California Adventures by Dr. Peter Brewitt

I knew it would be a good interim when I woke up to a sleet-covered morning. The intramural fields were covered with white mush, and the sun looked like it needed its batteries changed. And yet, as the students emerged from their frozen tents, they were in good spirits and happily set about packing up camp. As we tromped away, Dr. Savage and I felt warm – we would be glad to take these 14 students to California.

The California interim featured every kind of rugged adventure you could hope for – weather, mountains, wildlife, and questionable goat cheese. We saw gaping scenery from Big Sur to Yosemite National Park, followed deer trails through snow up to our stomachs, sought gold in the Sierra Foothills, and escaped from Alcatraz. Through it all, the students bonded, cooking together at night, sharing tales of their escapades around campfires, supporting each other as we ascended rocky mountains, and singing along to our You-So-Mighty playlist in the van. While Environmental Studies was well represented on the trip, we had a wide variety of majors and all class years on the trip. The bond we formed will last longer than California itself, and when Point Reyes has finally ridden away along the San Andreas Fault, the glory of this interim will still endure.
PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Duke University – Nicholas School of the Environment

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