

Trail Trials

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Abstract

I presented a movie trailer for a documentary I will be filming the summer of 2021. After my graduation, I will embark on a five-month hike on the Pacific Crest Trail. I will be documenting my experience and creating a professional documentary. With the help of Dr. Stacey Irwin, this documentary will fulfill my requirements for graduation as well as give me a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel across the country in a unique way.

After three long years of hard work and unique challenges, my time at Millersville University is coming to an end. While it is bittersweet, it opens doors to new possibilities. One of those possibilities is to take the adventure of a lifetime along the Pacific Crest Trail. This trail extends from the Mexican Border in Southern California to the Canadian border in Northern Washington. It is a 2,650-mile hike and takes about 5 months to complete. It is an exciting opportunity that will allow me to escape the craziness of the real world for a few months and recoup from the efforts I put into my college career.

Part of this trip includes creating a full documentary of my experiences on the trail. I will be working alongside Dr. Stacey Irwin, once my hike is complete, to create a professional documentary out of the footage I capture. Before I can embark on this journey and create the documentary, I created a movie trailer for Made in Millersville. This trailer

gives a brief insight into what has motivated me to travel to the Pacific Coast and spend five months in the wilderness alone.

Prior to making this movie trailer, I spent months of planning the trip itself. Alongside my Creative Director, Brent Spencer, we came up with many motivations as to why I was going to set out on this journey. My first motivation is to take time for myself. Coming to Millersville, I had a dream of earning two majors. I came in as a Freshman with a Media Arts Production major, and soon picked up a Sports Journalism major to go along with it. The next step was visualizing how I could finish both degrees in just three years. This involved endless class loads, making use of 18 credit semesters, summer, and winter courses. Coming into my third year, it was looking like this could be accomplished – and it was. After working so hard to complete my degrees a year ahead of schedule, I looked at this upcoming summer as an opportunity to do something that will let me escape from

working and to create a memory that would stick with me forever.

A second motive is to raise money for pediatric cancer. While I was in high school, I lost a best friend to cancer. He was only 16 years old, and since he inspired me to explore my passions and to conquer whatever was placed before me. Therefore, I continue to explore my passions and bring him along with me. During my hike, I am looking to raise \$2,650 (\$1 for every mile hiked) to donate to pediatric cancer research and treatment so that others do not have to lose their childhood friends.

Creating this movie trailer took a lot of time and effort. Battling the winter weather made it difficult for me to find times to go out and hike. However, as the temperature

warmed up in March, I was able to get out more and film and prepare for the real hike. With the help of Brent Spencer, I was able to piece together a trailer that expressed my passion for the outdoors, my motivation to explore, and my desire to experience something that few have before. As I will on the Pacific Crest Trail, I pushed my comfort zone to its limits and faced my fears preparing this trailer.

Conclusion

Leaving the comfort of Millersville, PA to walk 2,650 miles seems like a crazy idea -- and it is. However, the mental strength that I have developed from my time at Millersville University is what will allow me to face it head on, and jump into the unknown.

Recommended Citation

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