

2023 MOUNTAIN SPIRIT AWARD: ZACHARY CHOMCHU



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Sponsored by Norquay, Rab and the Alpine Club of Canada

2023 Award Recipient Zachary Chomchu

Zachary completed the 1,123km Great Divide Trail (GDT) thru hike in 50.5 days following a massive knee injury and being told he would never walk again. This expedition was also a pivotal moment that led Zachary to becoming a zealous advocate for outdoor education.

He is an Executive Member of the University of Alberta Outdoors Club that introduces students to outdoor activities and reduces barriers for their participation. Zahary created a communal gear library for students to utilize at no cost and to plan/host outdoor expedition trips for little to no cost.

Zachary is most proud of his Strathcona Wilderness Centre junior high students' achievements to win numerous provincial medals in sports (archery, cross country running, etc.), learn how to make a fire from scratch, plan and complete significant backpacking expeditions in the Bow Valley, and so much more. Being able to pass his knowledge and experience forward to assist the next generation of outdoor adventurers is a privilege and a responsibility that he takes very seriously.