

PEAK 7 ADVENTURES

JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING RACES



THE DIRTY DASH

It's that time! Sign up today for The Dirty Dash using the Promo code **PEAK7** and 50% of your registration will go to support Peak 7 Adventures!

South Sound, WA
June 21st

Eugene, OR
June 28th

Spokane, WA
July 19th

Alternatively, you can come and show your support as a Dirty Dash Volunteer! Every volunteer hour you donate generates additional funds to support Peak 7. Contact tucker.walker@peak7.org for more info.



COLOR ME RAD

Color Me Rad is in Spokane! Sign up today using the Promo code **PEAK7** and you will get 10% off of your registration while 15% will go to support Peak 7 Adventures!

Spokane, WA
June 14th

You can also join our team by volunteering at the race. Every hour you donate generates \$15 to support Peak 7 Adventures. Contact tucker.walker@peak7.org for more information on how to sign up!



WHAT

This year, Bocce Ball is gonna be totally rad. It's **80's Themed!** So put together your team of four, come up with a killer team name (*Save Ferris* anyone?) and start growing out your mullets.

WHEN

Sunday, September 14, 2014

WHERE

Where else?
the Bozarth Mansion,
of course!

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers help with everything from setup and tear down to refereeing and photo taking. Bocce Ball wouldn't be a reality without the help of dozens of volunteers. Contact tucker.walker@peak7.org to get the scoop!

Dear Friends,

Normally I would use this space to highlight the latest news and upcoming Peak 7 events. While you can find that information on the back page, I want to instead tell you the story of a recent trip which is the motivation for everything we do here at Peak 7 Adventures:

The day started out like any other rafting trip. It rained a little while we were pumping up boats, but the sun started peeking through the clouds as the group arrived.

The group was from a behavioral health care center for self-harm teens – those abusing substances, cutting themselves, or proving to be a danger to themselves or others. Their leaders were rehabilitation counselors who work regularly with the youth.

We greeted everyone, got them geared up and played a short game before discussing river safety and getting on the water. Once on the river, we played games (they were hesitant to get wet at first, but once everyone got in the water, it was hard to get them out!), and navigated two class III rapids. Before each major rapid, we discussed listening to the guide, working as a team to paddle in-sync, and what to do if they fell out.

It was a great day on the water, but what happened afterward was so much more meaningful. During our post-trip discussion, we talked with the group about how they felt going into the trip versus how they felt after. They shared how nervous they felt at the beginning and how their confidence grew as the trip progressed. They understood the need for a guide in the boat as well as having a guide to help navigate the difficulties in life.

Demonstrating to these kids that they are loved and cared for, and that they are capable of the same, can have an incredible impact. During the float, the teens displayed complete trust in their guides and were amazing at watching out for one another; not letting someone fall out without getting them back in right away. During the discussion, the group leaders made a connection between the trust youth had in the guides with the level of trust they wished their youth had in them. If these kids could develop that trust with their leader and open up as they had during a few hours of rafting, what great wonders they could achieve!

As these young adults drew parallels between the challenges of rafting and those in their own lives, they showed incredible depth. One young girl shared how she would cut herself. One time, she cut herself so deeply she thought she was going to die. She called her friend and told her goodbye. She talked about the perseverance it took to make it through the hard times, the rapids, even when the end seems out of sight. Tears streamed down her and another girl's face as she shared.

At the end of the discussion, a couple teens sang songs that related how they felt about the trip. One of those songs was "I Won't Give Up" by Jason Mraz. It felt a little weird to listen to someone sing, but realizing that his soul was in it - that he was energized to never give up, even when things get rough - was truly fantastic.

These young adults left this trip realizing they don't have to go through difficulties in life alone. There is always someone willing to help them reach the end of every rapid, even those so big and scary they seem to have no end.

Thank you for making these experiences possible for the youth that need them the most!

Ryan Kerrigan
Executive Director



MEET THE 2014 PEAK 7 GUIDES



JACOB WUESTHOFF

Jacob grew up helping his mom with the family business: managing the only store in Thorp, WA and running a rafting company until he married his wife, Eryn, and moved to Cheney, WA.



DAKOTA BAUMAN

Dakota hails from Colorado; his love for climbing began when first taken up an exposed, freestanding sandstone spire in Colorado Springs.



KIRBY GRUBAUGH

Kirby Grubaugh is originally from Kennewick, Washington and is currently attending Eastern Washington University. He loves to share his experiences in community with others.



ROSIE DUNN

Rosie is from Portland, OR. After an amazing summer Junior Guiding, she is now part of our summer guide team. She loves ministering to the youth on the trips, sharing her passion for Christ and love for outdoor adventure.



HUNTER BADGLEY

Hunter grew up in a small town in Southeast Alaska. He grew to love the outdoors while kayaking the Yukon River, backpacking the Chilkoot Trail, and climbing mountains in Ecuador.

ZACK O'BRYANT

Zack grew up in a small town in South Carolina near the Appalachian Mountains. He studies Environmental Science and is looking forward to a career in land conservation.



LINDEY NELSON

Lindey has worked in several places since receiving her Art Education degree at Campbellsville University, including an Environmental Corps in Austin, TX; refurbishing Hurricane damaged homes in Biloxi, MS; and teaching English in China.



MEGAN JAMIESON

Megan grew up in Spokane with a whitewater-loving family and learned the joys of whitewater rafting and kayaking from a young age.



PAUL ISITT

Paul is from Oregon and is the youngest of six siblings. He thinks that being outdoors in God's creation is a great way to share His love with kids.



KARA RASMUSSEN

Kara was born and raised in Wausau, Wisconsin and recently finished her last semester of school in Stevens Point Wisconsin. She has a minor in Adventure Education and loves to be in God's great playground.



KYLE PETTIT

Kyle was born in Ft. Lewis and grew up in a military family, stationed around the world. Kyle served 9 years in the United States Army, and he and his wife Beth along with four children have settled in the outlying Spokane area.



JESSICA ROBERTS

Jess is from Mtn. Grove, Missouri but currently resides in Springfield, MO. Her love for the outdoors and adventure began at a young age while horseback riding, BMX biking, building forts, camping, and playing in the country with her nine brothers and sisters.



SARA-ANNE LEAVITT

Sara-Anne lives on a small farm in Oregon and loves wide open spaces, the smell of trees, brand new notebooks, people-watching, rain, riding horses bareback in pastures, and milking goats.



TJ KICHENMASTER

TJ heard about Peak 7, and is excited to share his faith in an outdoor setting. He loves to go on hikes, drink from mountain springs, fly remote controlled helicopters, sing, play violin, and play paintball.

CALEB LYNCH

Caleb has been passionate about God and the outdoors from an early age. He is working on a degree from a local community college as he continues to find work in adventure recreation. In his free time, he is probably spending time with friends or out climbing.



KEVIN GLOVER

Originally from Nevada, Kevin is in Spokane studying Biology and Theology at Whitworth University. Kevin is a self-stated avid backpacker, injury-prone mountain biker, and an enthusiastic but mediocre climber. He also writes for the outdoor publication FeedTheHabit.com.



RACHEL RANDOLPH

Rachel will be coming to us after two years of teaching middle school art in Nashville, TN. She comes from a background in adventure ministry with Doe River Gorge Ministries in Elizabethton, TN where she fell in love with serving young people and teaching about the Gospel in God's Creation.



TINO QUIROGA

Tino is from the Seattle area where he has worked for Childcare Worldwide and The Hope Heart Institute. He is a world traveller, and will be getting back from a trip to Africa to work with us!



NOAH PRICE

Noah has enjoyed the past year at North Idaho College where his outdoor training has been formalized with the Outdoor Leadership Certification. He says that he has been very fortunate, and wants to begin to use his skills to pay it forward.

