

Climbing For Life News

October 2005 Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello CFL volunteers and supporters. CFL is starting up another BELAY season with new kids and a new client organization. Big City Mountaineers (BCM) is providing youth from Colorado Youth at Risk that attended BCM summer programs. BCM volunteers will be working with our volunteers to provide the kids with a climbing experience through BELAY! CFL also is working again with I Have a Dream (IHAD) of Longmont. This year we have a group of kids from Trail Ridge Middle School.

We have two new CFL Board members - Matt Battaglia and Zoe Katsulos. They are long-time CFL volunteers that bring extensive mentoring and climbing experience to the Board. Matt is coordinating the Boulder BELAY group this season. Zoe is supporting the CFL program with her business experience.

Brad Schildt resigned as secretary on the board, but will continue as a CFL volunteer and supporter. We all appreciate the energy and experience Brad brought to the board.

Climbing for Life plans to expand our programs by collaborating with other I Have a Dream groups in the Boulder/Denver area. We also continue to seek qualified youth for the Outward Bound West Scholarship program.

In 2006 we will again be a working board - volunteers, facilitators, site managers, medical support, BELAY program coordinators, and mentors. Please sign up for BELAY or summer programs, and offer to help with the office and program activities. We need all the help we can get and appreciate your support. - Gary gprice@climbingforlife.org

Climbing For Life Grants

Climbing for Life received a new award from the El Pomar Youth in Community Service (EPYCS) program. Arvada West High School presented the award to Climbing for Life on April 26.

2004-05 BELAY Program a Success

(Building Effective Leadership Attributes in Youth)

Climbing for Life volunteers wrapped up a successful winter mentoring program for at-risk youth in May. Every Monday night from November to April, volunteers teamed up with youth from the I Have a Dream Foundation and Girls Inc. of Denver.

We owe the success of the BELAY program to (board members) Anne, Robin, Megan, Brad, and Tim, who accepted leadership roles. Also, Climbing for Life has a tremendous core of dedicated volunteers who made the 2004-05 BELAY program happen! Anyone interested in participating in BELAY should contact Robin at robin@uwalumni.com.

Weekend Programs

We also completed summer outdoor climbing programs with the Challenge Foundation, Inn Between and Goodwill Industries.

CFL NEWS

Climbing for Life and Big City Mountaineers (BCM) are proud to announce a new collaboration. BCM, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the country's leading volunteer organization devoted to providing positive adult role modeling during wilderness trips for urban teens participating in existing youth development programs. BCM combines the elements of a one-to-one youth to adult ratio mentoring program with an eight day backpacking trip specifically designed for this unique population.

Climbing for Life and BCM are gearing up for our 2005 season and are looking for qualified volunteers to lead our local youth groups into the Colorado wilderness. One of our goals for the upcoming year is to foster the relationships that have been made in the backcountry into everyday life. BCM would like to use the Belay program as a tool to keep the momentum of the relationships going between the leaders and youth.

BCM and Climbing for Life have come to realize together we can make a difference and impact the lives of at-risk teens through outdoor pursuits. There are many ways our programs can work together and we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Please contact gprice@climbingforlife.org or greta@bigcitymountaineers.org for information.

THANK YOU

We appreciate all the private donations received in the past year. See our new donation and volunteer list!

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