

The 26th St. Peter's Venturer Scout Company from Edmonton wins 2015 Amory Adventure Award

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An Edmonton Scout troop won the 2015 Amory Adventure Award for their trek along Newfoundland's East Coast Trail.

The 26th St. Peter's Venturer Scout Company, with scouts ranging in age from 14 to 17, planned the trip which took them on a four-day, 65 kilometer hike through lush forest, vast meadows and rocky, wave-battered coastline.

Reagan McKinney was 16 when she went on the trip. The first day of the trip was the longest with an 18 kilometre day and towards the end of the day's hike they came across a rushing stream with no way across.

"It was about knee deep and about 10 feet across so we all had to link arms and walk across together so we wouldn't get pulled over by the stream," McKinney recalled. "About 30 feet down it would just drop off into the ocean. I took the first step in and I thought I was going to get sucked in. It was so scary."

There were more serene moments as well.

The scouts were within shouting distance of each other, but were walking alone through meadows. Imagine Dragon's "On Top of the World" came on her music player and she climbed atop a nearby cliff.

"It was so spiritual, I felt so connected with nature," she said.

McKinney said she was surprised the trip earned her group the 2015 Amory Adventure Award.

"I got the call when I was at school and I was telling everyone and shouting, I was so excited," she said.

The adventure didn't stop there. This year, she went camping in Japan with 34,000 youth from 150 countries and she had an opportunity to have tea with the prince of Japan.