



CHICAGOVYAGERS.ORG TO DONATE NOW!

IN THIS ISSUE

What a season we have had!

We know it has been a while since some of you have heard from us, but it's not because we went away! We have been busier than ever, taking serving 350 youth on outings, not counting another 300 doing service work.

This season we added rock climbing and caving to our trips, along with canoeing, camping, rappelling and our bike trips. The support of the Explore Fund of North Face has enabled us to greatly expand our rock climbing program. We hosted three separate two-day programs that included camping, canoeing, rappelling and climbing.

Climbing is the perfect activity to teach the lesson of perseverance.

Perseverance gets our youth to the top of the cliff and also the top of life.

Rappelling teaches youth great lessons about trust and depending on others when you need a hand. You can read more about the Explore Fund and Chicago Voyagers here:

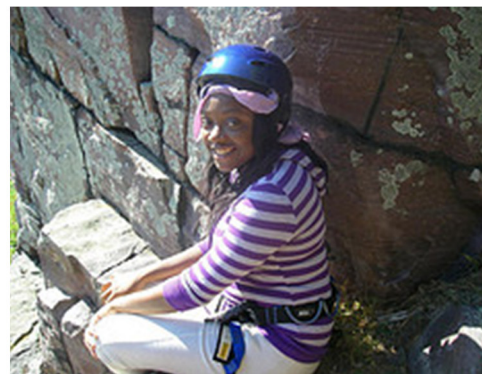
<http://www.neverstopexploring.com/blog/2011/10/2011-explore-fund-grantee-profile-trips-for-kids-chicago-voyagers.html>

We are very grateful to the Explore Fund for supporting our youth!



Smiles all around

Working as a group teaches us to trust each other, and that we can be trusted.



Nothing feels as good as knowing you can.

It looked impossible, but we learned we could do it anyway!

Tour d'Afrique North American Tour

This year, the great Tour d'Afrique Ltd. cycling tour company organized their first ever North American Epic tour. The tour started at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco crossing the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, the wheat filled plains of Kansas, and riding Route 66 into Chicago, where they met up with cyclists from [Chicago Voyagers] Trips for Kids!



We really enjoyed meeting these committed cyclists along their journey, which eventually took them to the edge of the Atlantic Ocean in St. John's, Newfoundland. It was a privilege to ride even a small part of their epic tour!

From the Tour d'Afrique North American Epic tour blog:

The students from [Chicago Voyagers] Trips for Kids are awesome! Meeting up with us for a 10 k jaunt into Chicago, this group of 13 to 18 year olds rode like champs. The TFK program is designed to introduce young men and women to cycling and support confidence building and environmental awareness through practical skills, and by simply having a good time.



Christopher House Leadership Retreat

While we are out there, learning what we are capable of, we like to encourage the kids to plan future trips as well. On the Christopher House Leadership Retreat, we biked the [I&M Canal trail](#) and hiked at Starved Rock State Park.

After the activities, the leaders from Christopher House's leadership program brainstormed ideas for future programs for the next 4 months.



As much as we enjoy what we do, it is the feedback we get from our kids that make it all worthwhile. This is a small sample of the feedback we collected this season.



to bring more youth on this outing.

It gets them out in nature experiencing things that our kids may have never experienced otherwise.

Chicago Voyagers allows our youth to explore skills and put into practice those leadership qualities in settings they might not be used to. At the same time, they are pushed to work together in a setting completely new to them.

The benefits include an enthusiasm to try new things, challenging themselves physically, and in a completely friendly way, and an appreciation of the outdoors and the outdoor activities.



We would love to participate in any other available outings in the future - thank you so much.

Many youth we serve have not been outside their neighborhood. This was an experience that challenged them mentally, physically, socially and environmentally. It opens their eyes to new ways of trust, teamwork and adventure.

Been out every weekend since May, canoeing, biking, environmental service work, no matter the heat, the rain, the humidity.



The long term benefits include developing trust, communication and team building skills. Youth are more likely to try new experiences, overcome their fears and develop more self-confidence.

Wow - you are so great. As many new opportunities you develop - we are going to try to keep coming back.

Our youth don't have the opportunity to go to the outdoors. It was the first time for all. This outing is preparation for our BCM canoeing trip but it was a great experience in itself. I would definitely love

That's what we like to hear! - CV

If you liked what you have heard about us, go to our website and click on the Donate button!

<http://chicagovoyagers.org/donate.html>