

Once-in-a-Lifetime Adventure for Cancer Survivors



Shortly after their once-in-a-lifetime adventure kayaking on the Blackfoot River in Montana, two young adults were treated to tours of the latest RVs and got to meet Keith Urban as guests of THOR Industries at Elkhart Open House.

The two young women participated in a week-long outdoor adventure as part of the First Descents program for young adults impacted by cancer or other serious health conditions, such as Multiple Sclerosis.

THOR is a supporter of First Descents and works with the non-profit to provide RVs for its week-long programs.

For this summer's program, First Descents arranged for thirteen participants to learn the skills needed for whitewater kayaking as well as working together to build a shared experience they likely would not soon forget.

Setting up on a parcel on the Blackfoot River owned by Cliffs Ranch and residing in six RVs provided by Big Sky RV, of Bozeman, Mont., the group established a basecamp and soon formed a community.

The program was even more remarkable for what the participants had not done before. Most had never been to Montana, been on a river, stayed in an RV, or sat in a whitewater kayak.

But they were all up for the adventure.

One of the adventurers said that realizing what she was capable of changed her life.

“It is so easy to write off things that seem impossible,” she said. “I would say 'I don't do that. I don't climb. I don't whitewater kayak. That's for other people. That's not part of my world'.”

“But then, what was once so far off and crazy, becomes very possible and you just feel so proud of yourself,” she said.

A few weeks after their Montana experience, two from the baker's dozen that took part in the kayaking adventure, attended Open House as guests of THOR.

They were treated to inside looks at the latest RVs, feasted on amazing food and spent time with THOR employees and dealers.

The highlight was when country music legend Keith Urban stopped by and shared stories with the two women.

Urban's visit was to accept an Airstream trailer presented as a gift from THOR. His performance in concert later that day was sponsored by THOR.

Urban, in turn, donated the trailer to First Descents to help support its fundraising efforts.

THOR's efforts to support young cancer survivors are noted by the hashtags #OutlivingIt and #THORhasHeart.

A video of the First Descents' Blackfoot River kayaking adventure was posted to the THOR website [here](#).