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3 Easy Steps to Becoming a BackCountry Hero

By Chuck Fitzgerald

3 Easy Steps to Becoming a BackCountry Hero by Chuck Fitzgerald

Have you thought about helping to protect wildlife or wild flowers, but you don't know how? Or maybe you want to protect your favorite camping site or that cool little stream nobody else knows about? Making a difference in the backcountry is easy for anyone - you don't have to be Ted Turner. Not every one can fly to the Amazon delta to move bird nests or trek off to the Aleutian Islands to remove crude oil from a pristine beach. But everyone can help right where they are. Follow these 3 easy steps, and you'll be on your way to giving back to your backcountry and you'll have a ball doing it.

First step is to take inventory of your backcountry interests. What is your favorite outdoor activity? Is it fishing, rock climbing, bird watching, hiking, camping, canoeing, hunting, skiing, classifying plants, kayaking, horseback riding or something else? Take a few minutes to really understand what excites you about being off the pavement and in the backcountry. Once you have pictured yourself engaging in your favorite outdoor recreation, you're ready for step two.

The second step towards becoming a backcountry hero is to do a little research. If you love to hike, perhaps spending some time researching the American Hiking Society and some of its projects make sense to you. If bird watching is your thing, BirdLife International may be worth looking into. The easiest way for many to do research is on the internet. But don't forget about book stores, libraries or sport specific organizations like the ones just mentioned. A more comprehensive list can be found on-line in our Education Center at www.backcountrytoys.com.

As you do your research, keep your eyes open for projects in your area. You'll be amazed at how you will be able to make a difference right where you live. Only one step to go.

Up to this point you've identified a subject, you've research it and now it's time to get moving and this is most critical step. I doesn't take much time or effort to take action. In fact, there are organizations all around the world looking for you to volunteer and they all have active lists of projects that could use your talents. If you have a hiking vacation planned, why not incorporate a small project into your trip? Maybe a letter needs to be written to your legislator or perhaps you could pick up trash along a local lake shore. There's lots to be done.

3 Easy Steps to Becoming a BackCountry Hero

Spending time in the backcountry doing the things you love to do is made sweeter when you help to protect, conserve and enhance your activity. We have great trail systems and great river and lake systems and all because of people like us, who take the time to improve those things we love so much. With just a little action, you will be an outdoor hero. Use this information and you'll Get It Right The First Time.

Get Outdoors!

Chuck Fitzgerald is the President of Arizona based BackCountry Toys, an online store providing

backcountry specialty gear and educational information for outdoor enthusiasts. Visit www.BackCountryToys.com to receive the free e-newsletter "FreshAir" or call (800) 316-9055

THE HERO IN YOU

By Onaefe Umenu Edebi

So much we look up to higher places for help and encouragement. We all want someone who comes to us when we fall, when we are down. Someone to hold on to. But this hero is not always there, and as a thought "an angel has broken my heart".

But there's a hero, who's always there in joy, sadness, laughter and pain. Always there, he comes through for me. It's funny, when within me, I say "I don't see my hero", because though I may not see Him, I know He is there. Like an angel, He watches over me.

But you know what? We all have that hero. He is available to all of us— including you. We see Him, on the dawn of each new day; when we look through the image in the mirror. Even at night when we lay our head to sleep, our hero is always there; forgetting the past, concentrating on the present and seeing a bright future.

It's really simple.

"The Hero Lies in You"

Writer of the Inspirational "THE A TO Z I BEHELD" Onaefe Edebi is a motivational instructor and writer. He is also into computing technology.

THE HERO IN YOU

New Year's Resolutions for the BackCountry

5 Ways to Get the Most Out of Your BackCountry Gear

Is First Aid Different in the BackCountry?

WIN THE "YEAH BUT" GAME in 5 Easy Steps

Instant Unzip Software
Handywoman's Home Repairs
Disaster Preparedness and Crime Protection Manual
If I Can, Anybody Can!
The Ultimate Rose Garden– Neighbors envy, owners pride!



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