

TRAILBLAZING HOPE
OUTDOORS

TRAILTALES

FRESH FROM THE TRAIL

<<First Name>>,

In this edition of *Trail Tales* we recap the May Adventure Experiences, the Outdoor Program with DECA Middle School in Dayton, and a quick note from our Lead Adventurer Jonathan Slider.



MAY ADVENTURE EXPERIENCE: Rock Climbing



The May Adventure Experience introduced a new outdoor activity to our participants: climbing. Wright State University's Campus Recreation team hosted our two climbing experiences in their indoor climbing gym. The gym offered two different experiences for the participants to enjoy. First the climbers warmed up by taking on the 14' bouldering wall. Then they attempted to master the over 16 different wall routes. Though we were not outside, the climbers learned new

skills that will translate to outdoor climbing.

The climbers were issued a challenge to see who could climb any route and get to the top. We had six that successfully made it to the top of the climbing wall. They were awarded with items from the prize bag. At the end of our time together we were taught two different climbing knots: the figure eight and the super figure eight.



We are so proud of all that came out as several faced and overcame their fear of heights. We look forward to returning to the climbing wall in the future where we can learn more skills and get more up the wall.



DAYTON STUDENTS GETTING IN ON THE FUN



We concluded the month with a three day outdoor program over fifty students from DECA Middle School. The first two days we met at Island Metropark where we introduced the participants to Leave No Trace and a portion of our Camping Essentials curriculum. The students competed in several fun activities to include the Impact Monster Dash (think sharks and minnows), a camp planning relay, and a fan favorite The Amazing

Camp Race. Teams worked together to navigate and collect different pieces of camping gear and then be the first ones to setup their campsites.

The final day we met at Eastwood Metropark where the Five Rivers Metroparks' Outdoor Recreation team hosted a paddling program. For some of the students it was an opportunity for them to overcome their fears of the water and try a new outdoor skill. There were a lot of smiles and laughter from the participants and staff.





ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

JUNE ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES

This month our participants will be paddling down the Little Miami River for our kayak Adventure Experiences on June 2nd, 11th, 16th, 25th, and 30th. We will be partnering with [Riversedge Outfitters](#) as the supporting organization to get us out on the water.



Students will be dropped off at Riversedge in Waynesville and then we will be transported to the canoe drop-in in Spring Valley. We will kayak along three and a half miles of the Little Miami River and stop to enjoy swimming at some of the banks along the way. The trip time ranges anywhere from one and a half to three hours. Depending on the current river conditions and speed of the group.

[REGISTER](#)

TRAILBLAZER GEAR RAFFLE



There is still time to enter into the [Trailblazer Gear Raffle](#) program. Together with local outdoor retailer [Great Miami Outfitters](#), we have put together an Outdoor Gear Package that includes some pretty awesome gear from a pretty awesome company: [Big Agnes](#). You'll be camping in no time with the [Blacktail 3 Tent](#), [Lost Dog 45 degree sleeping bag](#), and the [Air Core Ultra sleeping pad](#). We're also including a \$50 Great Miami Outfitters gift card. The purchase of one raffle ticket (or a lot of raffle tickets) will help us continue to provide outdoor programming for youth in our community.

Raffle valued at \$500. Winner will be drawn July 1st.



ENTER RAFFLE

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER OUTDOOR PROGRAM

In July we will be holding our Summer Outdoor Program. It will introduce our participants to conservation and how we can do our part for Our Planet. We will conduct a trail cleanup as well as a river cleanup. We will also have a guided tour of the Beaver Creek Wetlands. Your student will not want to miss it. Registrations will open soon.



NOTE FROM LEAD ADVENTURER **JONATHAN SLIDER**

May was an incredible month for us as we continue to make giant strides in our community and beyond. To date we have served over 120 students from Greene and Montgomery counties. This is twenty students over our annual goal for 2021, and we aren't even halfway done with the year. Wow!



Working with the students from DECA Middle School was an absolute treat. Not only did we get to work with an amazing group of kids, but it helped us reach our goal of working with students from Dayton six months early. We want to continue to expand so we can

offer outdoor recreation and education opportunities to more youth. We are excited for the future.

We are always looking to increase our volunteer base as well as ways people and organizations can support us. If you or someone you know would be interested in getting involved there are several ways to do so. Join us as a [Hike Leader](#) during our Outdoor



Programs, support us through your [financial support](#), and interact with us as you comment and share our organization through our [Facebook Page](#).

Thank you for all of your support and we will "See you on the trail!"



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