

## Urban Peak Trip

Wow, visiting urban peak and getting to cut peoples hair will forever be a memorable moment for me. Who knew you could change lives and make people smile just by giving them a new hairstyle makeover. Prepping for this trip was not easy and a lot of important aspects and procedures were taken to make sure our trip was successful. Everyone played a significant role in ensuring we were prepared for this trip. I have learned that not only do you have to be physically prepared but also mentally prepared. Any high risk situation can happen while going on pass so it's best if you have strong support from staff and peers. Before leaving to Urban Peak, the barbershop team had a quick sanctuary group that consisted of a check of everyone's head space and the expectations for going into the community. I am pretty new in the barbershop program and being selected out of the many talented barbers who have been in the program for a longer period of time than I was a complete honor. I feel as if I am moving up on the leader scale and gaining more responsibility there are more eyes on me. When we arrived at Urban Peak I felt positive in the environment and my surroundings. When I walked into the doors I was immediately greeted by everyone and I could see the excitement on their faces. We all set up our stations and were very cautious to set up a clean and disease free environment for our clientele. Despite the area being small and warm we maintained our professionalism and adjusted to the environment the best we could. My first customer was a young female who was very social and was interacting with me the whole duration of the haircut. While I was consulting with the young female she did not have a specific hairstyle she was seeking. She put her trust in me to show my creative skills and give her a hairstyle of my choice. I provided a taper fade with a design to which she loved and was complimented on by several other

individuals. The next customer I provided service to wanted a trim and layers. I had to take extra precautions while cutting her hair because I noticed several large scars on her head. I wanted to ensure a cut that complimented her facial structure. The end result was a face friendly shoulder length cut with crisp and precise layers. She enjoyed the service I provided for her and began to dance with excitement on her new haircut. Urban Peak was nice enough to provide the barbers with pizza, drinks, and snacks for the hard work and service we provided to them. While eating lunch we conversed with the youth of Urban Peak and created community while listening to music. After lunch I provided a service to a male customer. The male wanted a high fade around his braids. However he had a strict time limit. I had to adjust and work quickly and precisely to ensure my client's schedule and provide the best haircut. After each haircut each client was so satisfied with their haircut they tried to tip me. Due to the circumstances, I had to respectfully decline the tips and instead provided them with my contact information for future services. Despite the trip being organized by Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center I felt very humbled to provide services to the community. As I continue in my career path as a barber I will remain giving back to the community and provide volunteer services to organizations in need. Cutting and styling is what I do and maybe next time I will be able to bring out my creative braiding skills to show I can SOAR past any heights and challenges.