

## **KAMO Newsletter for June, 2017**

**Hello KAMO members,**

This is KAMO President Mark Walters with my monthly update. I want to thank everyone that helped with our R3 Grant application, especially Donna Wishowski. I asked Donna to take on this task last December and she never hesitated.

With KAMO being well into its 10th year now, I just want to tell everyone of you how much I appreciate your dedication to our goal of helping our youth have outdoor experiences. For many of you it is difficult to see what the combined efforts of all seven KAMO chapters achieves. Though I do not see most of what is accomplished I generally hear about it before or after and as I was thinking today we have literally helped thousands of kids take part in outdoor experiences.

My main goal for KAMO is to get better at what we do and grow our membership for each chapter.

As always, thank you for all that you do for Kids And Mentors Outdoors!

**Mark**

**No news this month from our Baraboo Chapter.**

**News from the Coulee Chapter:**

Coulee assisted Onalaska Parks and Recreation with their "Kids To Parks Day" on May 20th. A classic case of best laid plans versus mother nature. Rain all but shut this event down. Five total people came for it. On a much clearer, but hot, Saturday, June 3rd, we held our Kids Fishing Day on Lake Onalaska. Eight kids and 6 mentors teased panfish out of the shallows from two pontoons. We shared a lunch in the shade of the park shelter before packing it in.

Two of our mentors ran a booth at the West Salem Rod and Gun Club Kids Day on Saturday, June 17th. On the following gorgeous Tuesday evening, Coulee hosted its annual pontoon rides on the Black River. There were seven pilots, six mentors, 27 kids, and 33 adults. It was an open to the public event with several "haven't seen for a while" family and kids showing up. Several mentors sat on shore and caught up on each other's lives while the pontoons were out.

Mike just returned from the Youth Outdoor Mentoring Summit held in Lincoln, Nebraska. There were representatives from 12 states representing both mentoring organizations and those affiliated with outdoor groups in attendance. I took notes about many things which could and should be followed up on to improve outcomes for KAMO. This will take communication and team work. The nationwide decline in hunters and hunting license sales was a dominant theme in the summit discussions. There is an immediate and urgent need to get more people into hunting throughout the nation that exceeds the scope of R3. The future of hunting depends on the ability of outdoor groups across the nation to effectively partner and develop effective strategies to draw significant numbers of people 35 years old and younger into outdoor pursuits including shooting/hunting.

Coulee is planning its peddle, paddle picnic event at Goose Island this Tuesday. It is always a challenge to hold a popular event on a weekday/ mid-day activity in terms of getting adults there, but if everything was easy it wouldn't be as fun. Later this week, also at Goose Island, two mentors plan to take a small group of kids camping and adventuring.

**Submitted by Mike Brown**

**News from the Indianhead Chapter:**

We were given an older but nice 20-foot pontoon boat with motor. We are looking for a trailer for it; please email Jim at [jbrekkekurz@centurytel.net](mailto:jbrekkekurz@centurytel.net) if you know of any for sale; we may have to pay around \$1500, but a couple of our members have offered to help in that cost.

We may be able to use the new pontoon boat as we take 7 kids and 6 adults from China fishing during the second annual camp for the North Cedar Academy. We will also be helping with fishing and archery at the 4H camp July 10-13. We are planning another group camp and canoe trip for our chapter at the county owned Trails End Camp for July 29 and 30.

**Submitted by Jim Kurz**

**No news this month from our Lake Wisconsin or MarshPoint Chapters.**

**News from the Meadow Valley Chapter:**

The Meadow Valley Chapter had our annual Shooting Day June 14<sup>th</sup> at the New Lisbon Sportsmans Club. The kids shot the air rifles. One of our newest member, Bill Dickerson, is an active air rifle shooter and set them up for the 7 kids we had at this event. In July, we have our annual camping trip at Wilderness Park. This is a great event filled with lots of food, fishing, tubing, carp fishing, and campfires.

**Submitted by Aaron Bigalke**

**No news from our Northwoods Chapter this month.**

**Newsletter collected and edited by Jim Kurz, KAMO State Secretary**