

To the Families of Ellis Heyer and Collin LaMore,

Upon entering college in the Fall of 2014, I was lucky to already know about the Outdoor Pursuits Program. This program brought me across the country to the University of Oregon. Four years later, I can honestly say the program and my experience exceeded any expectations I could have had. I did not know Colin or Ellis but their spirits have followed the students who were with them and those that came after. Just as I have carried on qualities of my leaders, I believe the influence of Colin and Ellis has been passed on through the generations of the OPP.

Receiving this award has brought on many emotions - some bitter, some sweet, and others sentimental. I was deeply honored to be put on the same line as those inspiring leaders that I had looked up to over the past four years. To look back on all of the outings I have participated in and led gives me great pleasure. The significance of the program to me is reflected in this award. The OPP is a place for community and bonding and a refuge from the stressful and large life of the university. The leadership of this program combined with the experiences we share together makes the time spent in the OPP truly special.

I have grown immensely in the last four years. I attribute much of that growth to the amazing instructors we have in the program, the leaders who led me, and the participants who are captivated by the outdoors and learning. I would like to be an educator for the rest of my life and have plans to do so. This award and all I have learned will take me all over the world instructing and guiding. I can safely say receiving this award has been my biggest and greatest accomplishment to date.

Thank you very much, it is an honor to receive this award.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Sander