



You, Hiking for a Cause

We stocked this issue with reader stories, tips, and photos, but we also want to celebrate your charitable efforts in the outdoors. Here, five readers describe their involvement with our favorite wilderness nonprofit, Big City Mountaineers.



STEPHANIE SMITH

An admissions counselor for a wilderness therapy program in Durango, Colorado, Smith has contributed to BCM by climbing four peaks through its main fundraising arm, Summit for Someone. After bagging Mt. Shuksan (left), Stephanie told me, "I've discovered a new sense of confidence on these climbs—while giving back to inner-city youth and having an amazing alpine experience."

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A SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

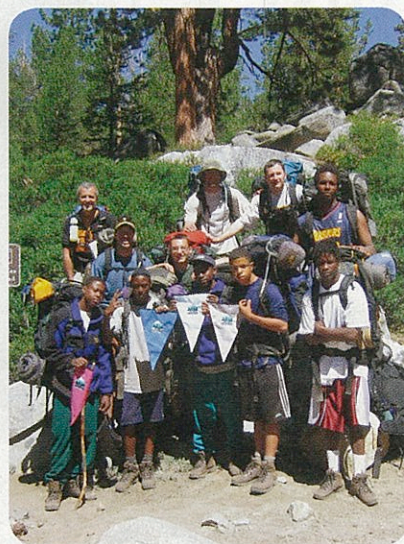
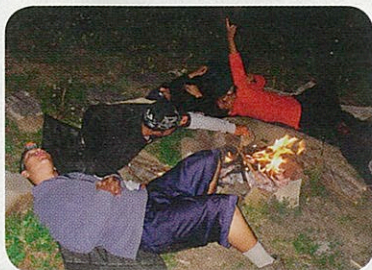


Want to climb a peak like Rainier or Whitney this summer—and help at-risk kids explore the outdoors?

You're in luck: Paul Fish, owner of Mountain Gear, is personally guaranteeing free round-trip airfare for the first six BACKPACKER readers who sign up for a Summit for Someone climb and raise an extra \$1,000. It's a classic win-win: You'll come home with a life-list memory and the satisfaction of supporting wilderness mentoring for urban teens. For more details, go to backpacker.com/sfs.

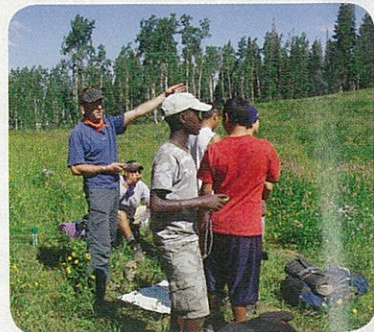
ANDREW VIGIL

"Last summer on a BCM hike in Colorado's Elk Mountains, I listened to five boys from inner-city Denver talk about their struggles and dreams—and realized this was the best experience they'd had in their lives."



DREW SAUNDERS

"Finding a route through the jumble of boulders to the top of Turret Peak in Colorado's Flat Tops was a miracle," says this Dynafit Skis manager and veteran of five BCM trips as a volunteer adult mentor. "But the really miraculous part of these trips is seeing the sense of achievement and possibility that BCM teens discover when they learn how to navigate cross-country or scramble to the top of a peak that looks impossible."



JOHN TROMBLY

"I think back over my life and thank God my mentors didn't look at backpacking selfishly," says this Colorado professor. "As a teen, I needed the inspiration and refuge that wilderness offers, and I wouldn't have found those things without my mentors. I volunteer with BCM to give that gift back."



JASON HANOLD

After hearing stories of this Chicago executive recruiter's first two SFS climbs, his sons begged to join the third. Mom said yes, so they raised funds and topped Mt. Hood on Forest's 16th birthday. Afterward, Luke's first question was, "Dad, what are we going to climb next?"