



# River Runners

Monthly Newsletter



**Meet Gretchen!**  
Gretchen Leithiser is the newest Program Manager for River Runners!



**Congratulate Olivia!**  
Olivia Neely was honored with the Prudential Spirit of Community Award!

**Need More Info?**  
E-mail us!

[gretchen.leithiser@otoymca.org](mailto:gretchen.leithiser@otoymca.org)

[jessica.dumont@otoymca.org](mailto:jessica.dumont@otoymca.org)



## Remote (Under) Control

River Runners finding ways to make it all just a little easier

The River Runners program has created a remote learning assistance center, located directly next to the Old Town-Orono YMCA. The space allows up to five students at a time to come in and do their remote learning amongst supportive mentors in a calm and quiet area, while maintaining all healthy social distancing standards. The space is fully equipped to meet all students' needs with snacks, a couch to relax, and a reliable internet source connected to the school's network.

1

**WANT TO BE A RIVER RUNNER?**

Ask for an application in person, or e-mail us!

2

**FILL IT OUT!**

Answer to the best of your ability! You got this.

3

**SEND IT IN!**

Bring it to the school office or the YMCA by September 25th!

## Getting to Know Gretchen

Gretchen Leithiser is the newest Program Manager for River Runners, working alongside Jessica Dumont to lead their cohorts. We wanted you to have the opportunity to get to know her a little bit better, so here are some of life's big questions answered by Gretchen.

**Favorite Food:** Chicken-fried steak with mashed potatoes and country gravy. Like, a lot of it.

**Favorite Animal:** My pitbull, Tilly—full name Tilly Varsity Athlete Leithiser.

**Favorite Band:** Death Cab for Cutie, but lately I can't stop listening to Sigrid. She's so good.

**Favorite Quote:** Chop your own wood and you'll warm yourself twice.

**Favorite Book:** The Phantom Tollbooth. It applies to your life no matter what age you are.



**“Chop your own wood and you'll warm yourself twice.”**

**Favorite Place to Visit:** My family's camp in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. Paris is a very close second.

**Favorite Hobby:** Anything art related. I really love to draw cartoons and do wood burning.

**Weird Fact About Me:** When I lived in New York City, I worked in a coffee shop that was popular with a lot of celebrities. Making coffee for Vision from the Avengers is pretty intimidating.

## OLIVIA, WE LOVE YA!

Olivia Neely, a tenth grade member of River Runners, was the recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. The award program is the United States' largest youth recognition program based only on volunteer community service. Olivia was chosen as a winner after building an awesome outdoor musical play space for the kids in her community. In Olivia's words, "[I wanted] to provide a place for children to express themselves through music, in a fun and creative fashion, and also invite more children to experiment in different ways and be able to be outside instead of stuck inside." We are so proud of Olivia for her hard work and kind heart!

