

A photograph of a male runner in a bright yellow-green shirt and dark shorts running on a paved road that stretches into the distance. The landscape is arid with sparse vegetation and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The text 'Stronger Communities, One Step at a Time' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Stronger Communities, One Step at a Time

**Adam Meyer '09** and friend Ashley Donovan are connecting with communities — on foot. And we're not talking walking. The two left Portland on July 28 to run 3,000 miles to Washington, D.C., in four months. That's an average of one marathon per day.

Meyer majored in politics and has worked as a policy and legislative advocate in Salem

and for D.C.-area nonprofits. His goal now: to meet and listen to people, share successful ideas and better understand the issues and values of communities nationwide. Between maintaining a blog and updating social media accounts, he and Donovan organize visits with community leaders, teachers, elected officials and others. They've already met with

retired Oregon legislator Paul Hanneman, who led the charge on the 1971 bottle bill; tribal leaders to talk land and water preservation; and rural school principals to talk education.

Meyer credits Willamette and his folks with inspiring his commitment to a better quality of life. "My parents worked in community planning and social services, and poured

heart and soul into their work," he says. "I also learned from leaders at Willamette, like Bob Hawkinson, who changed the community through encouraging dialogue and empowering individuals."

To learn more about Meyer and Donovan, follow their blog, share your story and show your support, go to **[run2connect.com](http://run2connect.com)**.