

The Road To Healing

Three Marjory Stoneman Douglas Students find healing through an experiential learning adventure of a life time.

Parkland, FL – Three Marjory Stoneman Douglas students are setting out on the journey of a lifetime with a truck, camper, and video camera hoping to inspire hope and find healing through video storytelling. The trio will be focusing on vignettes of individuals from every state along their journey who are ordinary but doing extraordinary things.

The alternative learning experience and road trip was originally designed by Alexa Zarem, a 17 year old MSD student, after the school tragedy last February and the loss of her mother to ALS in January. She was in search of something bigger and deeper for her life knowing, “tomorrow isn’t promised”, and realized her talent and passion for TV production could be leveraged to more fully to find it.

Alexa recruited fellow TV production enthusiast Matthew Alderman (17) and mutual friend Ashley Baez (17) to join her but the teen’s parents weren’t convinced on first pass. “It took a while to get our parents on board, but we started four months away, so we had more than enough time to let the idea settle.”

“It was daunting for us to think about our children on the road for six months undertaking such a massive project. When we realized the magnitude of the experience they will have, and they showed us their thoughtfully constructed plans for the trip, it became harder and harder to say no” says Raquel Alderman, Matthew’s mother.

For the teens, the trip represents an opportunity to put their TV Production skills and passion to the ultimate test as they intend to produce ongoing vlogs and a short package film as the conclusion to the journey. More so, the trip is a great adventure to find healing from the tragedy last year. Focusing the films on every day heroes and positive messages serves as a therapeutic outlet to promote further recovery from the trauma.

The trio set out on the six month, 48 state, road trip adventure on Friday, July 12th with their camping trailer “Sonya, truck “Igor” and Ashley’s German Shepherd therapy dog “Apollo”. They will begin posting blogs to their YouTube channel as soon as its ready. They’re raising additional funds for food, gas and other expenses along the way. To support three best friends on their incredible journey around the country please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-msd-students-heal-and-create-media-startup>

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Raquel Alderman