



STAFF PROFILE:

Pat Ploof, Yearling Director

Why DO you always smile, Mr. Ploof?

I always have something to smile about and smiles are contagious and worth spreading because they bring comfort. After climbing something hard and frustrating, being cold, and getting to the top to see a friend smiling about what you just did, it's an amazing feeling to pass along, and it's impossible not to smile yourself.

Which states have you lived in?

New York, California, Michigan, and Vermont

What was your favorite part of the Yearling Program?

The basketball/soccer match held at Adventure Bound in Maine with the first session group. We had some free time after rafting before dinner and we played games for hours. It was competitive, but the focus was on having everyone involved and to have fun. Interacting with boys not as an instructor but as another team mate on the field was a whole lot of fun.

Hopes for the Yearlings next season?

Get on the road more. The basics are learned at camp for the most

part, and getting the groups more independent and self sufficient will be great. To be able to see different landscapes in new areas to give the boys a taste of all the beautiful landscapes in New England.

What do you have planned for the winter?

Ice climbing, Ski Patrol, enjoying Life, and attending a Mowglis event so I can see the boys.

Do you have a personal memorable experience in the back country?

Hiking in Utah, out of the middle of nowhere, an old cowboy shows up out of nowhere. He was quite rude to us, speaking down to us while sitting on top of his horse. We were on day two of a five day trip. It was one thing from the back country that I will never forget.

What is the coolest thing you have done since camp ended?

Every year at the end of September in Jamaica, Vermont there is a dam release on the West River. This was by far the best release I've done. My close friend Rob Shea was paddling



bow with myself manning the stern. Over the course of the day Rob and I made four runs consisting of two swims and some great eddy turns. One of our swims was caused by a giant curling wave, which ate us and then spit us out, and it caused us to flip. It was a day I will never forget and a release I will never miss in the future!