

Corrie Williams

SPCM 200

Professor Darnell

1 October 1999

The Adventures of the Appalachian Trail

Topic: Thru Hiking the Appalachian Trail

Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about thru hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Thesis Statement: Today I want to share what I have learned about thru hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Introduction

Attention Material: Imagine it. Fresh air, warm sunshine on your face, the sweet chirp of birds in the trees. Far away from work schedules, telephones, and fax machines. Nothing between you and the fresh mountain air of central Maine but 2,144 miles of mountainous trails and fourteen states. You are in Springer Mountain, Georgia and you are about to embark on the challenge known as the Appalachian Trail.

Credibility Material: As an avid hiker, hiking the entire Appalachian Trail is a goal for me as well as the thousands who crowd the trail annually.

Thesis Statement: Today I want to share what I have learned about “thru hiking” the Appalachian Trail.

Preview: It is necessary to have some general knowledge of the trail, knowledge of life on the trail for a “thru hiker”, and to have a plan for “thru hiking” the trail if you plan on embarking on this adventure.

(**Transition:** It is important to first have a general knowledge of the trail before you begin hiking.)

Body

I. The Appalachian Trail is an interesting and varied trek along the Eastern United States.

- A. The Appalachian Trail is 2,144 miles from its beginning in Springer Mountain, Georgia to its end at Mount Katahdin in central Maine.
- B. The trail covers fourteen states and hugs the crest of the Appalachian Mountains.
- C. The trail is open only to hikers (NPS).
- D. The trail was officially established in 1968, but was first envisioned by Benton MacKaye in 1921 to provide an oasis from the city (Chase).

(Transition: Once you understand a little about the trail, you have to understand what it means to “thru hike” the trail.)

II. “Thru hiking” is the term used to define the challenge of hiking all 2,144 miles of the trail in a continuous hike.

- A. Each year millions of hikers crowd onto the trail but only about 175 brave souls actually make the entire trek from Georgia to Maine all for various reasons (Chase).
- B. “Thru hikers” have a few options when it comes to shelter along the trail.
 - 1. Three sided shelters are provided every ten to twelve miles along the trail.
 - 2. In the mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states, there are campsites between shelter sites if you are willing to pay a fee.
 - 3. In the White Mountain Region, lodges are available for hikers.
 - 4. Hostels and other overnight accommodations are also available in nearby towns just off of the trail (NPS).
- C. “Thru hiking” also means strapping everything you will need onto your back.
 - 1. Hikers are expected to be prepared along the trail as there are often stretches along the trail that are remote and have no possible

location to acquire supplies on demand as hikers may find themselves a ten days walk from the nearest town (NPS).

2. It would obviously be impossible to carry six months of supplies on your back.
 - a. Many hikers purchase supplies and mail them to the post offices nearest their next stopping point so they can refill their packs (NPS).
 - b. Bottles of water weigh about 2-3 pounds each when they are filled with water.
 - i. Hikers carry water purifiers with them on the trail to filter water since it would be impossible to carry enough water for the journey.

(Transition: Once a hiker recognizes what is necessary to “thru hike” the trail, they must develop a schedule for hiking the trail.)

III. Most hikers follow a similar pattern for hiking the trail in order to take advantage of the weather patterns in the eastern United States.

- A. Hikers usually begin sometime in early spring in March or April in Springer Mountain, Georgia.
- B. This is to take advantage of the warm Southern climate since Mt. Katahdin, the northern terminus, is usually too cold at this time to hike.
- C. From April to May, hikers usually cover the miles between the Carolinas and Virginia.
- D. June through July gets hikers to the half way point of the trail as they trek from Harper’s Ferry, Virginia to the Pennsylvania line.
- E. Late July through August, hikers cover the area from New Jersey to New York and on through New Hampshire and Vermont.

- F. Hikers arrive in Maine in September where they proceed onto their final destination of Mount Katahdin.
1. Hikers must arrive in Maine by September or very early October at the latest due to the severe fall storms on Mount Katahdin that make it impossible to hike up the mountain without danger of freezing to death (Chase).

Conclusion

Summary Statement: So if anyone is interested in hiking the Appalachian Trail, it is important for them to have a general knowledge of the trail, to understand what life is like for the thru hiker on the trail, and also he or she should have a plan for hiking the trail.

Concluding Remarks: The next time you find yourself tired of the hustle and bustle of life, think about strapping on your backpack and heading to the fresh mountain air of Georgia and beginning one of the biggest challenges of your life, a thru hike of the Appalachian Trail.

Works Cited

- “Appalachian National Scenic Trail.” *National Park Service*. n. d. Web. 15 September 1999.
- Chase, Jim. Backpacker Magazine’s Guide to the Appalachian Trail. Harrisburg: Stackpole Books, 1995. Print.

COMM 110

Professor Darnell

10 October 2005

The Title of My Speech

Topic: _____

Specific Purpose: _____

Thesis Statement: _____

Introduction

Attention Material: _____

Credibility Material: _____

Thesis Statement: _____

Preview: _____

(Transition into body of speech)

Body

I. First Main Point: _____

A. Sub point or supporting material: _____

B. Sub point or supporting material: _____

1. Sub-sub point or supporting material: _____

2. Sub-sub point or supporting material: _____

(Transition into next main point)

II. Second Main Point: _____

A. Sub point or supporting material: _____

1. Sub-sub point or supporting material: _____

2. Sub-sub point or supporting material: _____

B. Sub point or supporting material: _____

(Transition into next main point)

III. Third Main Point: _____

A. Sub point or supporting material: _____

B. Sub point or supporting material: _____

1. Sub-sub point or supporting material: _____

2. Sub-sub point or supporting material: _____

a. Sub-sub-sub point or supporting material: _____

b. Sub-sub-sub point or supporting material: _____

(Transition into conclusion)

Conclusion

Summary Statement: _____

Concluding Remarks: _____

Works Cited

Use the MLA format for citing sources.