



SUMMER EDITION

SUMMER 2009

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

THINGS ARE WARMING UP

Peak 7 Bocce Ball Tournament

A Huge Success!



Thank you to all sponsors, players, and volunteers!

THE OLYMPIC COAST TRAIL

The last week of March on Washington's Olympic Peninsula can equate to challenging weather, interesting trail conditions, and high river crossings. One might lean towards rescheduling their backpacking trip. However, after scouting the trail the week prior, we decided the route was perfectly safe and these conditions would only make our participants stronger in the end. The girls trudged north from the Ho river south of Forks determined to set foot on the La Push beach which lies 17 miles of trail ahead. The muddy conditions quickly claimed any preconceived notions that this trip would be a cake-walk. The boys hit the trail at La Push and headed south to the Ho. Ancient trees coated in green moss lined the path, sometimes blocking the set trail. Creative problem-solving to get around these resting giants pushed the boys and

girls from Youth for Christ (YFC), a youth drop center in West-Central Spokane, to figure out how to overcome the obstacle and find the path again. On the third day of our five-day adventure, after overcoming rope ladders and camping in the coastal rain, the boys' and girls' journeys merged at Goodman

Creek. Each group encouraged the other as they strapped their bags to the rigged zip-line overhead and waded into the waist-high waters to the other side. Both parties pushed on to their last trail camp and then hiked out the following day.

"I never thought I would ever be able to accomplish something like this. I feel more confident in my abilities now."

- Amarisa Baker

We again rendezvoused the final night for smores' by the campfire and a time to exchange stories from the trail. Each night we talked about the importance of good fellowship, teamwork, leadership, and how the Bible is a great guide to progress in these areas. The growth that emerged from these high school students over the course of the week was beautiful and obvious.



-Goodman Creek Crossing-

SUMMER IN THE CASCADES

Backpacking season is just around the corner. As the river levels start to fall, the rafts will be put away and the backpacks and climbing gear will be dusted off. This year Peak 7 has added a 'Father-Son' trip to the itinerary for July 27 - July 31. Peak 7 will also be running climbing trips this summer. For groups that can't commit to a week but have a day, this program is perfect for working on trust and overcoming fear. Our staff are able to work one on one with each kid.

The Peak 7 staff will be heading out

on their maiden voyage to the cascades for training and scouting the last week of June. Groups will start heading out the second week of July and will run through September.

"I look forward to watching kids grow in confidence, grow in ability, and grow in the Lord..."

-Ashley Paul

The summer staff are anxious and ready to take kids out of the city and into the mountains!



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SEEING GOD'S HAND

- *The bocce ball tournament ran without a hitch, He provided in so many ways to make it an enjoyable event for everyone involved.*
- *Over \$23,000 raised from bocce ball tournament.*
- *God put together an incredible staff for this summer.*
- *We have been given a matching grant for 2009 from our "angel donor". The grant will be 25 cents on the dollar, up to \$50,000 for individual donations.*
- *God has already lined-up more than 1000 participants to go on rafting, climbing and ascent trips.*



RAFTING 2009 REVIEW

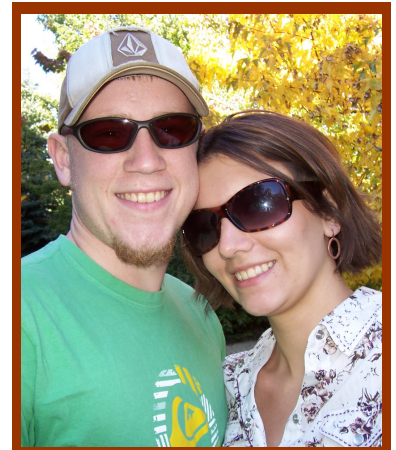
The Peak 7 staff watched as the Spokane River's banks thawed from the harsh winter and then began to rise with frigid snowmelt water. Trips began the last week of March with participants requesting two wetsuits and the thickest gloves available. The last weekend of May, we took the last groups through Bowl & Pitcher and Devil's Toenail with short wetsuits and water guns to stay cool in the near 90 degree weather. But the weather wasn't the only thing that warmed this spring. Over 1000 participants have hopped in the rafts with Peak 7 so far this spring, and the stories shared at the end of the trips are a testimony of the warming of hearts that also took place. A dose of fresh air, and a glimpse of how to have good-clean fun was all many of these kids and adults needed to restore hope in their lives. Fears were conquered, the Gospel was shared, and wonderful memories were made.

NEW ASCENT STAFF

Wow, as my wife can attest I am super pumped to be a part of Peak 7 and their ministry. It is all I've been talking about for the last several weeks! I'm really looking forward to getting an opportunity to serve God in such an incredible setting. It will be great to spend time with kids and showing them more about who God is and what He has done for each of them. A little about myself: I grew up mostly in Spokane, Washington as the oldest of 4 boys. Almost 4 years ago I was married to my wonderful wife, Theresa, and last November was blessed with the birth of the world's most beautiful baby girl, Ellie. I know all parents think their kids are the cutest, but I'm pretty

sure mine really is! Anyway, I am currently a student at Eastern Washington University pursuing a BA in Outdoor Recreation. I love the outdoors and spend most of my free time, which there doesn't seem to be much of anymore, fly-fishing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, whitewater rafting, and snowboarding. I also love playing guitar and singing on the worship team at church and I am a complete sports nut! This summer is going to be an awesome time in God's creation. I can't wait to get started!

-Ryan Brown



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