

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- April 5:
EASTER
- April 11:
Blue and
Orange
Spring Foot-
ball Game
- April 12:
Hike
- April 19:
Horseback
Trail Ride
- April 26:
Bike Ride

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Aloft Transitions

APRIL 2015

Sweet, Sweet Victory

The spring weather and a newfound passion for geocaching brought students and mentors to Sweet, Idaho. Their mission: to conquer Regan Butte and place a new geocache for other enthusiasts to discover.

For Regan Butte, Adrian Klimetz assembled a geocache containing a participant log, a pencil, small motors, and other tricketts. The students and mentors hiked up the steep incline, and they were rewarded with stunning views from the top: The Payette River snaking around a bend, the small town of Sweet, farmlands and hills stretching out as far as eyes can see. Adrian placed the geocache in a rocky crevice for the next wave of visitors. We came, we saw, we conquered!



Far Above: Regan Butte

Above: The Payette River, as seen from Regan Butte.

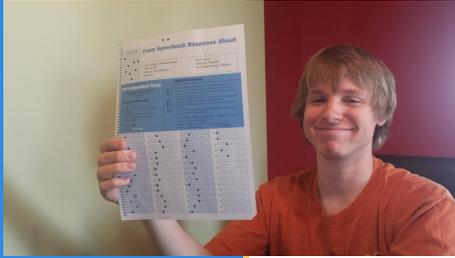
Below: Alex Giorgianni, Adrian Klimetz, Kyle Knief, AJ Gliottoni, and mentor Vicky Vail take in the scenery after hiking to the top.



Above: Alex and Kyle celebrating at the top of Regan Butte.



Shout-Out!



Top: Alex's final exam, ready to be scanned and scored.

Right: AJ holds up an antler he found shortly after arriving in Idaho.

Congrats to Alex Giorgianni for completing his last high school final! He is officially done with high school and will be receiving his diploma soon.

Now that Alex has conquered high school, Alex is moving on to obtaining his driver's license. He plans to work over the summer to save up money for college in the fall.

Great job, Alex!

AJ Gliottoni is our newest student! He was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago. He enjoys cooking. AJ is also an enthusiastic gamer and anime fan. When told he was going to Idaho, his first thought was, "Potatoes." So far in Idaho, AJ has been enjoying the views of the mountains and foothills.

Welcome to Aloft Transitions, AJ Gliottoni!



March Snapshots



1. AJ channels his inner Gandalf while collecting firewood on Aloft grounds.

2. Alex Giorgianni and Connor Fields on the long road to Pearl, Idaho.

3. Adrian Klimetz, Kyle Knief, Connor Fields and mentor Jay Keller enjoy s'mores around a campfire by the pond on Aloft grounds.

4. Kyle and executive director Jason Woods take a selfie at dinner.

5. Adrian, Alex, Connor, and Kyle all prepare to go bowling at KT's Lanes in Emmett, Idaho.



March Snapshots, continued

Below: Connor Fields examine the bite marks of a beaver on a fence post.

Right: Alex Giorgianni swings out towards the Boise River during a walk along the Greenbelt.



Right: AJ Gliottoni, Connor Fields, and Kyle Knief chat around a campfire.



Shoshone Falls

This month's road trip was dedicated to Shoshone Falls, a waterfall on the Snake River in Southern Idaho. The Shoshone Falls are 212 feet tall—higher than Niagara Falls! Spring and early summer is the best time to see the falls, when water levels are high. Idaho's unusual winter pushed spring up by a month, so water was flowing earlier than usual this year.

Students enjoyed exploring the canyon and taking in the sights. After their visit to Shoshone Falls, students went three miles west to the city of Twin Falls, where they tucked in for dinner before traveling two hours back to Aloft.

All Shoshone Falls photos courtesy of Adrian Klimetz. Below, Alex Giorgianni sits in a crevice.



Shoshone Falls:

212 feet

Niagara Falls:

167 feet

Landscaping with Parker



Parker, right, cheers on Kyle Knief as he unloads dirt.

Parker is the owner of Meyers Lawn Service, a major landscaping company in Emmett.

Aloft students have been working with Parker for about two years now. Parker has proven to be a great fit for our program, as he is very willing for Aloft students to experience the rigors of working in the landscaping business on their own terms. Parker has taught students lawn maintenance and the operation of basic landscape tools such as the weed eater, leaf blower, and industrial lawnmowers. Students have also been instructed in sprinkler systems

and installation, as well as maintaining current irrigation systems.

Parker is popular among our students because “Parker is awesome” (Alex Giorgianni). Parker is a friendly, positive supervisor who is willing to take the time to teach our students the ins and outs of the landscaping business. Parker is hardworking, and his work ethic inspires our students to do their best.

Shop Construction



The cedar gate, complete with a wagon wheel.

Over the last few months, Aloft students assisted in the early stages of building a shop. Up to now, the students have: framed it, sheeted it, weatherproofed it, roofed it, and installed the siding.

Before the shop received its first coat of paint this past weekend, a willing few helped build the gaps and nail holes. Additionally, students designed and built a set of stairs to the second story of the shop.

Students also assisted in extending the homeowner’s outside deck to connect to the shop. The deck included an extra 12 by 16 foot space with a pergola extending the new section of the deck. To complete the extension of the deck, students helped design and build three new rail sections and a cedar gate.

Within the next few weeks, the rest of painting of the shop and the deck will be completed.



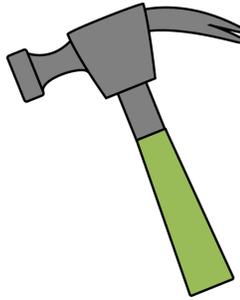
Connor Fields, left, works on the pergola while Kyle Knief talks.

March Snapshots: On the Job

- 1. Connor Fields takes a break on the jobsite.
- 2. Mentor Collin Montgomery guide Kyle Knief and Adrian Klimetz in laying down the deck.



- 3. Nathan Sharpe on the job with Meyers Lawn Services.
- 4. Nate on an industrial lawnmower.
- 5. Connor helps build the pergola.
- 6. Adrian and Kyle on the new set of stairs they helped design and build for the shop.



APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Schedule of Events

- } April 5: EASTER
- } April 11: Blue & Orange Spring Football Game
- } April 12: Hike
- } April 19: Horseback Trail Ride
- } April 26: Bike Ride



Photo of the Month

Adrian Klimetz took this photo from a scenic overlook at Shoshone Falls. Adrian edited the photo for a more dramatic effect to fully capture the awe he felt when he first saw the Shoshone Falls.

