

The Road Less Traveled: Finding Freedom in the Journey

By Hailey Franks

BELMONT, N.C.- Determined to not let the mundane of everyday life get in her way of exploring the beauty of the world, Meredith “Mere” Dodds has made it her mission to embrace freedom, and explore as much of the outdoors as possible.

As a remote content director for non-profit start-up companies, Dodds enjoys her work and ability to assist those who want to do great things out of the goodness of their heart. “I get really passionate about it because it's so refreshing to see that there are still people trying to do good, while expecting nothing in return. Being able to help them market their brand is so rewarding.”, said Dodds.

However, outside of her 9 to 5, any chance she and her husband, Nick, get, they will trade their laptops for sleeping bags. Dodds said, “There is so much of the world to see, and even if we're gone just for the weekend, that's one more place we got to experience.”

Dodds moved to Charlotte, N.C. back in 2019 where she met her soon-to-be husband, Nick, who introduced her to the world of road trips and camping. When the Coronavirus broke out in March of 2020, the couple began traveling to remote campsites within the state, as the result of the pandemic.

“There was truly nothing to do except camp and be alone with ourselves in nature... there is something so freeing about feeling completely safe while also being surrounded by the unknown.” said Dodds. The opportunity to camp more frequently during the pandemic fueled the two's desire to start traveling out West.

They have since completed over 40 trips and have frequently visited Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, where they will soon be moving at the beginning of the summer.

Dodds and her husband camp out of his Tacoma, where they attach a truck tent and live out of while on their adventures. “Camping has taught me that we need very little to be happy. Simplifying your life can bring you more happiness than you can imagine.” said Dodds.