



Austin's Adventurous Wish in Alaska

During his senior year of high school, Austin was diagnosed with cancer. His doctors found three tumors, each the size of a softball in his body. However, that did not stop Austin from pursuing his wildest dream. With the help of his wish-granting volunteers, and the power of Make-A-Wish®, Austin and his father were able to travel to Alaska. They enjoyed a week-long stay centered on fishing, hiking, and canoeing.

From the very first moment Austin was told he was eligible for a wish, he knew what his wish was going to be. "I had always wanted to live in Alaska one day," explains Austin, "So visiting there was my ultimate dream." Austin and his dad were in for quite a trip. During their first couple of days, they enjoyed an Alaskan train ride, as well as a strenuous hike up Flattop Mountain. The fun was only beginning for Austin, as he and his dad would spend the next four days at Redoubt Mountain Lodge.

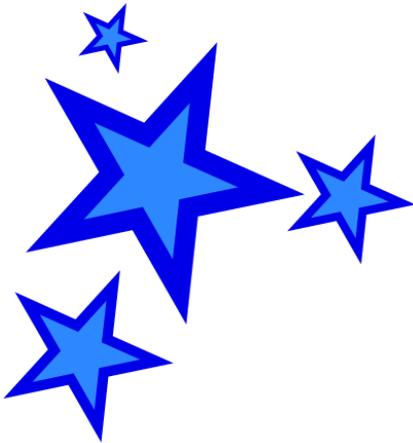
Upon arriving at the lodge, Austin and his dad were greeted by their guide, Adam, who soon became a close friend. Adam took the pair fishing, hiking and canoeing each day, and Austin's favorite moment was when they hiked up to the Summit. "Adam had hiked up the mountain ten times, but had only made it once to the Summit," says Austin. "We made it all the way to the top and the view was amazing! We stayed up there for about an hour, telling stories and enjoying the view. It was incredible."

On their hike back down the mountain, Austin went to grab his backpack, but a black bear had torn it apart in search of an apple. "It was unbelievable," Austin says. He goes on to describe this special moment by saying, "I feel so blessed and thankful for the trip altogether. It helped my mental state of mind and brought my dad and me even closer together during a time of constant struggles." Austin goes on to thank Make-A-Wish – "The impact of this wish can't even be described in words. My sincere thanks to all who helped make my wildest dreams a reality."

Supported by: Lime Lake Cottage Owner's Association



Austin's Dream Vacation in Alaska



Austin, pictured with guide and friend, Adam

