

Words & Pictures

Mutterhood profiles one writer or photographer in each issue to peek into the creative process and find out what influences and inspires them. This issue we're featuring a young man who is making his mark as a writer, photographer and adventurer.

Callan McLoudrey



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Tell us about your blog, 50by10.

I have a goal to visit all 50 states by the time I am 10. I set this goal when I was five and by then I had only visited 15 states. I started this blog when I was 7.5 years old and I had visited 31 states and the District of Columbia. I have also visited four Canadian provinces.

How are you doing? How many states do you have left?

We have 10 states left. We are going to Alaska this summer and Utah and New Mexico next summer. I will be 10 in July, 2015 and that's when we will go to the last state, Hawaii as our big final trip. And because it is the 50th state admitted into the Union.

What was the first state you visited?

It was Virginia, when I was only 11 weeks old. On the same trip we visited Maryland, and my middle name is Ellicott after Elliott City, Md. I also visited Washington, DC, on that trip, and my first national park, Arlington National Cemetery. That's where I got my National Park Passport Book.

What are your favorite places to visit?

Our family likes to visit national parks on every trip, if we can. My favorite national park is Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. We went to the Grand Tetons then, and took a boat ride on Jenny Lake. My second favorite is Carl Sandburg's Home in North Carolina.

I always earn Junior Ranger badges at every national park. If you would like to be a Junior Ranger, just go to the front desk at the visitor's center and ask for the Junior Ranger packet. When you are done give it back to the ranger and you will have to say the Junior Ranger Pledge. It's not the Pledge of Allegiance, then you will get your Junior Ranger badge. When I was 7.5 years old I had 13 badges. Now, I have 21.

What are some other places you've seen?

We went to the Grand Canyon in 2011. The SkyWalk is all glass and 4,000 feet above the ground. I got a bumper sticker for my suitcase saying Grand Canyon Sky Walk, I Did It!

We also went to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. Mom and I went on the historical tour, which was a two-hour long tour that was two miles. Back in the day they were allowed to write on the walls but now if you do that you get a front row seat in the big house.

In Kentucky we also went to a very unusual place, Jerry's Junk. This guy Jerry has everything from cars to signs to ear and nose cleaners from Hong Kong. We also visited the Louisville Slugger Museum and Big Mike's Mystery House, which is on a tilt.

In Pennsylvania we visited pnc ballpark for a two hour long tour. On the tour we saw on the dugout for the visitors team the the x-ray room doctors office. This ballpark has been voted for the best ballpark in America. they also hold place number five for food. The team that plays there are the Pittsburgh Pirates. Not to mention the scoreboard is gigantic. It seats 38,362 WOW!

In March me and my parents went to Ohio. Why did we go to Ohio? 1) It was a state I needed to visit. 2) My mother's friend Melissa is there. 3) My dog's son is there. 4) To go to the Arnold Fencing Classic!



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Who do you travel with?

I always travel with Mom, sometimes my dad, and sometimes my grandma. I always take lots of photos. All of the photos on this blog I took.

What are your travel plans this year?

For Spring Break, we went to five different states: Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma. To get there we will be taking Southwest Airlines

When we do a trip with more than one state, we fly into one state and drive to the other ones. We stay at different hotels, and they all have swimming pools because I always like a pool at the hotel to cool off. We're also going to Alaska, and maybe Michigan for lunch or dinner. Michigan is close but we've never been there, so that's why we're going. We might even spend the night. 🍷



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In Callan's own words . . .

"In Pittsburgh we went on a train called an Incline. So these cool trains are in the shape of half of a house. A reason why they built a Incline was Pittsburgh was at the bottom of a mountain and houses were at the top. It was built in 1869, OMG!

"When we got up to the top we had ice cream. What's weird is that they call sprinkles jimmies instead of sprinkles! I had chocolate jimmies on my ice cream. It was delicious!"

Visit Callan at his blog: 50x10.wordpress.com