Why did you want to captain a trip?

Captaining a trip was an appealing choice because it allowed me to have a more direct impact on the planning of the trip, and it also served as a great learning experience.

What did you anticipate would be rewarding about it?

I wanted to make the trip less of just another activity to sign up for and more of an organic experience that I felt engaged in from start to finish.

What parts of the experience did you particularly appreciate?

I enjoyed learning how to plan a trip and hone my camping skills. Before this, I had never obtained a hiking permit, planned a route, or designed a meal menu. These behind-the-scenes details go unnoticed for most students. The captain gets to take on the responsibilities of the mechanics required to make a trip successful.

What parts were less satisfying?

It's hard to think of a part I did not enjoy, but the route could have been longer. The trans-Sierra trips are generally much longer and more strenuous than most EDT's. The opportunity to both test and push one's limits sets them apart.

Any particular event or moment that stands out from the trip?

I really enjoyed our bivouac up on the ridge. We knew it was our last night as a group and so we all sort of pulled together. Gathering up on that ridge felt like a good way to celebrate the trip and to end it. We lay around playing cards and laughing, knowing we’d have to wake up in just a few hours to hike down to the van.
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