

To the Families of Collin LaMore and Ellis Heyer,

I entered the Outdoor Pursuits Program in the winter of 2012. At the time I did not know who Collin and Ellis were nor the impact they had on this program. It wasn't until the following year when I went to the OPP end of the year graduation that I heard their story. Every year their story is told and every year we remember what makes our program so great; the OPP is not only a place to learn and build skills, but a community. I personally never met Collin and Ellis, but their memory lives on through this award.

Every graduate of the OPP receives a certificate with the following quote: "How many, in this world of devices now live through a lifetime of tides, nights of clean wind, and clear stars above the roofline? How many know genuine exposure to cold rain, cold water and stiff fingers and know how to be steady there?" This quote puts into words what many don't necessarily understand. The outdoors is a humbling place where we must push past cold feet, heavy packs, and much discomfort. Yet, what makes it such an amazing place are the people we choose to do these things with. So many OPP trips have ended with a van ride of endless laughter and shared stories of the amazing things we have all just accomplished as a team. I have no doubt that Collin and Ellis shared these same experiences, experiences that have made my time in the program so great. Their story is a reminder that life can be fleeting, but should also be cherished and explored.

This award means a lot to me for a multitude of reasons. For the last three years, I have seen the best and most accomplished leaders in our program stand in front of everyone and receive it. When I started this program, I could hardly stand in front of a group and say my name; I never imagined being one of those leaders. The OPP pushed me, challenged me and taught me how to be a leader. Every year I would hear Collin and Ellis's story and the five characteristics attribute to this award. Their story and this leadership award continually

inspired me to strive to be a leader people could look to and a role model for those in this program. It was through this amazing program that I found the passion of teaching, student development and leadership.

This coming year I will be taking on a position at Duke University in their Outdoor Adventure Program. It is my goal to pass along the value of the outdoors and to continue my growth as a leader. I hope to continue to have an impact on others as so many have before me and pass along the values that come with this award. Although I never met Collin and Ellis, the legacy that they have left on this program has been a huge part of my growth. The Heyer/LaMore Leadership award is recognition of two remarkable members of our community and it is a true honor to have been chosen to receive it.

Regards,

Charlie Gliniak