

Season 3 | Bonus Episode | KP & Cole

Taylor Peters, Host: So, Fireball by Pitbull it's the honorary theme song for the trip. Why?

Katie 'KP' Perkins, Student: Haha... yeah, I mean on so this, this kind of was born out of starting, the start of day two was like a brutal kick to the shins, um because we did this big whole cresting White Gap Pass on day one...

Peters: Which was like the thing that everybody said leading up to the trip was going to be the hardest part...

Perkins: Right, right yeah that was for sure the most like in your face challenge because it's very palpable like you can, you could see the, the Gap and like how far you have to go up and then you have to go back down and walk because it's um...

Peters: Treacherous.

Perkins: Yeah very. It was, it was a trip for sure and then we were walking it as the sun was going down slash into the night and so we came into camp on night one in the dark and everyone's tired and hungry but we're like excited we're happy that we did the hard thing and then we wake up the next morning and we just think it's gonna be like fine and dandy out on the trail and like we're just gonna..

Peters: News flash...

Perkins: Yeah, and then it's just immediate like ginormous rocks and like you - it doesn't feel like you're going uphill but you're going so slow and then you realize like when you get to the top like that was all uphill. And so, we're like kind of halfway through that section that nobody knew was gonna be hard and those are the sections that get you. Like White Gap we knew it was going to be hard like we're mentally prepared for that and you can kind of get through it but then that start of day two was just like slapping everybody in the face and so there was just like you could feel it in the air like people were not, not happy to be there. And so, I was like, "We need to switch this up." And so we were in the middle of nowhere, so I had no service but one song I did have downloaded on my phone was Fireball by Pitbull. And so, I was like at the top of a of a little climb and I was blaring it and then as people were coming up like they would stop, and we'd have a little dance party. And I think it worked and then it just kind of became like a recurring motif throughout the week, it's like when things kind of got tough and like you could feel the air get thick, we would just bust out a dance party.

Peters: Create an opportunity for Cole to really show off his dance moves or what...

Cole Rohrbach, Student: Hey my good side made an appearance in the final doc.

Peters: Okay, okay! Speaking of that though - you really stepped in for us because we didn't have like an actual presence... our team for Fearless didn't have a presence in that spring break trip and so you guys stepped in from an audio and a visual role and really helped us tell this story that and it really wouldn't have happened if we didn't have you guys and I want to know more about like for you Cole that process of yes you're climbing this horrible mountain and you're going through White Gap and sometimes it's really hard and it's tough and it surprises you like KP said, but then on top of that you have to like be documenting this journey like how was that was that? Was that hard for you or did you feel like it was kind of second nature to just jump, jump off your bike and fly the drone?

Rohrbach: So luckily after taking the class like a couple of times you kind of get used to being able to get off the bike as quickly as you can get your camera out and be used to being able to shoot people as they go by like get as much footage as you possibly can but you really have to get yourself in the right mindset whenever you're doing it because it is so easy to just start biking and just completely forget about it because it is such like one of those sports where you get like tunnel vision and you lock in on say your front wheel or like the road right in front of you. You can really lose track of everything that's going on. So, you have to be able to get in like a mindset like okay produce, produce. Like, that's the main thing that you're thinking about. It's where the, like you get halfway up a hill whether you're tired or not you can say that's your excuse for getting off the bike but you have to just kind of toss your bike and be like okay everybody else is going to do the exact same thing I just did and it kind of just becomes systematic at some point

Peters: You said that you said something that I think is important to you said this is kind of a sport and, and for people who are they maybe don't see themselves as being athletes or they're not particularly athletic or they've never done something like this before it's kind of easy to think, 'I don't fit in this class.' But the thing that I love about this group is that it really was eclectic and a lot of people were doing stuff like this for the first time and I want you both to kind of speak to how this class isn't designated for people who have shot cameras before or people who have been out on bikepacking trips before. They want, Dr. Foster wants this to be a space where people can come and learn whether they have any experience or not.

Perkins: I think I can speak to that being that I am much less athletic than Cole is. And you know that's just something, you know that's just the way it is and that's something that I've really come to appreciate about myself and that I think is kind of a major thing that Dr. Foster and Dr. Keane wants you to take away from a trip like this, is that your body is so capable and you don't realize it and so they create these spaces where you can be pushed and you can, you know, have a safe place to fail if you do but then a lot of times you're going to succeed or almost all of the times you're going to succeed and so I think that's

what draws a lot of people to it is and I think that's also what's really valuable about the products that we produce in the class is that it shows that we've got people that, you know, this year we had someone originally starting who had never ridden a bike before and they still signed up for the class.

Peters: And they still went through all the practice rides too, like they still participated you know fully and..

Perkins: Mhm, yeah. They just got hurt at the last second.

Peters: Yeah which is which is unfortunate but in a lot of ways they were still able to enjoy the growth that takes place for people who participate in this class whether they are able to do the spring break trip or not.

Perkins: Right, the class is so much more than just the week out there because we have all of these training rides leading up to it and there's a lot of mental preparation that goes into that all semester long. And I think that creating a space like Dr. Keene and Dr. Foster have created is really valuable in that people can, people can have no experience camping or biking or shooting with a camera and this class is designed to give them all of that in a really short time with a really supportive group of people around them and that's, that's where you see the growth. It's the people around them is what's, what's encouraging and lifting everybody up and that's probably like my favorite part about the class is that you have engineers and future doctors and then you have people like me who do want to go into this line of work and you have Cole who's an architect but he also you know does wedding films on the side so like it just brings together such a diverse group of people and, and but we're all here for the same goal like we all want to push ourselves to do something that we've never done before we've all want to push ourselves to you know be uncomfortable and grow in that uncomfortableness.

Peters: That discomfort yeah, yeah and I think that you know you kind of mentioned that connectivity piece and, and Dr. Foster and Dr. Keene talk about the community within this group and the value of that because it's not something that happens over the prep during the practice rides and, and during the spring break trip it persists and continues for periods of time afterward and you see the relationships kind of sustain, um, after that trip it's important.

Rohrbach: I think it's really like the people that you were saying that have never done this before really get the most out of it. The first time I did this in 2020 I was actually a part of the like group that was assigned called first timers our entire like job was to document the people who'd never done this before so I was in a group of four other people who'd never done it before and it's really those kind of people that that's where you see like the lifestyle changes the most those are the people like really that it opens up their mind to what's really possible. They know that after something like this they can go out and conquer anything. It's really, it's really fun. I, I experienced it myself. I sucked whenever I first started riding bikes I, I crashed five times on the first ride. I still have scars from it and yeah it's not always going to be easy but that's, that's kind of the fun part it's not always supposed to be easy you're not going to find that growth, you're not going to find the good times if there's not a little bit of struggle along the way and then I think I turned out pretty well after all that.

Peters: Yeah I would say so both of you and KP, we talk about this trip is kind of unfinished business for you but I don't know that this was this would have this is how you would kind of describe your experience but having both been on this trip once before what did you take after a second time do you feel like that being part of it for the second time allowed you to have a different experience where you maybe had more breadth of you know experiences or like what was what was this like for you the second time around?

Rohrbach: I personally would recommend that pretty much everybody should do it a second time it's a completely different experience. I had so much more fun this time no offense to anything that happened in 2020. I did get cut off because of Covid so that's part of it. I never finished the entire trip but knowing that you can ride the bike with confidence makes such a big difference having done this before makes you so much at ease so much more comfortable with being able to like know the shots that you're looking for being able to get off the bike and shoot being able to just do the job with... to the level that you want to because sometimes you're not always able to do that on your first go-round.

Peters: Yeah.

Perkins: Yeah I think that touches perfectly on kind of how I felt at the end of last year's group it was um, definitely I walked away and I was kind of dissatisfied with my performance on the bike and with the camera and you know just the relationships that I built and I knew that I have this opportunity to go again and I have this, this wealth of knowledge that I learned last year because last year was kind of transformational for me in the way that I see like working in this field and the way that I see my body and the way that I see what I'm capable of because I hadn't challenged myself like that in a really, really long time because that's not something you do every day you know. Like you don't go out and be like, "How am I going to make myself feel miserable for a week today?" Um, that's just not something you, you regularly do and when you've... for me it helps to have reasons behind doing that and people around you to push you because I'm very much like if the going gets too tough, like, I will like protect my own peace and just kind of get out of it when that's not always the right decision. And so in this kind of instance you're in the middle of nowhere you can't just get out of it like you've gotta, you've gotta rework your mind and you've got to find ways to get through whatever you whatever it is that you're going through and so you, you know, the first time around was that for me. Like I hit a really low point, like I crashed in the middle of the week I had a big breakdown on camera and it was just, it was fabulous but it was really well needed because sometimes you get so used to doing things that you're really good at and I don't often put myself in spaces where I know that I am gonna fail and that's what I did last year. I put myself in a space where I knew that failure was inevitable but what I learned was what happens when you reach that point of failure and what you do coming back up out of it and so that was kind of those lessons that I learned in, in those low points of last year is what I really took and what I wanted to bring this year and I wanted to bring that as, as a resource for other first-timers and things like that to show them that, "Hey this is me, this is what I look like, this is my experience last year and I still liked it and I came back and I did it again." Because there's something so valuable in putting yourself in those hard spaces that you owe it to yourself if you have the opportunity and the means which thankfully I did to do it again and I, I don't regret it at all and I'm like I'm like Cole I, I did enjoy it the second time around much more than the first time and I think there's

a whole host of reasons why that was the case but um, very thankful that I did it again and that I had the ability to you know walk away and feel completely satisfied.

Peters: You talk about that word transformative and, and I want to about that first time going on adventure media and how it was transformative for you and I want you to kind of put that in perspective to us because I feel like your future path changed a lot and it helped that experience helped you identify with who you wanted to be a year from then going on adventure media for the second time but beyond that now I feel like you, you have pushed yourself to go ahead and take advantage of every single opportunity that you can to be like capturing life as it happens outdoors. Tell, tell us about that.

Perkins: Yeah, so last year that, that my first run of Adventure Media was really my first experiential kind of um what do we call them...

Peters: Experiential learning opportunities or yeah field based courses.

Perkins: Yeah, it was my first field-based course. I didn't know Dr. Foster or Dr. Keene at all and I just kind of, I went into the interview, and I was like this is what I want to do. I'm really passionate about like outdoor conservation and, and all of that but I haven't been outdoors since I was a kid. And so here's kind of, this situation that I'm running into is that I want to work in these outdoor spaces but I don't feel confident right now and so that's like the biggest thing that the class has given me is confidence in outdoor spaces and confidence in myself and knowing that I can survive when it's 30 degrees outside and raining and sleeting on me and I can survive when it's 110 degrees outside and I've got to go get to work and, and because I've been a part of quite a few of those field-based courses now and so, um, I think it's really prepared me for my future and what I want to do and I want to be. I want to tell stories of the environment. I want to help make a lasting impact in, in fixing you know kind of the damages that we've got going on and, and then telling the story of the people who are also doing the same and just really reaching an audience that cares about the outdoors and cares about protecting the outdoors and then also realizes the importance of everybody being outdoors and spending time and, and you know kind of breaking up that mundane life that we tend to fall into.

Peters: I want to know Cole, I want to know about there's this like vlog when you're I think it was Jakob or Dawson maybe that you're talking to and he's like my style in writing is all gas no breaks like and I feel like there's, there's a group of guys from this past group that just like loved that all gas no breaks mentality and you, I want to know about the most gnarly crashes that you saw throughout and that you kind of documented.

Rohrbach: Instantly the first one that comes to mind is Jakob it was right after that interview that you're talking about was right after this fall I was flying my drone and we were just I happen to be on like...

Peters: Was it Jacob or Dawson that does the vlog when you're asking him who says all gas no breaks is it Jakob?

Rohrbach: Jakob. So, we were on this like little section, it was the wrong direction, we weren't even supposed to go this way but there was this really big hill and Jack just because he's amazing at this stuff and loves the challenge...

Peters: He's a former triathlete.

Rohrbach: He's like, he's said, "Dr. Foster can I go down the hill?" And so, Dr. Foster is like, "Yeah go for it." And then Jakob was of course like wants to follow right behind him and so he said I'm gonna do it too. Jack makes it no problem no issues we have really cool like, uh, GoPro shot of him going down the entire thing and so I was getting my drone out and we're filming Jakob going down it so I'm watching the entire thing from like my phone screen and he gets halfway down the hill... nasty slide out like he tries to make a turn wheels fall out the side of him and he like slides across the ground for a little bit. Well, that was fall number one so he gets back up and he's like okay let's go, I got this, you can see in his face even from this like phone screen. So, he hops back on the bike, takes off as fast as he can as soon as he gets to the bottom of this hill, he's got some pretty good speed built up. I don't know if he hit a rock, I don't know if there's a washout, I don't know what it is but he goes fully over the handlebars and sails, like puts his arm out like Superman, tucks and rolls... it is very impressive I'm not gonna lie. I have, I wouldn't have believed it had I not seen the entire thing and had it on film. But his bike flies about like eight feet to his left and he just perfects like Swan Dives out of it jumps up just like a gymnast and said, "I'm okay!"

[Laughter]

Peters: Did you see this part?

Perkins: I was up on the hill um, so I didn't see it quite in detail like that I actually haven't seen the video.

Rohrbach: Oh really?

Peters: I don't know that I've seen that one either um there I don't want to pick on Jacob but he's awesome he's also the one that comes around that bend really hard like the hairpin and he just you you tell the story you can do it better than I can.

Perkins: I was.. okay yeah I - this might have partially been my fault that he fell into the cactus that's the spoiler alert he falls into a giant barrel cactus. So, I was down at the bottom of this kind of steep... so the trifecta of single track is downhill, turn, slippery rocks and that's what this was. And so usually you can, you can deal with two but three is when it starts to get really hairy. And he's coming down and he's making the turn and they don't see this barrel cactus, but I do and that's why I'm posted up here because it's a great shot.

[Laughter]

Perkins: But... so he's coming and he comes around and his bike kind of slips out from under him and he just bunny hops right into the cactus.

Peters: He puts his like right leg out to kind of like...

Perkins: To try and stop him, like, so because there was not just the barrel cactus there was all kinds of fun pokey things because you're in the desert. And he's coming and I, I hadn't shot in slow motion all day and for some reason I was just shooting in slow motion at that moment, and it just turned out so perfect. Not for him that he fell into the cactus but from a production standpoint it was fantastic. But he took it like a champ, he really did. He, he immediately fell into the cactus and immediately came up to me and showed me his leg while I was videoing and then he pulled out an inch long spine like out of his out of his calf. Oh my God.

Peters: I would not be okay.

Perkins: I had to do everything to not like just shut the camera off and be like "Eugh." Because it was, it was it was so like there was a blood and yeah it was gnarly.

Peters: Was that like maybe the biggest spill that you've seen on your two adventure media trips.

Perkins: Oh no there was a really bad fall my, the first time I did it we were going down this big long gravel descent and um his name is Logan and he was going I don't know I don't know what happened it happened in front of us I've only seen someone behind him had a GoPro on and he just busted it. Like wheels, it looked like a cartoon fall um and like his helmet the, the plastic part broke off and then he was about um four feet, six feet from falling off the edge of the mountain um but he was totally okay so we're really...

Peters: Was that at the beginning of the trip?

Perkins: That was the very first day...

Peters: Oh my gosh see and that's the worst part of it too is like you're setting a standard like, is this what every day is gonna feel like?

Rohrbach: It also gets in your head you start getting the yips and it makes you want it makes you fall more honestly.

Perkins: Oh yeah, I had a fall and I didn't think it was that bad my first year but then um Brandon Weaver one of like the friends of the class and he does a lot of riding he came back this year and he was like, "KP that was one of the worst falls I've ever seen..." And I didn't realize it was that bad. But I like was trying to grab something that was flying off my bike while we were going downhill on loose sand again and or this is like loose rocks and I just like boom slid out like full body slid yeah it was my knee I still have my knees all still banged up from it like a year and a half later.

Peters: What are your battle scars, you said you have some?

Rohrbach: I've got a couple, there was one – actually you can kind of see it. I hit a rock uh I don't remember exactly what I hit but I ended up like going forward over the handlebars as I'm falling down my handlebars twist at a perfect 90 degrees to where it just like sticks into the ground and I fall right on top of it and it like goes into my stomach. There was nothing sharp about it but it left the like scar I don't know how that happened like it was bleeding I really thought I broke a rib for a while. And then the other big one I did was actually the Big Bend trip that I took um it was actually our last day we'd been riding for forever and then we had uh bags on our bikes which is completely different experience because they weigh you down and you get used to riding like that and then one of the like the grad students was doing a study over how different like perspectives points of view can affect like the viewers like brainwaves and how they like perceive something it was actually really cool and so he used us as like test dummies kind of things so he put like GoPros in like different spots on like our head on the bike on like handlebars stuff like that to test out how different people react to that and so we stripped our bikes down to back to just bare bones no bags or anything so none of us were used to actually riding with a bike that was that light again and so he just like he's like okay just go back to like the river area I was like oh I got this. And so I felt like Lightning McQueen out there with no bags on my bike so I'm just flying and I we had just done this section so I thought that I knew everything that was going to be there so we go up a hill I'm going back down the hill and I'm going pretty quick and then I realize there's a washout at the bottom of this hill I had no idea I tried to slam on the brakes nothing I can do at this point hit the washout and like a picture like that semi-circle kind of thing my front tire slams into that thing and I catch air for a solid it felt like forever everything went in slow motion next thing I know I ended up in a mesquite tree.

Peters: Oh my gosh.

Rohrbach: And then Madi Walker like rides down because she caught up and she's like, "uh you good?" I was like, "uh give me a second..." I popped my thumb back into place while she was watching.

Peters: Oh my gosh that... no.

Rohrbach: So those were those were my only two like bad falls I would say.

Peters: And Madi Walker now works for Texas Parks and Wildlife so she's killing it and again I mean she's another one... you talk about like the influences this has on like your future career path that's she's like a perfect walking example of that which is, is really cool. She's a great ambassador of the class and this program. Um you talk about 'The Yips' and I wanna, there's a part of episode four where Emma is talking about that and she kind of has this she says a lot more eloquently than I am right now but she says something like you know I, I get scared in the downhill stuff and it's supposed to be what's fun but like you don't get a chance to enjoy the fun part if you're so scared of the challenge and she was like I got 'The Yips' and I didn't I've never heard that before and I who where does that come from like is that...

Perkins: I've only heard, I heard that from Dr Keene he's like, "I got 'The Yips' y'all."

Rohrbach: He says it a lot.

Perkins: Yeah, so now I say it.

Peters: I think that's a really cool um it's something that's really symbolic about the trip though because it is kind of an intimidating thing for people whether you have grown up all your life being outdoors or not like the challenge of this trip is really daunting and this class can be really daunting what do you feel like is... we talked about like the community portion of this but what is the most rewarding part of the opportunity of that this trip provides for you to be able to go and do something that you have never done before and beyond that something that you didn't think that you could accomplish.

Perkins: I think that, for me you really find the most rewarding points in the low points and then what happens right after so when you've reached those bottom points and what immediately happens after that. Do you completely shut down or, or do you pick yourself up dust yourself off and get back on. And that's kind of the experience you typically see is people go through these really hard things they can crash they cannot feel good they can be tired they can all of these different things and you just see this perseverance switch just flip on inside of their brains and that was something that I really loved about repeating this year is I kind of knew what to look for and to, to see like the own stories that people are having within themselves because yes there's a whole story about the collective group going and doing this big thing but there's all of these individual people having these transformative experiences and getting to see that like all of these people are having a mindset change and you can kind of you can see it if you know what you're looking for.

Peters: Yeah, it's cool.

Rohrbach: KP definitely hit on the biggest part it really is just the mindset change. It's whether it's going to be like the mindset for like a future career what you want to do because that's shifted in a lot of people after this class whether it's going to be how you see yourself. One like prime example that I've, I've halfway witnessed it I was mostly told about it was uh Tanner Fowler just because from what I've heard because he was in it with on 2020 with me but apparently, I caught him like at the end of his Heroes Arc as he was like coming out the other side. And so I always saw him as like somebody that was just amazing like really good at what he does but apparently like even on like the bike too though like I was always impressed with him and then but apparently like he was one of those people just like Nate he didn't know how to ride a bike before he started Adventure Media but as soon as he started apparently like everything changed and he started working out daily he looks great now still follow him on Instagram so if you're seeing this Tanner, good job! But yeah it's just one of those things that can really start to change your life in a lot of different ways yeah and it you know you talk about Tanner Fowler he was actually my intern prior to this position that I have now for the University I worked in athletics and he was my intern and so I had an opportunity to kind of watch that full-on transformation and that he's the first person that told me about Adventure Media he was the first person that kind of exposed me to what this class can do and now I mean he is arguably, he's a tremendously successful person he's a wonderful individual he again is like Madi he's a great ambassador of this program um I want to talk about to you know we've talked about individual growth opportunities um but who is somebody that you watched in the process of this trip like really come into their own like is there a specific either situation or somebody in as an individual who you watched kind of develop and grow throughout this process?

Rohrbach: One that I definitely noticed was uh, Keely.

Peters: Keely!

Perkins: That's what I was gonna say.

Rohrbach: Yeah, she's, she's probably my favorite person on the trip, myself included. Love that girl. Everything she says makes me laugh.

Peters: No offense KP.

Perkins: I think I'll just see myself out.

[Laughter]

Rohrbach: But she obviously like, I think this is one of the first times she'd ever done biking and stuff like that too so she was obviously trying to figure it out get used to it we found out on like day three of spring break trip after we've done all these other training rides she didn't know how to change gears she's been doing entire thing in one gear. So she's just trying to make it hard on herself at this point but day four is whenever I saw it for her she was killing the single track she transformed entirely as a rider went from somebody who was like kind of just chilling at the back for most of the time not really doing too great just because there's like one time I remember at the Caprock ride I went up there I was like "How you doing Keely?" and usually she's just so happy to like to be like, "Oh I'm doing so good how are you doing?" but she said, "Not good..."

Peters: Oh, bless her!

Rohrbach: I felt so bad, I've never heard her say that. But day four you'd have never known that she apparently learned how to switch gears but and she was leading the whole thing she got up a lot of the really hard climbs and just killed it. And on top of that was just so supportive the entire time of everybody else that was doing it.

Peters: She really is and she's somebody who is so important because when you talk about that community piece, she just is so she's almost like selfless right like I imagine Keely as being someone who just is like the ultimate team player. I want to talk about the part that we kind of get into in episode four you guys really kind of did hit collectively as a group a low point was like what was at the end of day three when Liv, Olivia, has like a horrible day right she has one flat tire after another and then toward the end of the afternoon she literally has to have Connad redo her entire bike tire. Like what was, what was the feeling at the end of that day and how did you guys kind of rise back up after that?

Perkins: I think that was a day that kind of hit us out of nowhere like that was supposed to be our fun day we were going into town, we were gonna get to eat real food and you know interact with real people again and, and right as we're kind of we get through every day started with hard stuff of course it just it tends to do that and so we get through all the kind of hard stuff of the day and we are going down. We're on pavement where you don't have to pedal like we're flying down this hill pulling into town and boom there goes Olivia's tire and so we found out that some mechanical technical things were not as they should have been um and so it's, it's honestly a wonder that it lasted as long as it did consider we're riding through the desert with lots of sharp pointy things but basically um it was in a state that was gonna cause a lot of problems for the rest of the trip and so we had to...

Peters: Make some big changes.

Perkins: Yeah, yeah because if we didn't then it was going to be just a challenge the entire week and so um...

Rohrbach: Still don't know how Connad fixed that, that man is impressive he went to the Dollar General picked up some like duct tape and like I think paper towels or something like that and set up the tire completely tubeless exactly how it should have been, and it held for the rest of the time.

Peters: A true mechanic honestly.

Rohrbach: No kidding I saw him riding his bike this morning he was going to the um College of Human Sciences, and I was like, "Connad!" He was on his bike. Something too that I, I don't think that we talk a whole awful lot about is the what happens after the spring break trip it's like there's a build, build you do the practice rides you do the training and then you have the spring break trip and then afterward is the one of the really, really important key parts of this class is that you're out there to like learn how to document out like outdoor living and outdoor experiences through photo and video and so you guys come back and is it the best way to describe it like a series a documentary series where each group sort of has an episode that they produce. What was that experience like - it's a hard thing to do producing something that's 15, 17, 20 minutes long is really, really hard to do what was the biggest challenge and what was the most fun part of doing that?

Rohrbach: Definitely the most fun part is just looking through all the footage there's just some moments that you forget about or some moments that you didn't personally see that you find out about later just from like looking at everybody's footage that just crack you up.

Peters: What was one that you remember seeing and you're like oh my gosh I did not know that that happened.

Rohrbach: There were a few of those honestly um one of the ones that always makes you laugh every time I see it is uh Jakob the day after the rain. We were supposed to, it was not supposed to rain on the night of day was that day four like we had no idea it was not at all in the forecast it's supposed to rain maybe just a little bit the next day but was not expecting that at all. And so Jacob wakes up the next day in one of his clips uh they'd already picked up the tent and there's like a perfect little dry spot right where their tent had been he said, "it is just blatantly obvious that something went horribly wrong here" and then a little bit later on he said, "I don't know who said there was a 10 chance of rain whoever told me there's 10 chance of rain has a 10 chance of catching these hands."

[Laughter]

Rohrbach: And that's the first time I ever saw that.

Perkins: Every time it kills me, it's so good. My favorite kind of hidden gem moment was, it was on day four two and it's, it's a moment when Shaylin falls off, crashes off of her bike and falls into a - I don't even know like a thorny bush and her hair gets caught in the thorny bush and she's like, "Help, help!" and then Lindsay's like, "hold on let me go get the GoPro." And Lindsay runs away from her like she's fully just attached to this tree now and documents the whole thing on the GoPro and it's so funny to watch. Dr Keene comes over being like the girl dad that he is and he's like getting all, getting her hair out and he's like here you go you got it you're good now. I - that that cracks me up.

Rohrbach: She's on like on the brink, she's like just cut it off, cut off my hair and Keene's like no we don't have to do that.

Peters: Going through the footage was like the most gargantuan thing that I've ever, I mean you guys helped obviously tremendously and I can't imagine what it was like for y'all to go through all that footage. I love um the part of who was it, that ate all the random food at the gas station.

Rohrbach: Dawson, that was the other one I was thinking of.

Peters: Tell that story.

Rohrbach: Uh, so whenever we got in on day five whenever we hadn't had water in forever, we finally stopped at a gas station and some people definitely took advantage of that to the fullest extent, Dawson being one of them. So, he just sits there for about a solid minute and just lists off every single thing that he ate. I don't, I can't remember everything we did the math on the calories like 2600 or something like that if not more.

Peters: Just with the box of like the Uncrustables.

Rohrbach: Entire box of Uncrustables.

Peters: Four, four!

Rohrbach: I don't know how many are in a box but yeah, four.

Peters: I think we googled it, and it was four. Four uncrustables come in a box and we did the calculator it was like 2600 calories or something like that and then what else did he have?

Rohrbach: He was like, I had an Uncrustables, a burrito, a chocolate milk, a banana uh I don't remember exactly what else but it just it goes on for absurd amount of time.

Peters: Too long yeah, it's amazing. There, my goal is that people watch the documentary series that y'all as a class produce and that they listen to the podcast and they feel like motivated and inspired by these stories the ones that you guys have told for other people in the class what is the best um piece of advice that you would give to someone who's young, who's going to come in whether they're you know part of media and communication or not to participate in experiential learning opportunities that Texas Tech offers.

Perkins: I obviously I'm a gigantic fan of experiential learning opportunities but I think that if you come to college and you don't put yourself in a situation like this or you know copy paste whatever fits for whatever you're doing. Something that is outside of the classroom that is a little more non-traditional than I think that you are, you are you're wasting a little bit of your time because the point of college is to come and to learn and to grow and it's so much more than just taking tests in a lecture hall you need you should, you should walk away with a with a degree being different than, than you were when you walked in and in classes like this are what really promotes that and what really kind of kick-starts that journey of finding yourself and I know that's something that I've done in college that I've really kind of figured out who I am and what I stand for and all of those kinds of things and, and a big part of that has been on these transformative, you know out of classroom experiences. But then you still get class credit for.

Peters: Yeah, so don't miss an opportunity right.

Perkins: Yeah, you've got like when unexpected opportunities come your way you have to grab on and just take yourself on an adventure and in this case it's you gotta grab onto the handlebars and get pedaling. But there's, there's so many amazing opportunities at Texas Tech that allow you to step out of your comfort zone and, and find that piece of you that you don't know is there.

Peters: That's good.

Rohrbach: Obviously my recommendations just do it. I mean there's no reason not to. I think one of the biggest traps you get stuck in a lot of times especially as a college kid is just like the comfort of like everyday life. Of course it's not easy, but you can get so wrapped up with assignments that you forget about everything else that's out there and so whenever you have an opportunity to incorporate something like this into that classwork and forces you to actually get to participate in life a little bit more than you normally would in any other class that's something that I think everybody really needs to do. 100 percent. Those have been the most amazing opportunities while I've been in school. I'm sorry but sitting in the Rawls College just listening to a lecture has not done much for me but, stuff like Adventure Media stuff like um like design build type stuff that we've got to do in architecture where we actually get to do hands-on stuff that's the only classes I'm probably going to remember from my time in college another 10-20 years from now.

Peters: Yeah, that's good. I, I just want to emphasize like that this um the stories that we're able to tell of Adventure Media would not happen and fearless if it hadn't been for both of you and I just really thank you for um like being on this journey with us and more importantly I think allowing us to participate in it with you I think that um the thing that makes this episode and that makes this story valuable is that it's something that's true and it's something that's real for for you guys and you're sharing the opportunities that you learned and showcasing the ones that that your peers learned through this trip so thank you guys so much and if anybody's listening to this and they want to learn more about Adventure Media you can find a link at our website at fearless.ttu.edu thanks guys.

Perkins: Thanks Taylor!

Rohrbach: Thank you.

(Music)

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