

Is This my Magazine?



Dear reader,

My name is Aspen Friedrichsen. Thank you for choosing to read my magazine about myself. I know that sounded narcissistic but it is. In this magazine you will learn about me, my interests and just some fun things to do. I was born in West Chester PA and moved to Philadelphia when I was around 8 years old. When I first moved to Philly I was sad; I had just left my friends, some family and my overall favorite place on earth. But I made friends almost immediately that helped. My new school was very different in terms of learning style but I stuck it out and got through 8th grade and thinking back on it, I miss it but at the time I hated it. As for now living in Philadelphia, I don't like it. I can't deal with most cities, they are smelly, dirty, and just repulsive to me. So I like most environments that are not the city, but also I don't like hot and humid places. When it comes to places and weather I am very picky. But overall that's a lot about me and if for some reason you want to learn more keep reading.

Editing

I got into editing very suddenly. One day with my cousins I had the idea to film a movie, I was around 9 at the time and all my cousins were around the same age so the movie would be bad. After filming it I wondered how I would put all the footage together. Many years later I discovered iMovie. I learned the basics quickly and kept learning over the years. These days I find myself recording skits and short gaming videos just to edit them. I wouldn't like it as a job but I hope to continue it as a hobby.

Canoeing

This article will be a little shorter because of how much I've talked about canoeing in the Vignette. But a little more about it. I'm sure if I didn't go canoeing since I was less than 1 year old, I wouldn't like it as much. And as I said in my Vignette I really encourage people reading this to try canoeing.

A Rock in the Water

When I was younger I went on canoe trips with my family (I still do). I had gone on hundreds before but this one I was a little bored so I started yelling out whenever I saw rapids. It was really just a game I made for myself. One time when I yelled out my grandfather said "If you were on the Titanic it never would have sunk". At first I laughed then I began to think, is that true? I could only see the rocks that were in the rapids (Which are sometimes the smallest), while the biggest rocks were below the surface and sometimes not visible.

This whole experience showed me many things. One was that just because you can't see anything doesn't mean that nothing is there. But also you can't always assume something is there because you may become paranoid. The second thing is that you must beware of things of all sizes. This lesson applied to when my little sister was born, she is 2 now and still small and I move around quickly so I need to watch out for her just like I need to look out for those little rocks. Something I must quickly point out is that I learned all these lessons years later (I was still young at this time) when I thought back on it. The third thing is that all things can do damage; when I was on a canoe trip in the spring, my friend and I were caught on a rock and we nearly flipped. It took 10 minutes of almost flipping over to free ourselves from the rock. The small rocks in the rapids can be just as dangerous too, they can bring your canoe or kayak to a complete stand still. Meaning you will have to get out and pull it free and that can take a while (from personal experience). I also learned that Sometimes there is no way to avoid hitting a rock. I feel this applies in non-canoeing situations, maybe there's an obstacle in life that you just can't overcome and you just have to go through it and take the hit. You may not know what it is or what it will do, but you just have to do it. At the time this canoe trip was just like any other but from writing this I learned a lot from it, as I do with most of my canoe trips. For example, recently I went canoeing/tubing with my cousins. While we were on the river at the deepest parts we got out of the tubes and tried to stand; we didn't know if we would be able to stand but we tried anyway (at one point we couldn't and we panicked for a solid 10 minutes).

Overall I learn so much from just this little canoe trip where the only thing really special were the words my grandfather said. And honestly the words are hard to remember. I hope whoever is reading this learned about canoeing and the important lessons you can learn. I guess if there is a moral to all this it would be: Try canoeing once and a while.



Brandywine river (one of my favorite places)

Writing

I also enjoy writing. I've started writing many books over the years (all bad and never finished). But lately I have been writing scripts and skits. I just enjoy creating by writing by hand and typing. But sadly, my attention span to it is very bad, so I don't get nearly as much writing done as I normally do.

Passion: Guitar

One of my passions that I decided to write about is guitar. When the pandemic first started I started listening to music more than ever. There was a lot of guitar in most of this music so I started wondering what it would be like to play this music, how difficult it would be, how fun it would be. So I told my parents about it. But this time it didn't amount to anything. Like a year later I started seeing ads for an app called Simply Guitar. It was apparently a "top of the line learning app" so I told my parents about it (because it costed money) they thought it was a good idea but one problem remained; I didn't have a guitar, until my dad remembered that my uncle had left his guitar at our house or something like that. So I started learning. It was going well but there were a few problems. The guitar wasn't in the best shape, I also just wasn't ready to start learning a new instrument.

A year later I said why not keep trying so I kept using the app for a few weeks then quit again. At this point I was starting to accept maybe I wasn't meant to play guitar. Then my birthday came around and my parents got me one present: A brand new guitar. I was speechless, but I took it as a sign to keep playing. I kept using the app and learned a good bit from it chords, a little bit of strumming ect. I used the app for a long time, but eventually I started to realize the pros and the cons. My iPad was having trouble picking up the right sounds. I can play the right note and it would register wrong, I could intentionally play the wrong note and it would be correct. After a while I had had enough so I told my dad to cancel it. He didn't do it right away because he thought I would come back to it at some point. I did, only to realize it was as bad as it was when I stopped using it. At this point I knew enough chords and a couple strumming techniques to start learning on my own, from YouTube and the internet. That is what I'm doing at this very moment, well not this exact moment but in terms of learning guitar.

Teaching yourself anything is difficult, because unlike having a teacher there's no one to keep pushing you. But learning my favorite songs has kept me interested, well I have not memorized any songs yet. I feel that I'm making good progress and I really hope I will continue to play for many many years to come. It's fun to play because when you succeed it's very rewarding, but when you mess up a little thing it can sound weird. So it kind of presses you to play better.. Guitar is a complicated instrument that is worth learning. The only issue I could see is being able to get one because they are expensive sometimes. But if you want to play then play. To be honest I'm pretty terrible at guitar but I still enjoy it. I hope this writing has encouraged you to play guitar.

The End

