



Yellowstone National Park, one of the sights JROTC's Corps of Discovery will be visiting, is roamed by thousands of wild bison, shown grazing by the Madison River.

JROTC plans final cross country trip

BY KARAH BOWLES

Pinnacles, spires, and a beautiful mixed grass prairie. This is the Badlands National Park, one of the sixteen stops that 13 members of the JROTC program will be visiting this summer.

"For approximately 19 days my wife and I, being the only two chaperones, will take 13 students out to explore the great out west," said Sergeant Major Keith Taylor.

According to Taylor, the trip's first three days will consist of mostly traveling. The group will make its first stop in St. Louis, Missouri to tour the Arch; next, they are off to Iowa to tour the Lewis and Clark State Park. On the third day they will arrive in South Dakota to visit the Sergeant Floyd Monument.

Finally, JROTC will spend 13 days touring different state and national parks including Yellowstone National Park and the Badlands Na-

tional Park. Here is when they will have time to camp and cook their own meals.

"Out of 19 days we will only be eating one or two meals in a restaurant. The rest of them the students will have to cook on their own," said Taylor.

There is a total of 47 students in the JROTC program, but only 13 students are participating and out of these 13 students only one girl is participating: Jessica Toothman, who is a sophomore.

"I think it will be very interesting to be the only girl going because all of the guys are my friends," said Toothman. "It will also be interesting to experience things in a different perspective."

According to Taylor any sophomore, junior, or senior in the program could take part in Corps of Discovery 2002.

"If a freshman was active in the

JROTC program then they were also allowed to participate in the Corps Discovery trip," says Taylor.

Each student was expected to pay \$500, then donations were made by Citizens Bank, 21st Century, and Wild Turkey Federation.

"Due to the JROTC helping the school out considerably by lowering and raising the flag every week and assisting with parking at most school events, the school will also help fund students going on the Corps Discovery trip," said Major James McGuire.

Four years ago was when the last Corps Discovery trip was taken. This year there will be a whole new set of students who will be participating.

"This will be like my senior trip because I get to go and be with my friends," said senior Brian Bullock. "It's just a trip of a life time."

Others who are also participat-

ing in the trip said they wanted to go out west and venture through the country.

This will be the last opportunity to take part in this organized cross country odyssey. Due to Sergeant Major Taylor's eventual retirement, the Corps Discovery Trip of 2002 will be the last year the JROTC will be traveling out west. Taylor says putting the trip together is a lot of

work and stress. This is the main reason why this is the last trip.

Taylor also commented that the only reason he likes to take his students out west is to see their reaction to the country.

"I want students to get an appreciation of the variety of landscapes and to see how different, big, and beautiful our country is," said Taylor.

Corps of Discovery 2002

Jacob Helton, Tim Tyler, Josh Robbins, Brian Bullock, John Phelps, Chris Eldridge, Jessica Toothman, Joe Husband, Derrick Hensley, Eric Stallsworth, Justin Cornelius, Jay Noe, Andy Coffey

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