



August 31, 2015

This last Saturday, we took twelve homeless youth on a Mountain Adventure Trip. We do this twice a month. This trip was to Continental Falls, a large water fall at 11,000 feet above sea level.

None of the twelve youth had ever been to the mountains. When we arrived, we first had a small lunch, and then we assembled and I explained, what to expect on the hike, the challenges and the options; the time we meet back at the van, and offered a prayer of thanksgiving protection.

I always ask the youth to remember something that impacted them on the hike/climb, as we discuss the hike afterwards.

I led the strong group while the other volunteer stayed with the slower youth. It is a difficult hike, almost straight up, with thin air at 11,000 feet. Most youth can't make it to the top. On this trip, 7 of the youth made it to the beginning of the waterfall, at the top of the trail. Three of us climbed the water fall, when possible, and the others hiked the trail by the creek. At the top, there is a panoramic view that allows you to see seven 14,000 ft peaks.

At the beginning of the trail is an old miners camp, with one of the log cabins still intact. Inside the cabin is a log for each person climbing the falls to sign. The log goes back to the early 1900's.

The youth were really excited about being able to sign and be part of the Continental Falls legacy.

At the end, when we all reassembled, we each talked about our experience. On past trips, most of the youth were hesitant to express their feelings. This trip was different, as they all were excited and talked about how it had impacted them, with several talking about GOD's creation. I always end with a short talk about the beauty and wonder of GOD's creation and how he made it for us to enjoy, to be part of his creation, and to experience the thrills and excitement of the challenges of nature. I closed in prayer, and as we left, I knew that this trip had changed the life of each youth, expanding their horizons by letting them experience the magnificence of GOD's creation.

Thanks and GOD Bless,

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