

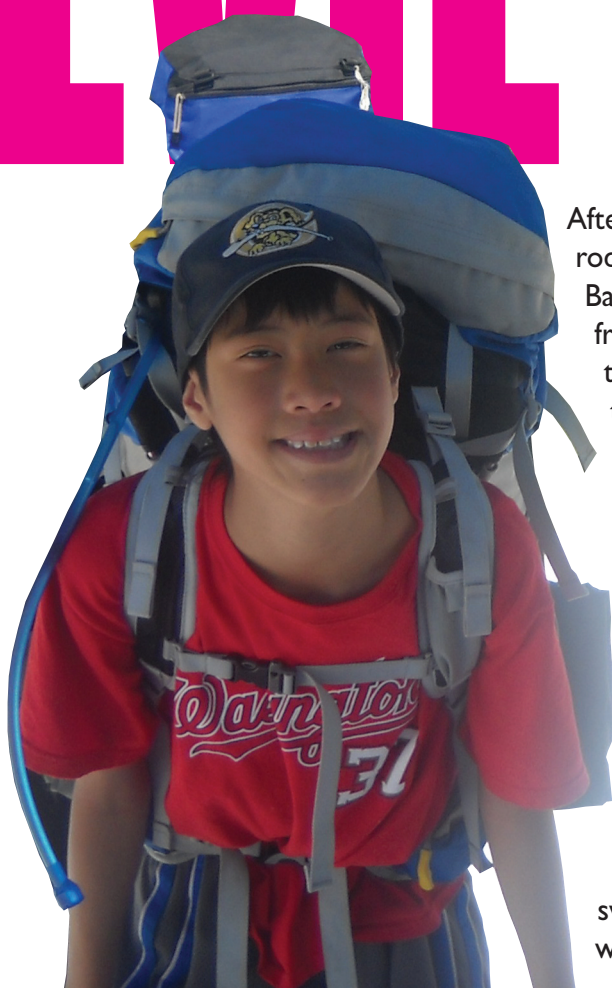
Evie Priestman and her mom had been planning to take a long road trip between elementary and middle school for a few years. They worked on the itinerary during the winter of Evie's fifth grade, heading out on the trip as soon as school let out. They flew from Washington, DC to Seattle and then traveled to five national parks. This article is written by Evie.

The Big Adventure Between Fifth and Sixth Grades

My trip started out with my mom and me flying out to Seattle to meet friends. With our friends, we went to Camp Unalayee, a backpacking camp in the Trinity Alps of northern California. There was a bunch of snow at the camp. When we went on our backpacking trip, we had to hike in snow. We even slept in snow. I didn't like the snow part of the camp, but I loved the rest. I want to go back next year.

We then went south to Durango, CO to see other friends. We drove across Nevada on Route 50, called "The Loneliest Road in America." We saw a tree full of shoes on the side of the road. We camped for a few nights and then arrived in Durango, where we stayed with friends. The city has a river that runs through the middle of it. We went swimming in the river at night! I learned how to drive a motorboat at a nearby lake. It was scary at

EVIE'S TRAV



After going to camp, we rode a big bus down to the Bay Area. We stayed with friends who lived near the beach. We stayed there two nights and had a lot of laughs. After visiting our friends, we rented a car and headed east to Lake Tahoe. We car-camped at a place called Camp Richardson, where there was a shop, ice cream parlor and restaurants – all close to where we camped. We went swimming and there were geese in the water.

first, but I got the hang of it. When I drove it, I felt especially scared.

After Durango, we headed to our first national park, Mesa Verde. Mesa Verde is where the Anazasi Indians once lived, and now you can go to their communities and see their houses. We went on a tour of Cliff Palace. We had to climb three ten-foot ladders that looked like they were built into the rocks. It was very interesting. We then went to our second national park, Arches, in Moab, Utah. We stayed in a cabin with air conditioning – finally some COOL air!!! The campground had a huge checker board that you could walk on, a playground, and a pool. Most

of the people staying there were from overseas and did not speak English, but I made friends with them, anyway.

At Arches National Park, we went on short hikes to see some of the great arches. It was very hot so we drank lots of water. It got to be 110 degrees when we were there!

We also went river rafting on the Colorado River. There was not

much white water, but it was fun, anyway. I was expecting it to be rougher. The person rowing the boat was from our home town! Everyone else was from France. After the boat ride I went into the pool and my mom went into the hot tub.

We then headed to Bryce National Park and stopped at Canyonlands National Park along the way. We just went on one little hike, then hopped back into the car and headed to Bryce. We stayed in a teepee outside of the park. There was also a pool there. I rode a mule to the bottom of the canyon. His name was Croppy. I loved the ride.

We then headed to Zion National

Park. When we entered the park there was a big rainstorm and we could see rocks falling from the canyon walls. We went on a couple of hikes. The hike that was the best of all was "the narrows." This was a hike right in the Virgin River. We hiked through water that was up to our hips! The current was against us so coming back was the best.

Zion was our last national park. We then returned to the Bay Area and flew home. I had a great time on the trip. We had been away for almost six weeks, so it was great to be home. But I also missed being on the road trip. Sometime, I want to do another road trip just like the one I did this summer.

IELS



Exploring the Anasazi's ancient home at Mesa Verde National Park.



Riding Croppy at Bryce Canyon National Park.



"Hiking" in the Narrows at Zion National Park.



Hiking at Camp Unalayee. We camped in the snow!