

A SKOOLIE HEADS WEST



Ridge & Courtney

Our Skoolie adventure began with a trip in Ridge's car. He said he had a surprise for me. We pulled up to his mom's neighbor's house, pointed at a medium-sized school bus and said, "There it is; I bought you a school bus." And so it began!

I'd been researching bus conversions endlessly (thanks Pinterest!) and bombarding Ridge with ideas and photos (you can build that, right?) about converting a school bus into a home on wheels. He scored a great price for the bus. Our discussions and Skoolie musings began to take shape through many late nights and lots of hard work. Fast forward about two years, and our Skoolie has happily taken us from Iowa to Oregon, facilitating lots of curious smiles and heartfelt compliments along the way.

For us, the Skoolie was about much more than traveling. As high school sweethearts living in small-town Iowa, our Skoolie became a way for us to do something together—to pave our own unique path and pursue new adventures.

It also happens that a DIY conversion was more affordable for us than purchasing a used RV or camper (we were both on the "college kid" budget!). We worked on our bus when we could—I graduated from Buena Vista University in 2016, and Ridge graduated from Iowa State University in May 2018. We spent much of our 2018 summer completing the bus.

Our voyage west began in August. We were both 23 years old and had been dating seven years; we were ready for a change of scenery and lifestyle, and the solution for those desires, in our minds, was travel.



Ridge and I before we headed out to Oregon

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