



Kevin's Last Walk

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Featured Video

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By Sally Showman

An Arizona dad is walking his way from Arizona to Montana with his son's cremated ashes in his backpack.

Along the way, Barry Adkins is stopping to speak with children and their parents about the dangers of binge drinking.

His son Kevin died in 2005 of alcohol poisoning.

Local News 8 caught up with Adkins when he stopped in at Independence High School in Blackfoot Monday afternoon.

"I chose to walk because I thought that would get the message across the clearest," said Adkins.

From the people that see Barry Adkins walking down the highway, to the students and parents he speaks to, his message is out, from Arizona to Idaho.

Idaho is the fourth state Adkins has walked through.

And Adkins isn't alone. His son's ashes are in his pack and his wife and daughter trail him in what they've termed their pace car.

Since February, Adkins has spoken to over eleven thousand students about the dangers of binge drinking.

Students at Independence High School in Blackfoot learned how alcohol stole Kevin Adkin's life.

"He passed out a short time later, friends laid him on his side so if he vomited he wouldn't swallow it,"

Adkins plays a phone message left by his son just hours before he died, you can hear him partying and laughing.

After that message, Kevin passed out and stopped breathing.

"Kevin was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital,"

Adkins life changed forever, the second he found out his son had died.

"The officer handed us his drivers license, there's something pretty final about it, when a police officer hands your kid's drivers license," said Adkins.

Adkins refuses to let his son die in vain. He's convinced something good must come from their loss.

"That's really the most you can hope for when you lose a child to a tragedy," he said.

The final destination for this walk and for Kevin is Kalispell, Montana. There his family will spread his ashes, but hopefully pieces of Kevin will remain everywhere that their walk has taken them.

Adkins has several scheduled presentations from Blackfoot to Idaho Falls.

He spoke at Blackfoot High School Monday night and he'll speak again Tuesday at an assembly at Blackfoot High at 10:30.

For more information, go to <http://www.kevinslastwalk.org>.