


# EXPLORER POST 58



We're all getting excited for this year's winter break climbing trip to Yosemite!

## FROM PORTLAND TO NEPAL

This month's general meeting will feature our very own Post 58 founder & advisor: Peter Green.

Just this past November, Peter Green (notoriously known for his well-groomed mustache), along with his thrill-seeking partner & wife Mary, set out on a three week climbing expedition to Nepal. The Post advisors camped at the Mt. Everest Base camp, and

ventured through the Himalayas during their stay. We're thrilled to have Peter speak with us about their Mt. Pachermo (20,510feet) climb at this month's general meeting!

**Monday December 12th, 7:00PM, Lincoln High School (ROOM 122).**

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### CALENDAR PICK UP:

The Post 58 calendars are in! Please bring \$20 if you or a parent ordered a calendar. If you missed the ordering-boat but would still like one, you are in luck! We've still got three extra calendars, so hurry over to Sarah Koe with your money to claim one.

### Winter Break Trip Info-Meeting after General Meeting

If you signed up for the winter break trip, make sure to stick around an extra fifteen minutes after the meeting! We'll be talking about logistics such as food and gear. Make sure to bring safety and permission forms to give to Talbot Andrews.

# The month's happenings...

(what will you be doing, Brandon Wilson?)

## DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 General Mtg. 7PM Lincoln HS Room 122	13	14 Rock Gym Night NE Circuit 5-7PM	15	16	17 Winter Break trip Departure Service Project @ Regency Park 10AM-2PM
18 Winter Break trip Holiday Bakesale @ REI 11AM-2PM	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve

### Coming Up:

\*Sign up for this month's service project! On December 17<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-2PM we'll play bean-bag-baseball, poker and more with the senior residents at Regency Park retirement home (on Barnes Road).

\*Come help make our holiday bake sale fundraiser a sweet success by signing up at the meeting! If you aren't available to help work the event, feel free to bake some goods to sell and drop them at the NW REI at 11AM Sunday morning. Or, do your outdoor-gear holiday shopping on the date and pick up a treat or two afterwards!

## **February Snowshoe trip!**

Our annual Snowshoeing trip on Mt. Hood and in the Mazamas Lodge is approaching! Quoted from more than many, “the best trip of the year,” this enormously fun weekend getaway includes snow-cave building, snowshoeing up a miniature mountain, card games and more! Be sure to mark your calendars for February 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Post T-Shirts:**

There are two Post 58 t-shirts left! Bring \$15 to the meeting and be the first or second to claim this cool garment.

## **Ski & Board @ NIGHT**

Want to get together with some Post 58 friends for some Mt. Hood skiing and boarding...AT NIGHT?! Save Saturday January 21st for a some night skiing & snowboarding at Mt. Hood’s (well-illuminated) ski bowl.

## **Avalanche Safety Course Offering:**

Rare Earth Adventures, an organization that specializes in Outdoor Adventure and education, is offering the Explorer Post an avalanche course designed to teach basic avalanche avoidance and avalanche rescue at the (discounted!!) price of \$150 per student (payment must be made in advance). The course takes places over two days: 6-9PM in town on Thursday, February 9th, and then all day Saturday February 11th at Meadows. (This is the same Saturday as our snowshoe trip. However, Students who take the avalanche course will join the rest of the Post group at the Mazamas Lodge at 5PM Saturday and spend the rest of the time with the larger group.

The course will focus on identifying areas that are prone to avalanches, studying the nature of snow crystals, digging avalanche test pits and rescuing avalanche survivors. The course is designed to be useful for students who plan to backcountry ski or climb above the snow line. We urge students to consider taking the course.

## **MOVIE NIGHT & ROCK GYM NIGHT REPORT BY KEEGAN MCCARTHY**

This month was our first time that the Post had a movie night. We all met at the Portland Rock Gym for a fun rock gym night, then at 6:00 we set up a projector and speakers at the gym to watch “Into the Wild.” A movie about a recently graduated college student who sets off in search of fulfillment. This was a great group bonding time, and if you missed it – be sure to stop by next time!

## THE POST-POST LIFE BY HENRY GORDON '11

Ask any Post member or advisor about what they think the most important tenants of the Explorer Post are, and undoubtedly they will tell you the same thing: the Post provides an arena for personal and social growth in the context of the outdoors. It's the same sentiment that is reflected in the mission statement on the website, and it is the central goal of Explorer Post trips. The real test of its effectiveness, then would be to observe what happens when the outdoors is removed from the equation.

For three years, I balanced positions within the Post and the outdoor program at my high school with other extra-curricular time commitments. Though I wasn't exclusively a climber, I found time to go on a couple weekend trips throughout the school year, and spent at least 6 weeks in the summer exploring the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest in one way or another. When it came time to write college applications in the winter of my senior year, my Common App essay wasn't centered on my time in the theater or my work on the robotics team. Instead, I wrote about turning 17 on the Post Canada trip, because I felt, as I still do, that that one trip crafted me more as a person than any other single experience in my high school career. By all measures then, the Explorer Post and the outdoors were a large part of my life.

When it came time to choose where I would matriculate, I had a decision to make. I was accepted at two schools on the east and west coasts, both of which had great outdoors programs. I was also offered admission at a school in the Midwest that was academically a better fit for me. Ultimately I choose to go to the Midwest, knowing that I wouldn't have the same opportunities during the school year. As I returned to Canada for another mountaineering trip last summer, I wondered if I would ever have the same outdoor experiences in my new life in Minnesota.

At first, I wasn't so sure. The flatness took me by surprise, and there wasn't the same sort of outdoor opportunities nearby the college that would make weekend trips terribly easy. I found myself missing the deciduous forests and the projections of the Cascades. I never questioned my choice, but I found myself thinking about it more frequently than I was proud to admit.

After a while, however, I came to realize that exactly what I had enjoyed most about the Explorer Post could be found even when the opportunities were limited. When I entered the Post as a sophomore, I was by my own accounts shy and insecure. I developed excuses to avoid going to meetings because I didn't want to face the reality that I wasn't that confident. Fast forward to a similar situation in September, and the differences were noticeable. Instead of hiding in my dorm room, I actively sought out new friends. I signed up for activities that I never would have dreamt of trying in high school. Among them is the Nordic Ski Team, which has provided a sufficient substitute for rafting on the Grande Ronde. I took a leadership role on my floor, got appointed to a committee on student housing and made the cut as a campus tour guide, all of this before the first snowflakes fell and all of it unthinkable four years ago.

The Explorer Post made me into a great outdoorsman to be sure, but it also made me into a better person on the whole. I'm able to navigate my way through class III rapids and climb 10,000 ft mountains, but I'm also able to speak my mind and be social in inherently difficult social situations. In many ways leaving the Post is perhaps the best thing that could have happened to me, for it allowed me to look beyond the context of the outdoors and discover that exactly what I love about backpacking in the Wallowas or kayaking in the San Juan Islands can be found in new friendships and shared experiences. The Post and my experiences in those magical places gave me the keys to unlock that truth, and I am truly grateful.

*Henry Gordon is currently a freshman at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. His favorite outdoor activities include backpacking, mountaineering and sea kayaking. Any questions about the transition from the Explorer Post to college can be directed to [gordonh@carleton.edu](mailto:gordonh@carleton.edu)*