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DINOMIGHTS UPDATE

AUGUST 2024

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Emily Rees

The beginning of a new chapter for Emily and DinoMights

02.

Boundary Waters

Finding tranquility in the boundary waters

03.

Class of 2024

100% high school graduation rate within DinoMights



Emily Rees will be moving to London for two years. While in London, she will continue to help support those on the student leadership team, and stay involved with the academic programing.



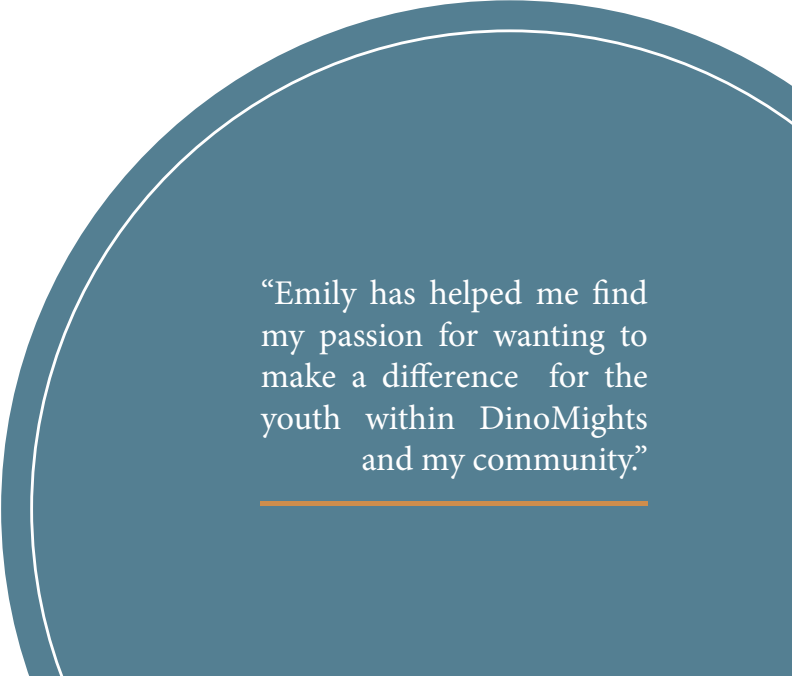
EMILY REES

Ever since Emily has taken on the role Academic Manager at DinoMights there has been a 100% high school graduation rate. These results are no surprise since Emily always goes the extra mile to help support each student throughout their academic and personal journey through life.

Since joining DinoMights, Emily has revamped the academic programing by adding interactive programs such as the Student Leadership Team and Overtime. These programs keep kids engaged and on track to become self sufficient members within society. More specifically, the Student Leadership Team gives kids a voice to make an impact within DinoMights, while Overtime equips kids with crucial material and information to help ensure a success future after high school.

Having the opportunity to work one on one with Emily this year as her academic intern has been nothing but a delight. Emily has helped me find my passion for wanting to make a difference for the youth within DinoMights and my community. Although Emily will be moving on for DinoMights for a couple years, we hope to see her back in the future.

- Jason Bunay



“Emily has helped me find my passion for wanting to make a difference for the youth within DinoMights and my community.”



BOUNDARY WATERS

I've been nervous to write about my experience in the Boundary Waters, because I am concerned that words cannot do it justice. On Jul 15, 2024 Lyna and I embarked on an adventure of taking four high school students up to the Boundary Waters – entering via the Gunflint Trail – for a five-day and four-night excursion led by Adventurous Christians. Having never been camping before, I truly had no idea what to expect.



It was one of the most profound experiences of my life. The tranquility of nature, glistening water, physical and mental challenges, camaraderie, and disconnection from the outside world are things that I will never forget and didn't really know I needed. By removing myself from the hustle and bustle of daily life and grounding myself in nature, I gained perspective. I realized how big the world is, how big God is, and how small I am in comparison. I felt an immense sense of gratitude to be alive and connected to God and the people around me.

The DinoMights high schoolers that came to the Boundary Waters with us had never been camping, never been canoeing, most never having spent the night away from home. Yet, every single one of them embraced the experience and had a positive attitude. The perseverance that they demonstrated each and every day was inspiring. We canoed and portaged a total of 31 miles over the four days. It's amazing what the human body is capable of when you set your mind to it.

Our days were hard, yet simple. No phones, social media, or emails. Two pairs of clothes and shoes—one wet and one dry. Water was drunk from the lake and food cooked over a fire. We had the essentials: food, water, and shelter. We set up and took down our campsite every day on our own and found opportunities to hike and swim after a hard day of canoeing and portaging. We sang songs and played the alphabet game to keep us going in the canoes. The support and encouragement that we gave each other kept us going.

On the last night, we were all swimming in Caribou Lake together, reflecting on what we had just experienced and excited to return home to see our loved ones. We all agreed that we felt grateful, proud, accomplished, humbled, and blessed. Our guide from Adventurous Christians told us that we were one of his favorite groups. He said no other group embraced this experience the way we did – no complaining, no arguing, just pure joy to be able to experience something like this. Our students referred to this as a “once in a lifetime opportunity” and something they will treasure forever.

DinoMights is more than just a youth development program; we are a family and I am so thankful to be a part of it.



- Caroline Brown
Administration



GRADUATING CLASS OF

2024

Congratulations to the high school graduation class of 2024! These bright students have done an exceptional job representing DinoMights and everything we stand for. We can't wait to see everything they accomplish during this next chapter of life, and will continue to show support in anyway we can.

DinoMights continues to hold a 100% high school graduation rate while 75% of seniors end up attending a 4 year college. We are extremely proud of these accomplishments and will continue to strive towards improving and upholding these statistics during the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

Adriana is going to MCTC to purse a degree in Nursing

Giselle is going to the University of Minnesota School of Nursing

Bryan is going to Gustavus Adolphus College.

Oliver (not pictured) will attend Eden Prairie Technically and Community College to purse audio production and engineering.

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