addictions, and wandering aimlessly without hope. We were struck by how lost these kids are and what difficult lives they've been enslaved to. These are the people we strive to reach with the good news of Christ.

Back here in Spokane, our relationships with local youth and adult organizations have increased. We find that very encouraging and exciting. On a recent trip with Excelsior, a local residential group treatment center. God used His river and a fear of rapids to help these teens to trust someone other than themselves - and to enjoy it! One of our last trips was with the Union Gospel Mission, a men's homeless shelter and discipleship program in Spokane. We were able to hear story after story (see quote at right) of how these men have been freed from their old ways of life and are daily striving to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord". While on the river, they spoke of how their lives are being challenged in many ways at the mission and now on the river. Relationships with organizations such as Excelsior and Union Gospel Mission really inspire and encourage us to bring groups out on the river and experience something completely new and exciting in life. Hopefully, they can begin enjoying the outdoors on a day to day basis. We look forward to next season with them. We are honored to be a part of planting a seed and building relationships with young people.

MEMORABLE QUOTES

"You made it possible for [men] who have been through homelessness, drugs, alcohol abuse and many other traumatic life experiences to have a day of good clean and exciting fun filled with laughter, camaraderie, and simple joy! Thank you so much for making this experience possible...I can't tell you how much it meant to me to see them laugh and enjoy each others company." - Men's Counselor, Union Gospel Mission

"It was so amazing to see God's beautiful creation through the waves and people. Thanks for making this possible. God Bless" - Olivia



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THANKS VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all who volunteered with Peak 7 during the rafting season. Here are some of the great things we heard back from staff and other volunteers.

- **“It is people like you who assist God in changing lives”**
- Danielle
- **“...we love how the Lord is using you to help others”**- Moses
- **“This was a turning point for my client. She needed to see and hear what the day related with respect to adversity, forgiveness and resilience. These staff members from Peak 7 were right on. Thanks.”** – Ursula

Shouldering our Packs

We just got back from a staff training weekend, backpacking together in the mountains where we will do our Ascent trips. The training included Peak 7 staff, volunteers, junior guides, and some young men who have gone with us in the past to help carry gear. It was a great weekend for us all. We reviewed Ascent procedures with new staff/volunteers and familiarized ourselves with the area and the campsites we will be using. There was lots of snow, lots of sunshine, and lots of trekking. We shared testimonies and had a powerful prayer time under the stars on the shores of Robin Lake. It was a great time of team-building and becoming unified in our purpose of changing young people's lives through the beauty of God's creation and the power of His gospel. We know that God has so

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

In our interactions with young men and women, we meet some who show leadership potential but are living in situations that don't allow them to make full use of their gifts. Peak 7 decided to develop a Leadership Training Program to help these kids overcome the hurdles they face. By spending time with them and investing in their lives, we hope to help them to reach their full potential to lead others out of similar difficult circumstances.



Matt Setliff (left) & Brian Jamieson

Hi! My name is Matt Setliff and I am an intern with Peak 7. I come from a rough background. My family was not Christian and they were pretty heavy into drugs. My father died when I was six so I never really had a father figure. So, I guess you could say life was tough. I got into drugs in middle school; that life continued until I accepted Christ at a Bible camp before high school. My struggles continued due to a lack of understanding of what a relationship with Christ means. My sophomore year in high school I got involved with Youth for Christ and my life began to turn around. In April '07 I was given an opportunity to go on a backpacking trip with Peak 7.

My way was paid for by donations by Peak 7 supporters. I jumped at the chance and that week was incredible. Still, with no direction in life, I dropped out of high-school. Since dropping out of school, I got my GED but have basically sat on my rear and played video games day in and day out, occasionally working here and there. At the end of March this year, Ryan and Trey sat me down and challenged me to become involved in Peak 7's Leadership Training Program. I jumped on the offer right away. Since being here with Peak 7, I have done everything from tedious office work to learning how to guide a raft down the river. God is using the Peak 7 staff to show me how to work harder than I ever have before. I've never had anyone be an example in this area, at times it is difficult to change my habits, but I trust the Lord to work His will in me. Peak 7 has been an amazing opportunity and I praise God for connecting me such a great ministry.



many great things in store for us and for the kids He sends our way. Please join us as we pray without ceasing for the safety of these trips, and for God to move and work in the lives of these participants.

- Ryan Kerrigan



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