



The Eagle's View

Hairy Spiders and Killer Plants

So actually the second expedition went by really fast. It didn't seem like it was three weeks at all! Maybe a week at most. We went all the way from Dubois to the most southern part of Texas. After the long drive down, we stayed in Guadalupe National Park for four days. Then we drove from there to Big Bend National Park. On the drive there we stopped at Balmorra warm springs, and swam in the deep natural pools. There was a diving board and it was extremely cool, We also saw a snake eat a catfish! That was probably the highlight of our trip. The next day we packed our backpacks for the longest backpacking trip yet. Before we embarked on our journey we got to chug six liters of soda so we could use the bottles for water. We drove to the trailhead with our 50+ lbs backpacks and immediately



we started sweating, whining, and complaining. We were warned about the plants called lachages...which is an indestructible sharp plant that has NO PURPOSE IN LIFE but to stab your legs! They were everywhere we went! There were also these spiders about the size of a silver dollar! They came out at night and scarred unsuspecting campers in their bivy sacks...you'd be all warm until a GINOURMOUS HAIRY ARACHNID comes to scar you lifeless! After that adventure we drove to Odessa, got to eat at a Chinese buffet, and see a movie called *Ghost Rider*. Then we drove to Box Canyon and bouldered and climbed for three days. Then we had the long drive back to Dubois where we ended at the Cowboy Café, for the last night, where I found 20 dollars in the bathroom! And that was the end of our second expedition.

Logan Andors

The Day We Visited Balmorea Springs

Hey, I'm Chris. Boy, did we have a good time at Balmorea Springs. We had been driving for some time before stopping. It felt good to get out of the van and stretch our legs for a change. Our relaxation was short lived however when Katie and Jeremy came at us with school books...Ahhhh! We did our work in the shade outside.



NO! Catfish...GO AWAY!" or was it when Logan got called a chicken by a seven year old. Could you decide? We ate lunch which was leftovers so we could do our food buy later. Then we played in the spring and tried to catch catfish. Nate was the only one to succeed. After being caught the fish tried to bite Jeremy. In the end it was a very enjoyable day!



After homework we went to see the catfish and minnows, who took pleasure in trying to eat our feet. We had a fun time. I couldn't decide what the funniest part of my day was. It could have been Sean's panicked cries of, "ARGH!"



Chris Muir

Poetry Corner



Second Expedition...

So it really wasn't that bad
Although it made me kind of mad

Loosing my privileges because I misbehaved.
Going to Carlsbad, where we caved.

Getting felt up by fish at Balmorrahea.
Getting stabbed by plants called Lachagea.

Breaking my camera at Monahan Sand Dunes
Listening to all of Jeremy's sweet tunes.

Getting harassed by giant spiders.
Talking with occasional hikers.

Buying coveralls when we were at good will.
Going to Leigh's house was pretty chill.

Chugging six liters of soda
Sitting in front when I was Yoda

Eating at the China buffet.
Ending off at the Cowboy Café.

!

~Logan Andors~

Success

I hear people in our group talking

I see cactuses and lachages

I want to get out of here

I worry that an animal might come out of nowhere

I feel really hot and thirsty

I understand that I had to do this hike



I try not to complain

I HOPE I WILL SUCCEED

~Lance Thompson~

The Expedition Poem

This expedition was pretty sweet.
Except the backpacking in burning heat.

We had a great time at Balmorrahea
with all the fish.

Even though no one was there to
wash my dish.

The hot springs were
nice and burning.

Spending money is
what we concentrate
on earning.

We did many things
like eating at circus
and China buffet.

We finished our homework so we



could have more
time to play.

Overall, this was
the best expedition
yet.

Maybe the next
will be better
then the rest.

~Jesse Wasserman~

ONE WRONG MOVE!

Hello, my name is Sean and do I have a story for you. I'm having a great time at SOAR. Though I'm not a big fan of the backpacking trips. Its to much weight for me, but I enjoyed getting water from the Sinks Canyon was pretty sweet. I accomplished some hard scrambling between two cliff walls, over a pool of water. Filthy! Dirty! Disgusting! Gross! Brown water! I was not going to handle it at all well if I fell in. I wasn't sure if I could do it but I was going to try. But I did! On the way back up, both my feet were supported...or so I thought. Then when I went to grab a ledge with my right hand. BOTH MY FEET SLIPPED, of the naturally polished rock. I freaked out, but then I caught myself in a

Awesome save. I was so happy, that I was still clean!

So in the end, we have treated water and are well fed for the "March of Challenge" tomorrow.

Sean Barnett



The Day Dreams Came True

Every kid's dream is to eat as much candy as they possibly can and drink as much soda as they can handle. Well, here at SOAR, Jeremy and I made that dream come true! It all started the day we were going backpacking in Big Bend National Park in Texas. Texas is hot and dry, so we needed to carry two gallons of water per person per day; water sources are few and far between in the desert.

Is there any better way to carry water than in 2-liter pop bottles? Yes, 3-liter pop bottles!! Everyone got two full 3-liter bottles and were told to chug as much soda as they could. To be honest, the consumption levels were a bit disappointing. No one really made any kind of a dent in their soda bottles! I was able to drink about three gulps before the carbonation got to me. After letting out a huge belch, I had to stop. Nate drank the most; he hit the 1.5 liter mark. And these kids say they can drink their soda! Maybe if we purchased name brand soda they would have consumed more, but I really don't think so. Alas, the backpacking trip started with everyone having a belly ache from too much soda! First we started with the soda, and then we went to the candy. "The bag of death" as we called it, was hauled all over the country, from Wyoming, to New Mexico, to Texas. It contained all the candy bars, gummies, sugar, and chocolate the kids' parents sent. On occasion, the kids would be able to get a treat out of the bag while out on expedition. When we returned home, the bag of death still weighed about 12 pounds (I'm not kidding!). Needing to get rid of it, we divided all the candy up amongst four kids, and made them eat. And eat. And eat some more. When they hit



their limit, we made eat a little more. Talk about a sugar crash 20 minutes later!!

You might be thinking, why on earth would Jeremy and Katy make those poor kids drink soooo much soda and eat soooo much candy?!? Well, it'd be a shame to let it all go to waste for starters. But the second and most important reason is we wanted the kids to get the full effect of what that much soda and candy does to them (hence the tummy aches and sugar crash) and why we don't let them consume copious amounts of sugar on a daily basis. After Logan commented, "I thought it'd be great to drink as much soda as I wanted and eat as much candy as I could, but boy was I wrong!!!" I knew the job was well done!

Katy Pfannenstien

