

**Program Goal 6:** Graduates are prepared to advocate for the profession.

One of the beginning classes I took in the program was Foundation of Outdoor Education. In this course we were introduced to earliest form of foundations/philosophies that outdoor education stems from. The readings used to learn of these philosophies helped shape my views in our final paper of this course "Assessment of Effective Outdoor Education." Attached. This course gave me a better understanding and appreciation as to where the industry is today.

Spring of 2013, in the Administrative perspectives of outdoor education course we read the book *Lessons Learned*. This book was comprised of real life case studies relating to some very risky situations in the outdoor industry. After reading these case studies we were able to analyze the scenarios from the readings and discuss ways in which to handle situations as they arose.

This past summer during my practicum I was able to apply what I learned in the admin course to various risky situations. In one particular case I was leading a group of campers up a scree field toward our intended peak. As we came closer to the peak the elevation grade accompanied by the scree left us very exposed. I personally did not feel comfortable, I consulted with my co-lead, and we decided to turn back. In this particular situation I feel that we handle the risk to the best of our degree.

Currently in my Senior Seminar class my colleagues and I are researching topics of passion or current issues in our field that we are drawn to. In my research paper of "Cycling as a Lifestyle" I address some of the topics related to the motivation behind riding, programs related to cycling accompanied with their rewards, and empowering the next generation of riders.

As I go into my Internship this summer, summer 2014, I have created my pre-internship report which states my professional goals, in the role as an intern, but it also has helped me identify where I would like to go and what I would like to do in my future as an outdoor educator.

As my time in the Outdoor Education program comes to an end, I am beginning to see how I have come full circle through the education process of this industry. Through the knowledge gained and hard & soft skills attained I now have a better understanding of how I want to pursue my career as an outdoor educator as an advocate for the profession.