



CLASS OF

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SHANNON GALPIN

Shannon Galpin, 2013 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, founded the Colorado-based non-profit Mountain2Mountain in 2006 to work with women and girls in conflict zones. Believing that connecting communities on both sides of the equation was key to combating the apathy that prevents action, and that changing perceptions was just as important as tangible projects, she developed projects that involved communities and inspired change through art, music, and sport. Supporting graffiti art projects in Kabul and creating the Streets of Afghanistan photography exhibition, Shannon has focused on projects that empower voice and inspire others to combat apathy.

While visiting Afghanistan's Kandahar women's prison, Shannon was confronted with the power of voice and the perception of victimhood which became the backbone of her work. In 2009, she became the first woman to mountain bike in Afghanistan, a country where the culture does not allow women to ride bikes. In 2010, she became the first person to ride across Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley, which gave birth to the Panjshir Tour, a series of community bikerides in the U.S. Along the way, she always has a silver barrette given to her by one of the women inside the Kandahar prison – a piece of that woman free – as Shannon fights for the rights of women and girls around the world. In 2013, she produced the short documentary and co-wrote the book, *Afghan Cycles*, to highlight the courage of the young women of the Afghan National Cycling Team.

