

Applicants:

- Andy Reynolds '09
- Cody Averbek '09 at The University of the South (Sewanee)

Trip Dates:

June 7th to June 22nd

Trip to Climb El Capitan:

This trip will be the culmination of several years of climbing experience. Both Cody and I have been climbing for about 6 years now, and it has always been our dream to climb El Capitan. Our experience is diverse and extensive and includes, Multi pitch routes all over the south, at the Gunks, in Red Rocks, Zion, Colorado (Rifle, Boulder, etc) and across California (most notably in Bishop, Yosemite, and Joshua tree). Cody can easily lead 5.11 trad, and has a number of 5:12 trad under his belt. I can lead 5:10 trad and have led 5.11. Both of us have climbed 5:12 sport, and Cody has climbed 5.13. Though we certainly have not exhausted the potential for climbing on smaller stone, el cap is the logical next step. We've done two big walls together, The Moonlight Buttress in Zion and The West Face of the Leaning Tower in Yosemite. Though these were significant challenges, we were successful on both attempts.

We intend to attempt two routes on El Capitan, though depending on success, weather, fatigue etc., may do only one, or as many as three. Our principle target routes are The Nose and The Salathe wall, both of which are phenomenal climbs with a number of challenging features. A backup route is Lurking Fear, which is a shorter climb on El Cap.

Risk Management:

I hope to complete the Dartmouth First Aid course by the end of spring term, and that will be my only formal training in outdoor medicine. However, Cody and I have both been injured in the outdoors, and I have participated in a climbing rescue in the past. Our first line of defense is definitely our judgment based on lots of experience. Last year while in the valley we had hoped to climb el cap after the leaning tower, however, because of fatigue from a long trip of climbing, and generally deteriorating hand and muscle conditions we did not. This is a great testimony to the strength of our combined will power, as leaving the valley with aspirations unfulfilled is a difficult task for climbers who are uncertain about their ability to return. In addition to our own abilities, the routes we are looking at are among the most frequently traveled of their size in the world and they are a mere eighth of a mile from the most talented rescue crew in the Mountaineering world, YOSAR. Though the risk is real, the routes are intimidating and demand respect. That respect insures all reasonable precautions will be taken.

Giving Back to the Club:

This is perhaps the one area in which our trip is lacking, as Cody is a student at the University of the South. Nonetheless I have already been an active member in the DMC and DOC as a whole, and I certainly plan to continue to do so. I've undergone risk management training, and I monitor in the Gym (every Wednesday from 8-11 during

winter term, in addition to helping out with the kids programs). I certainly plan to be an active DMC leader. I will undergo the top rope training course that will allow me to teach PE classes, and I co-taught a class with John Joline last fall. The bottom line is that this trip is a reflection of my commitment to and love of climbing, and it will be my pleasure to pass on my love and knowledge. Specifically, I will do a slide show in the fall, and I will type up a trip report with a detailed topo of each route we do which will be available to future Dartmouth Climbers.

Breakdown of the Costs:

Gas to Yosemite Valley from Chattanooga, TN (round trip)

2324.2 miles at 26 miles per gallon at \$2.5 per gallon= $\$223.48 \times 2 = \446.96

Food for 16 days:

\$15 a day, per person= \$480

Camping:

Camp 4 7 nights at \$5 per person per night= \$70

Park Fees:

\$40 for two-week car pass