

Reidy receives Outward Bound scholarship

SUNAPEE — Sunapee High School junior Lucie Reidy has been accepted in the third annual Mountain Spirit Institute-Outward Bound Scholarship program at Sunapee High School.

Seventeen-year-old Reidy will be attending a backpacking and rock-climbing course in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina that starts on Aug. 6. She will participate with nine other students from diverse backgrounds throughout the United States.

Randy Richards, founder of Mountain Spirit Institute, worked in the admissions department for Outward Bound. Before he left the position, he worked to have Sunapee High School included in the list of "Partnership Schools," which entitles the school a priority in receiving partial scholarships from Outward Bound. His organization along with other local businesses in the community team up to contribute the remaining portion of the scholarships. This year, Sugar River Savings Bank has donated the full local community portion of the scholarship funds for Reidy's course.

A handful of other high schools in northern New England qualify as partnership schools such as Concord and Gilford high schools in New Hampshire. Richards plans to solidify and expand the program to increase the number of students participating each year, and possibly expand to other schools in the area. He also intends to meet with Sunapee High School administration officials to present the impor-



COURTESY

Outward Bound Scholarship recipient Lucie Reidy, a junior at Sunapee High, stands with Sugar River Savings Bank Sunapee Branch Manager Barbara Nenninger and Mountain Spirit Institute Director Randy Richards. The bank recently provided partial funding for Reidy to attend a wilderness program in North Carolina's Blue Ridge mountains.

tance of wilderness experiential education programs for youth, and share his outreach plans.

Reidy is excited about her upcoming Outward Bound course. When asked what she is looking forward to, she stated, "It's a new challenge; things I've not done before such as rock climbing, plus meeting new people."

She added that she had been hiking before with her family near Basin Campground on the Maine/New Hampshire border in the White Mountains, but still feels she needs to prepare physically and mentally for her summer experience. Sunapee High and Outward Bound '06 alumnae Hanna Baade stopped by the high

school recently to show her support for Reidy. Baade mentioned she was glad Lucie was taking the program and that she would "get a lot out of it."

Outward Bound was started in 1945 by visionary educator Kurt Hahn who realized the need for a type of education that empowers young people through expeditionary challenges. Mountain Spirit Institute is inspired in part by Hahn's vision of impelling young people into powerful educational experiences in nature.

For more information on the Mountain Spirit/Outward Bound Sunapee High School program, contact Richards at www.mtnspir-it.org or 763-2668.