



great outdoor adventure trips

summer 2010 newsletter

Volume no.2 Issue no.2

This summer



By the time you get this, our summer will be over and the kids will be back in school. Crazy how time flies, huh? It's looking like we'll end up serving around 300 kids and 50 of their leaders for the summer. Which is pretty crazy! Really crazy! Twice as many as last year crazy!

Besides having opportunities to work with many of our groups from last year, we've met and worked with a ton of new groups and students this summer. Just to give you a taste, here are a couple of groups we've been blessed to get to know this summer: Glenn Springs Academy (group home), Generations Group Home, Upstate Circle of Friends, The Frazee Center, The Boys Farm, The Boys Home of the South, Graduate Greenville, Building Dreams, The Boys & Girls Club and Greenville Mental Health.



"I got saved on the Appalachian Trail!!"



At the end of June, we went on our first backpacking trip of the summer with a group we've had the pleasure of working with for the past two summers, the Boys Home of the South. As a group home (you guessed it, in the south) they take in young men between the ages of 6 and 21 that are placed by the Department of Social Services and give them a great home environment in which to live. A lot of these boys have been bounced around through group homes and foster homes much of their lives, and therefore have never had much of an opportunity to do the cool stuff we do.

Last summer we did a number of single day trips with their boys and began to build relationships with

them and their staff. As we were planning for this summer, we had some open time and money (thanks to our awesome donors) and offered them an overnight backpacking/rafting trip on the Appalachian Trail. They were literally thrilled.

While on the trip, we taught the boys about all of the times God lead people into the wilderness to teach them about themselves and raise up leaders (Moses, Jacob, Elijah, John the Baptist, and a guy named Jesus). The second day, we went out for what we call a "solo". A solo is simply some time alone, in the middle of the woods to think, pray, write, draw, or do whatever and try to figure out why God has brought them out there.

One of our staff had a chance to talk to one particular boy during his solo

time and he mentioned that he "had no idea what would happen when [he] died." We talked him through what Jesus did for us, and what it means to follow Jesus and he said, "I want to do that." So we prayed with him, and he couldn't have been more excited. He told his group leaders that night, and they were able to share in his excitement. The next morning, as we were heading out, he pointed out where he was sitting and said to the whole group, "I got saved right there, on the Appalachian Trail!"

How cool is that? It's kind of crazy what the Lord has been up to through GOAT over the last few months, and we have a feeling this is only the beginning of it. All of these life-changing experiences would absolutely never happen if it weren't for the awesome people who give to GOAT sacrificially. We're so grateful for each and every one of you!



Meet the Interns!



We were super-pumped and super-grateful to have some top-notch interns helping out this summer. These guys seriously got it done and worked hard to give our kids the coolest experiences of their lives. They really did it all around here - from packing food and cleaning gear to guiding trips and leading Bible studies. Check out their quick bios, and feel free to send them goodies any time.



Patrick Sturgis

Patrick is also a Greenville native on loan to GOAT from Clemson University. At Clemson, Patrick studies history and Atlanta Braves baseball. Although he would never put his schoolwork on the backburner, if it happens on Turner Field in Atlanta, Patrick knows. When he's not cruising down the Nantahala with our rowdy kids, you can probably find him catching giant fish or getting sunburned off the coast.



Steve Gallant

Steve is GOAT's first ever Canadian guide. Steve was born in British Columbia but raised right here in Greenville. Lacrosse players in the upstate shudder at the thought of Steve wielding his lacrosse stick and scoring at will on unsuspecting goalies. No less than 6 high school players have lost limbs trying to take on Steve to no avail. Steve is a solid addition to our team and has a huge passion for outdoor ministry and catching giant fish.



A couple more things...

We also worked with some bigger-than-usual groups this summer and had to adapt our transportation situation, as you can see from the photo to the left.

...and don't forget!

September 25th at Cleveland Park in downtown Greenville, SC we will be hosting the **second annual GOAT Cornhole Classic**. You don't want to miss this. Early-bird signups are only \$40 per team until the end of August!

Sign up at goattrips.org/cornholeclassic