

Keep Camp KEEP

Contributed by Admin KRVR
 Saturday, 06 June 2009
 Last Updated Friday, 03 June 2011

Keep Camp KEEP

Kern Valley Sun 7-29-09: Science Night rocks Kern River Brewery

Kern Valley Sun 5-20-09: Parents rally for Camp KEEP

Camp KEEP is a unique opportunity for sixth grade students to learn in a science camp setting. It is a proven, effective and efficient outdoor program. Camp KEEP is a leader in the field of alternative education for middle school students. Camp KEEP opened in 1968 and serves over 7,000 students each year. Their curriculum stresses the most up-to-date concepts and hands-on activities in the environmental education field. A professionally trained staff of naturalists, food service workers, and maintenance personnel manage the day to day operations. The curriculum is taught by staff naturalists who lead hikes and conduct evening and campfire programs. Participating students gain an educational and social experience at KEEP that cannot be matched in a classroom setting.

For thirty-four consecutive years the 6th grade class of Wallace Middle School, of the Kernville Union School District has attended Camp KEEP. District and Associated Student body funding for this program has been cut. The Colt Booster Club, a parent/teacher financial support organization is seeking financial aid to continue this vital experience for our students, next year & in the years ahead.

The total cost to send and transport 80 students and 10 counselors to Camp KEEP for 5 days of scientific study is \$26,000.

Cost per student \$269 x 80 students = \$21,520

\$12,000.00 is raised by student's parents simply paying for all or a portion of their child's trip of (\$150 partial cost or full cost of \$269), or by accessing opportunities embedded in 6th grade class activities to support students fundraising for them to attend Camp KEEP. Activities may include the selling of "Colt Cards", "Laps for Learning school event, selling Caesar's Pizza Fund Raisers, etc. Cost per counselor \$269, 10 counselors are required =

\$2,6903 teachers to attend at \$269= \$807Transportation= \$1,000Total Cost = (rounded)

\$26,000Expected Student and Parent contributions @ \$150/student =

\$12,000Remaining Balance= (amount of previous District and ASB contributions) \$14,000

Historically the Kernville Union School District and Associated Student Body (ASB) have shared the cost with students. Due to the financial cut backs, the school district and ASB can no longer contribute to this experience. The burden of raising the full \$26,000 falls on students, parents & the community. The Colt Booster Club is asking for community support to raise the \$26,000 to secure one of the 8 remaining slots at Camp Keep for this coming school year. Help is requested in sponsoring a student that may not be able to pay the full amount (\$269) or sponsor a counselor or teacher (\$269) or just contribute funding towards the \$26,000 goal. The Booster club will be sponsoring a number of activities to raise funds. Please contribute and participate.

The fund has just passed \$13,000 which has been raised so far with help from local businesses, community members, school staff, and individual donations/matching fund donations. Even in this early beginning, new partnerships are being established, with the Kern High School District, the Kern Valley Sun, numerous restaurants, WINGS, Big Water Ranch, California Water Co., Run 4 A Way, KVPAC, Dress Me Up, Kissack Ranch, Isabellaflora, Rotary, H Berry Counseling Services, Kern River Tours, Artist Alten, Kern Kids, Fair-Spalding matching funds, and many more.

Contributions are tax deductible (tax ID # 956001766) are handled through the Colt Boosters of KUSD, Attn: Keep Camp KEEP, PO Box 3077 Lake Isabella, CA 93240-3077. Any funds raised over the needs for the 2009-2010 school year will be rolled over to support Camp KEEP attendance the next year. Thank you for your support!!

For information: Pam Alten psalten@hotmail.com Steve Anderson sca_93292@yahoo.com

Keep Camp KEEP FORUM