



Inspiring Courage

Providing leadership development opportunities for young adults

BY HANNAH PALMER

Finding the courage to be a leader is a lifelong journey that takes encouragement and experiences to continually foster. For Tatiana Chanar, this summer was one of those experiences.

Thanks to CYAK's partners giving to the scholarship fund, Tatiana was able to join the National Outdoor Leader School (NOLS) for a four-week backpacking and sea-kayaking leadership experience. Each day, a different pair of students would be responsible for leading the group, including choosing the next camp site and navigating there. Upon reflecting, she shared some of the most valuable lessons she learned:

"NOLS is about experiential learning. They gave us the space to make mistakes, learn and try things. One of the greatest learning for me was a debrief that happened after every expedition day. We would debrief the leaders from the day, the things they could do better and the things they did well. I learned feedback is very important and integral to growth!

I learned the significance of planning and preparing. I am usually a fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants kind of gal. My confidence is a two-sided coin. My leader told me, when you are leading it's important to anticipate the next thing - from moment to moment, but also big picture. I can't plan everything or anticipate every little thing, but what I can plan for is how I am going to respond in moment of feeling overwhelmed. What am I going to do when I come across those hard emotions? We can always anticipate uncertainty and we can prepare for how we will respond.

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I wouldn't have had this opportunity at all, had it not been for the CYAK scholarship. It has impacted me to step up in courage to lead other people. It's a really heavy statement because, leading people, I'm impacting the group - positive or negative, whether I know it or not. To step up in

that position is a heavy weight. NOLS has helped me with my competence AND my confidence. I have the hard skills and the confidence is pushing me to utilize what I've learned."

Providing opportunities like this for young leaders continues as an integral part of CYAK's Continuum of Care. By giving to the scholarship fund, we can empower more young leaders to attend leadership development opportunities. Transformed by the Gospel of Christ, budding leaders like Tatiana play a role in transforming Alaska every day.

CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

You are a part of the team that God has called together to impact youth and young adults in Alaska.

When you give, you make it possible for youth and young adults to step in to opportunities where they are challenged and encouraged as leaders and as followers of Christ.

Thank you! For more information how to make a gift, please follow the link below.

www.cyak.org/YourImpact



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Covenant Youth of Alaska is a relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry for Alaska youth and young adults. A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, we work in partnership with 19 churches across Alaska for the cause of ministry to young people. To join our efforts or to learn more, go to www.cyak.org.