

GoNorth! Fennoscandia 2008

Team Chat

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Welcome!

Today we are going to have an additional chat with a GoNorth! Team Member.

Now that they are back from their Expedition across Fennoscandia, you can ask all your questions about the Arctic, about the Expedition, about the Polar Huskies...about anything you can think of!!

About our Speaker:

It's a surprise...

who will it be?

Aaron

Paul

Mille

Beacon

You will just have to wait to see!

5/15/2008 LIVE Chat with a GoNorth! Team Member:

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: Good Morning Everyone! We are so glad that you could join us today. We have Aaron here today to answer you questions-

GoNorth! Expert: Hello everyone!

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: Neill School 1st Graders sent this question to Basecamp: Was the weather what you expected?

GoNorth! Expert: The weather and the landscape were not what I expected. The weather was around 20F or so, but the winds were very strong! Also, there was more snow and trees than I have ever seen in the Arctic

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: Neill School 1st Graders sent this question to Basecamp: How did you feel going to another continent?

GoNorth! Expert: I always love traveling. The flight was around 8 hours, which wasn't too bad, but it is things like the language and the people I truly love.

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: How did this trip compare to last years tip for you?

GoNorth! Expert: It was very different! In fact, it was different from all of the trips. Last year it was very remote in Russia. We visited the herding groups with a Yaranga, etc... This year, it felt less remote as we were following snowmobile signs.

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Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: Did you get close to a reindeer? What are they like?

GoNorth! Expert: We did get close to them! They are some awesome animals. They are bigger than the whitetail deer here in MN. Also, their horns are simply amazing. I think they are beautiful.

Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: Do you have a favorite Polar Husky?

GoNorth! Expert: Now that's a tough question! I do love them all, but I especially enjoy Disko and Tucker. I became very close with them in 2004 and it still remains today.

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: Welcome Christian Academy and CRES!!

Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen: Why did you start this program? We are just curious. We LOVE IT!!!

GoNorth! Expert: Thank you! We do it because of you! You know...we work hours and hours and days and days on it...and it is when we see you online that makes it all worth it

GoNorth! Expert: I was a social studies teacher and I truly wanted something that would motivate learners and teachers, that is why we have GoNorth! today!

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: Hi Mr Dimmer's class- could you please resubmit your question?

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: Neill School 1st Graders sent this question to Basecamp:

What if you are far away from a store and you run out of butter or toilet paper or dog food?

GoNorth! Expert: :-)...I love it! Well, what you make sure you always do is plan ahead. The reason the GoNorth! projects have been successful is that the team works together to plan everything accordingly. Thus, I don't think we will ever run out of these goods. Think about when you are planning for weekend camping trip and times that by 4 or 6 months!

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: Neill School 1st Graders sent this question to Basecamp:

Did you ever feel homesick?

GoNorth! Expert: Sure. There are certain things that one misses. However, the beauty of the Arctic and the people of the Arctic is always motivating.

Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: Do you like going to the arctic?

GoNorth! Expert: I love it! I feel it is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Not only the landscape, but also the people. Unfortunately, the Arctic is changing every year. I hope it will remain as it is today.

Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen: We noticed that in 2004 you were on the trail for the entire 6 months of the trip. Why did you go for 2 weeks this time?

GoNorth! Expert: I am only on the trail for 2 - 3 weeks at a time now as I have to teach and do research here at the university. I would love to be there the entire time, but my schedule just doesn't allow it. However, I also get to take the teacher explorer, which is great!

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: What was the most memorable thing to happen this year when you were there?

GoNorth! Expert: There are always many memorable experiences. One of my favorites this year was meeting the Sami people and learning about reindeer herding.

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Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen: We have enjoyed these chats and learned a lot from the speakers. What made you guys think of letting us ask questions of people like this?

GoNorth! Expert: Collaboration is at the heart of adventure learning. It is how we all learn best - by learning from each other. Thus, collaboration is key. If you want to, you can learn more about adventure learning as a concept at <http://innovateonline.info/index.php?view=article&id=342&action=article>

CRES: Which dog are you guessing is going to retire next year?

GoNorth! Expert: I'm guessing it will be Lipton and Freja. They have done so awesome over the years, but it is time for them to sit back and relax :-). I know Lipton will love that!

Cres Team Ginger: What was the most fun thing on the trail?

GoNorth! Expert: There are many "fun" things. I love dog sledding, enjoying the vistas of the Arctic, and meeting new people.

Lightning Rox: Do you think this was the best trip yet?

GoNorth! Expert: I don't know. It is so difficult to compare them as they are all so different. However, that is also why we have a five-year program that is circumpolar...so we can acquire everyone's perspective from the Arctic.

CRES: What is your estimate of the coldest temp. on the expedition

GoNorth! Expert: It was when Paul and Mille were on the trip alone. I think it was in the -20F area. In 2004, our coldest temp was around -62! And that is without wind!

Christian Academy SC: What is your favorite artic animal?

GoNorth! Expert: I love the polar bear and as you may have heard or read yesterday, they are now going to be protected. They are majestic animals.

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: What is your favorite thing to eat on the trail and what is your favorite thing when you are home?

GoNorth! Expert: Hmmm. Good question! I love pasta at home AND on the trail. Thus, that is definitely my favorite thing to eat .

Christian Academy SC: do you ever get afraid?

GoNorth! Expert: I don't know that I get afraid, but I do get concerned sometimes. As a team, we work very well together. Thus, I always feel safe and confident when were are experiencing the Arctic.

CRES: What did Wendy think of the expedition at the end of the expedition?

GoNorth! Expert: We need to ask her! She did a fine job as it is difficult. When I filmed her for a video, she said it was exhausting, but enjoyable.

Christian Academy SC: What do you do for fun?

GoNorth! Expert: I sometimes ask myself that question! Well, I love to run. In fact, this morning I got up and ran 10 miles before coming into work. I will also be running the Med-City marathon at the end of the month and Grandma's marathon in Duluth, MN in June. I also like to take the boat out on the lake and be with friends.

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Christian Academy SC: What do you sleep in, a tent?

GoNorth! Expert: We have two sleeping bags that are together...usually a -60F and a -40F sleeping bag. I then wear my long underwear, socks, and a hat when I sleep.

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: Did you see the Northern Lights or did you get there too late?

GoNorth! Expert: Unfortunately, we missed it. However, Paul and Mille said they saw some awesome northern lights. I can't wait to see them again as they are simply awesome!

Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: Do you like talking to us and answering our questions?

GoNorth! Expert: I love it! In fact, I am very interested in learning online and I think this is just another great way of doing it!

Bonnie/Grethchen –Lightning: Do you think any of the puppies will be running on the expedition next year?

GoNorth! Expert: I believe so. In 2005 Beacon was only around 10 months old and did an incredible job. Thus, I do believe we will have them along next year to Greenland!

Christian Academy SC: What do you like best about the trip?

GoNorth! Expert: I really enjoy being in the Arctic and meeting the Arctic people. I also love travelling by dog sled.

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: Do you think the US listing of the Polar Bears will help? Will this force us to do more about Climate change?

GoNorth! Expert: What it does do is bring attention to this problem. Many believed just a few years ago that climate change is not an issue and it is not impacting us. Well, it is, and the listing of the polar bear is yet another example.

Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen: How did you learn to dogsled?

GoNorth! Expert: By doing it! :-). When you look at how we best learn, it is definitely by doing it. Just like when you first learned to ride your bicycle...you learned it by doing it. You fell down probably a few times, but now you are a master. I also had some excellent instructors such as Paul and Mille.

Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: Does your family miss you and worry about you when you go to the Arctic?

GoNorth! Expert: Yes they do. Especially my mother :-). However, I always tell them that if they don't hear from us, that is a good thing!

Christian Academy SC: How many snow dogs do you have?

GoNorth! Expert: I don't have any Polar Huskies that I personally own. However, I feel like I am part of the team although they are with Paul. I have two black labs named Reggie and Speck.

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Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: how and why did you pick the locations that you did for the GoNorth trips?

GoNorth! Expert: We chose the locations at the end of the 2004 trip when we were in Pond Inlet on the Baffin Island. We looked at a circumpolar map and decided we wanted to visit as many people from the Arctic as we could. We wanted to have a circumpolar perspective. The regions we have traveled to have been pretty amazing!

Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: how old are your dogs?

GoNorth! Expert: Reggie is around 12 years old and Speck is around 5. They were both rescued from a dog pound. Speck loves to run and chase squirrels and pheasants.

Christian Academy SC: Do you see glaciers and forests where you are?

GoNorth! Expert: We saw lots of forests, but no glaciers. The last glacier I saw was in the Baffin Island region of Canada.

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: As a professor, is this all you do or do you teach too?

GoNorth! Expert: I wish it was all I did :-). I also teach courses in learning technologies: such as how you design and develop adventure learning experiences. I also do lots of research, such as the survey that is on the front page today, which hopefully everyone completes :-)!

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: These are fabulous questions! We have about 10 minutes left....enough time for a few more questions.

Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: Is the dog Baffin named after that island?

GoNorth! Expert: Good catch! Yes, Baffin is named after that island. Baffin is also beautiful like the island.

Christian Academy SC: Why did you decide to be a part of the polar husky team?

GoNorth! Expert: It is because we work best when we are in teams working towards a common goal. Thus, I love to work with people and my goal of adventure learning has come true because of it!

Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen: What other things do you research?

GoNorth! Expert: Well, it might be a bit boring to you:-). I research how teachers and students use geospatial technologies, such as Google Earth; I research how we can design web sites for optimal learning; and I research how teachers and students use adventure learning in their classrooms. Thanks for asking!

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: When you were little did you know you wanted to be a professor? If yes, was there a teacher you had that made you want to teach? If no, what made you choose this path?

GoNorth! Expert: I always had incredible mentors and these mentors were teachers. It is the importance of having a "mirror" to look at; that is someone who you admire and want to be like. I wanted to be a high school teacher when I was a K-12 student and then when I started college, I wanted to become a professor. I couldn't have done it without some incredible support along the way!

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Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen: can you study adventure learning at the U?

GoNorth! Expert: You can! In fact, you can learn more about it at <http://cehd.umn.edu/fields/learningtech.htm>

Christian Academy SC: If I want to be a scientist and go on adventures, where do I start?

GoNorth! Expert: Good question! You begin by following your dreams; that involves talking to people, asking questions, going to school, reading, and never stop asking questions!

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: What do you do next week when the program is over?

GoNorth! Expert: I actually begin teaching summer school here at the U of M next week. It is pretty unbelievable :-). I am also writing a book, that I hope to finish up this summer. Well, I have to finish it this summer :-).

Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: We love the all the polar huskies. We have learned a lot and even started a recycling program at our school! Thanks to you and your program

GoNorth! Expert: That is awesome! It is awesome you are putting your talents and knowledge to work to make a difference. Just this morning I was asking myself what I could do to not be impacted by the gas prices so much. I carpool, burn corn for heat, and I don't plan on driving anywhere for vacation.

GoNorth! Education Basecamp: While Aaron is answering his last question, lets thank him for answering our questions today!

Bonnie/Grethchen –Lightning: :)Thank you for answering my Question:)

CRES: Thank you Aaron!

Mr Kroeger 6th MPS: Thanks for being our speaker today and answering our questions!

Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen: If there were on big thing you want us to take from following your trip and the website, what would it be?

GoNorth! Expert: Passion for learning. I believe that through adventure learning we can have an incredible impact on how people learn and teachers teach. I want learning to be fun; and I want learning to be something that doesn't feel like you're learning because you are experiencing it.

Mr Dimmer: 8th: Steffen: Thank You! We hope to meet you someday in person but we feel like we already know you :-0

GoNorth! Expert: Thank you so much!

Ms Havey, Wilson Elem, WI: Thank You for taking the time for us!

GoNorth! Expert: It is because of you GoNorth! is a success!

GoNorth! Expert: Have a fantastic summer!

GoNorth! Expert: Bye bye.

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Thank You!

From all of us at Team GoNorth!, Thank You for joining us today! We had so much fun and we hope that you not only enjoyed yourself, but learned a lot too. This was our last chat for GoNorth! Fennoscandia 2008. See you next year fro GoNorth! Greenland 2009.