

Activities are important in the high-school experience

by Dante Troina
Staff Writer

On Friday Oct. 14, the Kayhi wrestling, volleyball and swimming teams were out of town. It's pretty typical, but what do other students have to say about some of their favorite schools to stay in?

Senior Luke Dossett has been traveling for Kayhi activities since he was a freshman.

"What makes a school good to stay in is one where you have access to the school, and also one that has great hospitality," he said. "I'd say Wrangell is a great place to stay in, because it has a good city around it, and also, when I was there for debate, they had food ready for us, and treated us right."

Students agreed that hospitality is what makes trips an easier experience. Desiree DeMello thinks that other schools are welcoming to Kayhi.

"Over my two years in cross country, I've stayed in four schools, Petersburg was the best. They have a good staff, who let us use a lot of their rooms, and were very welcoming."

Freshman Kristian Pihl said the larger the towns, the better the experience can be, but ultimately it's where you're staying that's the biggest influence.

"Colony was the best place to sleep in. It has a good city to go out and explore if you have an off day. What makes a good trip though, is having fun and enjoying who you're staying with."

Garrett Mulder, a junior on the track and field team, agreed with Pihl, in that your friends have a definite outcome on how enjoyable the trip can be.

"There can be a good time made, anytime, anywhere, as long as you have your friends with you and keep a positive attitude." Others thought that their teammates make a unique environment, and it makes it easier to enjoy yourself.

Sophomore Renzie Lorenzo, who has travelled to six different schools, thought that a school trip is unique because of the experience you get to share with your friends. "The best part about football trips is spending time with my team, it makes the experience better than what a regular trip would be."

Packing for School Trips

One of the biggest adjustments for high school athletes is remembering to pack everything. If the plan involved the floor of a state ferry or gym floor, then an air mattress, pillow, towel and sleeping bag in addition to normal toiletries.

"The thing about money is that you obviously need it for food, and on most trips you'll end up having money left over as long as you budget yourself," said Dossett. If a student does forget, then the travel budget takes a hit.

"I forgot a pillow, on our football trip to North Pole, the longest trip of the year, so after the first night I had to go to Costco and buy one," said sophomore Chris Brown.



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On school activity trips would you rather...

14% Stay in the school

69% Stay in a hotel

17% Be housed out

80 votes • Final results

The view Southeast Alaskan student-athletes see during their travel aboard an Alaska Marine Highway System ferry. (Pictured above)

Staff Photo

The many necessities you'll bring on a high-school activity trip. (Pictured below)



Even if everything is packed, disaster is always a possibility.

"During a cross country trip, I had a soda in my bag, it ended up spilling on all my clothes and uniform, I had to wear it in the meet that day," said sophomore Liam Kiffer.

Big Spending on Food

Staying in the school doesn't necessarily mean a team saves on travel. Most schools only provide 1 meal a day if that, leaving the rest of the food cost up to the kids.

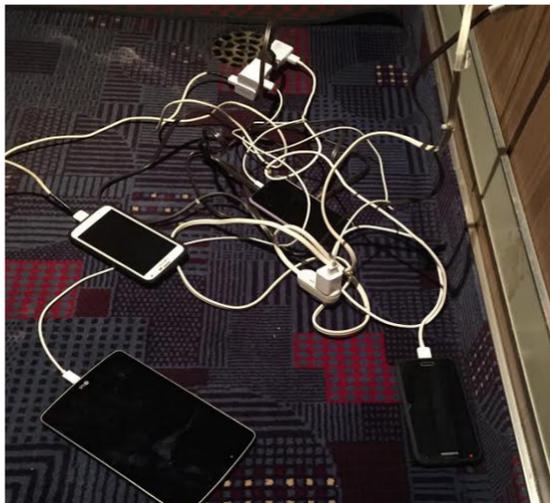
"I notice that on debate trips, the other schools provide food more often," said Dossett. "On football trips, we tend to eat out often, I make sure to budget myself more." Getting housed out doesn't necessarily solve the problem of spending money on food.

"Being housed is nice because you get the benefit of being fed by a family," said junior Largim Zhuta, who has travelled for AC/DC and basketball. "But sometimes, you get stuck with a family who isn't as on top of feeding you."

If a ferry is involved in a traveling schedule, then the cost and fried food intake go up dramatically. "You can kinda pick and choose what to do on a ferry, you could spend money beforehand and eat snacks throughout the ride," said Dossett. "Or you can buy food on the ferry, which is usually expensive."

Homework Expectations

A sports trip does not mean a student will get a free pass on homework.



"Get your homework done early instead of procrastinating on it, it's not good to fall behind," said senior Spencer Erickson. "There's no positive side of getting back and being way behind."

Coach Eric Stockhausen, who also teaches world history and P.E. at Kayhi, said that, "As a teacher, I notice that students, for the most part, have been really good at asking what they're going to miss. Certain groups and teams do better about letting me know when they'll be gone, and what assignments they need."

A student could be gone for up to five days, so making sure they have the right assignments is very important.

"You have to make sure to ask your teachers for assignments in advance in order to make sure you get them

done," says Erickson.

Homework also affects teachers in that they have to teach a classroom with sizes that are much smaller when athletes may be gone.

"No teacher wants to 'punish' the kids that are gone, by teaching it when they aren't around," said Stockhausen. "So when you have 20 kids gone and six kids in the classroom, you have to re-schedule assignments, because with the kids gone, you'd have to end up re-teaching it either way to get the most out of the students."

Activities could also be helpful to students grades, making them pay attention to make sure they can travel.

"Activities are also a great motivating factor for kids to get their grades where they need to be so that they can play," said Stockhausen.

Stockhausen also makes sure that his basketball team gets their work done on trips.

"Nothing that the kid does online or over a trip can replace being in a classroom, where there is interaction and discussion, but in our program we make sure to have time in other schools libraries, to make sure that kids get their work done."

Sports

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"People want to see student-athletes working hard," said Smith.

"They want to see them acting a certain way, doing certain way. The product on the floor is determined by players and coaches philosophy. Fans don't support attitude, individualism, selfishness, or cocky attitudes. As a team we don't work to 'prove' ourselves, we work to represent Ketchikan. Every team should represent Ketchikan the way it deserves to be represented, on and off the court."

Supporters come to watch the teams who have a good reputation in the community, either by the way they act on and off the court, or by the amount of appreciation that is given back to the community.

"My coach always tells me about how the people watching aren't there because they know you'll win or you're good at the sport, it's because they support you and what you're doing," said student-athlete Chris Lee. "They truly believe in you and your goals. That's why there are sponsors hanging up on each end of the gym, those banners wouldn't be there if the reputation and the attitude of the team and kids were bad."

Whether or not a team is made of girls or boys, if it's the most successful, or if the team has a great reputation within the community, there is always some sort of support whether it be a full gym or a few spectators.

"The community backs us up because we are usually the underdogs," said Eichner. "Even though we aren't the best in every sport I know that people will always support any sporting event in some way, because that's the way this town works."