



# AUGUST 2019

## **NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, August 5**

**This meeting will NOT be at Lincoln. It will be at Gabriel Park, 7-9 pm**



### **Parent Picnic Potluck**

The next general meeting will be a potluck! Parents are highly encouraged to attend and please bring a dish to share. Students will read poetry, play music, and speak about recent post trips including Peru, Italy, and Canada.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The **Bake Sale** this month will be on a weekend outside the Columbia employee store. Sign up at the meeting, where the date will be announced, or as Joanna Cloutier for more details! If you haven't done a fundraiser yet this year, this might be your last chance. Remember that they are important to keeping dues and trip fees low, and if you are not fulfilling your requirements then you are not pulling your weight in the organization! (we have a list, and we know who you are)

The **Service Project** will be the morning of August 10th, Volunteering at a school supplies fair for low income communities. Sign up at the August 5th meeting or contact Ursa Freeman for more details! For the dozen chapter one postees with no service project yet this year, you should probably mark the date on your calendar.

**At the meeting** T-shirts will be for sale at \$15, as per usual. If you don't have one by now, what are you even doing?

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### *Italian Alps*

By Susan Cook

On June 24th 2019, 4 post students and three advisors made their way to Europe, for an incredible 2 week adventure full of climbing and hiking, and playing bridge in the Italian alps, or, more specifically, the Dolomites! We explored 8 different towns including Arabba, Colfosco, Misurina, and many more. We got a sneak peak of the city hosting the 2026 Winter Olympic Games: Cortina. Which also happens to be Lindsey Vonn's favorite place to ski (that is according to a local jeep driver who drove us to a hostel up a very precarious road). In our 2 weeks we summited 7 peaks and completed 11 Via Ferratas. Via Ferratas were the focus of our trip. Via Ferrata is latin for iron way which, really does sum them up quite nicely. With a fixed cable running all or most of the way up the peak, you clip in from one post to the next making your way up to the top. It feels like something out of



an adventure park. The mountains were endless, standing on top of one peak we could see where we had just climbed the day before and where we might climb in the near future. All in all we saw some incredible sights, ate some delicious pasta and pizza, and met some wonderful people making memories that will stay with us for a very long time.

## ***Peru***

By Anya Cavender

Our ten day trek in the Cordillera Huayhash started three days after we arrived in Peru. We had just begun to become acclimated to the new elevation of 3,052 meters (approximately 10,000 ft) when we were whisked away from our hotel in Huaraz for a 5hr bus ride to our first campsite called Quartelhuain. On our bus ride we passed through dry shrub and cactus landscapes with towering rock walls, but also descended into lush green valleys with crystal clear rivers running



through them. Our very first lunch was presented to us beside one of these rivers and we feasted on fresh Trout ceviche, sweet potatoes, corn, and more. Hot water and tea was also provided and little did we know but we would be drinking A LOT of tea over the next 9 days. When we finally reached our first campsite at 4,200m, it had started to lightly rain, so we all hustled to put on rain jackets and helped our bus driver quickly unload duffel bags,

food, and equipment from under the bus. Our guides had already set up our tents along with the larger dining tent and cooking tent as well. It felt so funny to just stand idle as they did all of the work, but we had to learn to accept that they simply knew the best way to do it.

We were very excited to get off of the bus and explore after being stuck inside all day so some of us climbed up part of the surrounding hills and got some amazing pictures of the valleys surrounding us and mountains in the distance. Meeting the donkeys who would be carrying our duffel bags for the next nine days was also a very exciting experience. We finished our day with a wonderful dinner that consisted of a first course of soup, then a main course, and even desert! It got dark pretty early ( around 6 pm) so we all went to bed right after dinner between 8 and 8:30 pm. I couldn't remember the last time I had gone to bed before 10pm, so it was quite the change!

In the morning we were woken up at 6:30 by our guide Rodolfo who brought us either Coca tea or coffee to start our day off right.

Unfortunately some of our group members weren't feeling very well but we all still managed to eat some breakfast and pack up our belongings so that the donkeys could carry them over our first pass. We began hiking at around 7:30am while there was still frost on the ground and the sun hadn't yet hit the valley. As we climbed the 3 hours to the top of Cacanapunta pass, a serious game of contact ensued which helped us push to the top. When we reached the top, we were delighted to learn that we were standing on top of part of the Continental Divide which spans vertically down through North and South America. It was incredibly windy at the top of the pass so we only enjoyed the view for a few minutes before hustling down the rocky path to our next campsite which was 2 hours away. Every day on our trek we encounter new scenery and we reached new heights as we climbed higher and higher passes. We had fun in camp playing lots of cards, taking pictures, watercolor painting, reading and napping. Our trekking company took the best care of us even when we were sick and injured and they provided us with some of the most amazing meals we had ever had on the trail including two birthday cakes!!! But what made the trip even more special was the unique friendships that were built, and I really do think that they will last a lifetime. Overall, it was a LOVELY trip. (Photo credits to Caleb Jacobsen)



## Canada

By Luciana Lenth

From July 20 to July 29, eighteen Postees and advisors embarked on a once in a lifetime trip that would take them soaring through the Canadian Selkirk mountains. After nearly endless drive, the fearless Postees boarded a helicopter which dropped them off at base camp, where they would spend the next week of their lives climbing, facing the elements, and enjoying life to the fullest in the backcountry. Once at base camp, the Postees enjoyed three excellent days of climbing, conquering the nearby peaks and in some cases, being scorched silly by the sun.



On the first day, group two was able to climb a mountain that had never before been climbed, commemorating the occasion with a cairn atop the peak and celebrating with some hard earned granola bars. Group one enjoyed the safety of a fixed line while climbing an equally impressive peak. The second day saw climbing opportunities for both groups, with group one once again enjoying all there is to enjoy one a fixed line while group two

climbed not one but two mountains. The third day of climbing saw equal success among both groups as well as the use of a fixed line. On the third night of the trip, many Postees awoke to find that their tents were caving in due to extreme wind and rain, so much so that to quote a resident of Big Blue, a tent that earned its name because it is both big and blue, declared that it was raining inside the tent as well as outside. Despite the less than ideal conditions, the Postees stuck it out like in true guide fashion and enjoyed a few more excellent days of climbing that allowed them to learn new technical skills but also learn valuable life lessons along the way.





Ask Claes is new segment in the newsletter! Please send in your questions to 971-347-4187 or to [claesj22@gmail.com](mailto:claesj22@gmail.com) to be featured in the next edition!

**Question: Is The Post corrupt? -Hansen**

**Answer: That is a great question Hansen!**