



Virtus et Veritas Ministries  
 www.v2ministries.org  
 "Virtue Through Adventure"

# Spring Newsletter

February 2024

## ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH ADVENTURE

### Nate's Story

While trudging across a cold stream with dozens of pounds of gear on my back in the middle of a (very) rainy national forest may seem to some like a stressful and unpleasant experience, for me it ended up being the highlight of my summer. Don't get me wrong, my first experience on the V2 High Adventure had its challenges all the men in our group, but those difficulties helped to make it such a memorable and formative encounter with God. For those who don't know, the High Adventure involves a week-long journey to a different destination each year, in which we trek and camp throughout nature carrying everything we need with us. The last two years, I have had the opportunity to backpack through both the Arkansas wilderness and the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. Throughout these trips, we were led in discussions on themes such as spiritual warfare and encountering God through creation, and daily Mass with our chaplain Fr. Padraic Stack.

St. Ignatius of Loyola taught the value of "finding God in all things", and I know how important yet sometimes difficult that can be to do in our daily lives. I have found that it can be easy to see God in the beauty of His creation, but until you experience it firsthand without distraction, you don't know how impactful it can be. Going on this trip has allowed me, like V2 Camp does, to encounter God without the daily stresses of technology, school, and work because of the built-in silence, prayer, nature, and strong brotherhood. I have also learned that some physical and mental difficulty can really benefit your relationship with Christ and outlook on life, especially for men. I have gained patience, determination, and better strategies in my prayer life that can all be taken back home and applied in my everyday life.

I have been involved with V2 first as a camper and then a counselor and have been amazed at how these experiences have changed my life for the better. When I signed up to go on my first High Adventure trip with V2 a couple years ago, I did not anticipate it being such a fun, memorable, and formative experience for me. It has been the perfect opportunity to grow in my spiritual life after being involved at camp because it is so focused on men going through their next steps in life. Although there are challenges, whether the elements, the terrain, or just going without some daily comforts, each time it has been a highlight of my summer and has allowed me to see and do things from climbing the giant hills at Great Sand Dunes National Park, to cooling off in clear spring stream, and seeing views I can't even describe. I look forward to participating in my third High Adventure this summer and continuing to grow in my relationship with God and His creation.



Nate Franco is a senior at Creighton University studying neuroscience and will begin medical school in the fall. He is an executive member of the Students for Life club on campus and coordinates the annual March for Life trip. Nate has been involved with V2 from the very beginning as a camper, youth leader, and most recently serving as Assistant Camp Director. He has participated twice in the High Adventure, V2's newest adventure geared toward high school, college, and adult men.

**“ This trip has allowed me to encounter God without the daily stresses of technology, school, and work. ”**



*Nate (front) mountain biking on the 2022 High Adventure*



*Nate leading team members as a Senior Counselor in 2019*



*Nate rock climbing on the 2023 High Adventure*

# ELEVATING ADVENTURE

## Ministry Update from the Executive Director

V2 was founded in 2015 as a one-week summer camp, and the Holy Spirit has blessed this humble ministry in ways that I could have never imagined. Camp was a huge hit and began filling up in as little as three days with a growing wait list. This overwhelming response led to hosting weekend events outside the week of camp and then, in 2019, to doubling the number of youth served by adding a second camp session. Next came the High Adventure, our newest offering, which has been in many ways the “next step” for young men on their journey after being involved in camp over the years. I’m thankful for Nate who so beautifully shared the reality that young men are ready for a greater level of challenge and adventure than what they experience on the day-to-day in the classroom, attached to their devices, and (for an increasing number of people in our world) rarely ever getting outside the city.

This adventure-based approach to ministry is nothing special and nothing secret: **Get boys outside, with fellow men, and get them in front of Jesus.** It is successful because it is rooted in the fact that for men, outdoor adventure is a catalyst for encounter with God. Again this should come as no surprise – men are innately drawn toward adventure by God’s design. And most men today are not getting any of it in their lives. V2’s role is simply to put the pieces in place and allow the Holy Spirit to do the rest. This year, it’s only February and all our summer adventures are full – both weeks of V2 Camp and three full groups for the High Adventure.

The growth we have experienced motivates us to continue expanding our work and helping more men encounter God through adventure. I am excited to share with you that, over the coming months and years, V2 Ministries is embarking on a strategic plan with the goal to **Elevate Adventure.** We will share more along the way, but some key features of this plan include building out our year-round calendar of adventures, investing in leadership development for high school and adult volunteers, and enhancing our adventure experiences through greater levels of safety and professional execution. Thank you for partnering with us on this adventure!



YOURS IN CHRIST,

**TOBY KORENSKY**

Executive Director  
Virtus et Veritas (V2) Ministries



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# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI FOR THE FIRST-EVER V2 ALUMNI NIGHT

Friday, March 15  
from 8 PM to 11 PM  
Free food and drink hosted  
by Runza – Elkhorn



## V2 SPRING SUMMIT

Saturday, April 13 from  
8 AM to 5 PM  
Camp Rivercrest  
*Registration opens February 9*



## SAVE THE DATE! Joy of Giving Day is now Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving

Wednesday, May 1

