

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH OUR DIRECTOR.

With an exciting summer to prep, Dock rarely sits still. He's more than happy to talk with you by phone at 888-954-5555 or [email](#) during office hours, or to [schedule a time to speak with you in the evening or weekend hours](#), too! To start with, here are some FAQ's we hear from parents:

Question: Why did you start Adventure Treks?

Dock: When I was a teenager, my summer camp experience was my single most powerful influence. I made my best friends and gained confidence and skills. With Adventure Treks, I wanted to create a coming of age experience for teens that would make a huge difference in their lives - a place where they would make their best friends, be their best selves, gain confidence and learn to love the outdoors.

Immersion in nature has tremendous power, especially for a teenager without previous experience. Kids can grow a tremendous amount and gain significant confidence in a short period of time. I had originally planned to be a teacher, but I decided I could better affect children through Adventure Treks. We've now even brought Adventure Treks into the schools and we run a short version of our program for schools all over the Southeast.

Q: What if my kid doesn't want to leave his comfortable world and technology behind?

D: This is becoming a bigger and bigger issue these days. We are careful never to talk bad about technology – it has brought so many benefits, and so many young people's identities are connected to their technology. But I believe there is a huge benefit to being “unplugged” for a while. When our students find themselves in “the middle of nowhere” and discover that they are having the best time of their life without any electronic or materialistic stuff, they realize that contributions and communities are more important than possessions... and these lessons sticks with them for the rest of their life.

There is something about late-night conversations with a new friend as a shooting star blazes across a starry sky that can never be replaced by technology. Facebook and text messages just can't compare!

Q: What do you like best about Adventure Treks?

D: First – it's that so many people consider Adventure Treks a second home. That, for many, A.T. is a lifelong connection with a group of positive people.

Second - the continuity. It's the opportunity to watch our students grow up and to know that we have played a part in the development of so many incredible young adults. Many of our students start at age 13, and it's with much sadness that they leave us several summers later at age 18...

...but then it's extremely gratifying to interview them as potential instructors after they have turned 21, and to find out through their eyes how Adventure Treks has affected them. It's a privilege to watch them do all in their power to ensure that their students receive the same benefits from Adventure Treks that they did when they were young. It's a neat full-circle experience.

Q: You have been working with kids for 30 years. How have kids changed over the past generation?

D: We are lucky that we attract incredible kids at Adventure Treks! Anybody saying less-than-positive things about today's youth need only spend a summer with Adventure Treks to know that the world is going to be in great hands with the next generation. Today's kids have a global awareness, a mastery of technology, and are frequently very well traveled and exposed. They tend to be very respectful of adults and want to make a difference.

One thing this generation seems to be losing is exposure to nature and the ability for “free play.” At Adventure Treks, we are happy to be able to help round these areas out.