

## A Concise Summary of My First Four Years in Canoe Trails

This is just a letter, to whom it may concern; it is to be read carefully, in hopes a few may learn.

I started with a group, about four years ago; I've done a lot of growing, and me; well I should know.

My first year in was not too bad, my trip I can't remember much; I know I had fun, I made some friends, really just your basic kind of stuff.

That year I joined another group, which I never will regret; the things I learned, the person I came to be, I never will forget.

As time went on I grew and grew, in mind and body both; I knew this pastime was meant for me, for it was one that I myself had chose.

My second year I chose to go, two trips back to back; the knowledge learned the friendships sown, can only be appreciated by one who has already known; the ways to make it through the day, though endless and dreary it may seem, to find some goodness in all that comes and sunshine and warmth will forever gleam.

The second group I chose to join, I qualified this year; I thank my 'Big Sister' for helping me, to get this recognition I wanted so dear.

My third year in was very special, to me it was very grand; for in this year I met, the best friend I ever had.

I got to know this person very well, someone I could confide in; this friendship shall go on and on, from now and till the end.

The end of that year I decided to go, to Canada again; but, this time in the snow.

I learned a lot and had some fun and I plan to go again somehow; for next year shall be my last, at least for a little while.

My fourth year in I had a slight shock, I was chose to work on Wider-Op.

I know I had changed and it seemed to be for the better; anybody can do anything, no matter what the weather.

I was somewhat scared and awful nervous; but, I wasn't the only one like that who was giving their service.

The time and events I will always cherish, both staff week and the trip; I learned some things about myself that I will not soon forget.

There were friends both old and new, all working hand and hand; the unity that came to be should come as a lesson throughout our land.

After that I went another week, to face the endless wilds; to share an inner peace with others, with uniqueness as in a child.

My fifth year is soon starting, wintertime has come around; I'm going again in the snow, for adventure I am bound.

Bound to face the wilds again, with friends again it's true; excitement is forthcoming, before we bid adieu.

When I leave I'll not forget, the friends here I have made; I'll think of them while I'm gone, for they are treasured every day.

The biggest lesson one can learn, is one about himself; though times may be tough and roads be long – never give up.

There are those who are worse off than you, they always seem in a bind; help them along as you help yourself, and give that gift to all mankind.

Alissa R Williams

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