

Climbing For Life News

May 2006 Edition

FROM THE Executive Director

I have taken on a new role at Climbing for Life this year. I am now the Executive Director and am taking on the program responsibilities and administrative tasks. It has been a challenge, but very rewarding because of the tremendous support of CFL volunteers and our client organizations. CFL is wrapping up another BELAY season with kids from I Have a Dream (IHAD), Big City Mountaineers (BCM), Colorado Youth at Risk (CYAR), and Girls Inc. of Denver. I can't say enough about the great support from our client organizations. BCM staff attended all our BELAY sessions, and supported CFL as counselors and mentors. The staff at IHAD also attended all the Boulder BELAY sessions and worked with our volunteers. Molly Griffith, Director of the Columbine class of Longmont, was our greatest supporter of the BELAY program.

We have a new CFL Board member - Tony Babb, who brings a wealth of climbing experience and enthusiasm to the program. Tony also recruited a group of dedicated volunteers for the Denver BELAY Program.

We are expanding our BELAY program by collaborating with another I Have a Dream group in the Lafayette area. Three indoor sessions and an outdoor top-rope session are planned for this summer. We also continue to seek qualified youth for the Outward Bound West Scholarship program.

In 2006 we are growing and shifting our emphasis to the BELAY format. We are establishing longer programs with increased contact with kids from our client organizations. Our volunteers are making a difference by connecting with the kids on a more long-term mentoring basis.

CFL welcomes volunteers as program facilitators, site managers, medical support, BELAY program coordinators, and mentors. Please sign up for our 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 Donations

CFL celebrates another successful year of operations because of the generous donations from individuals. Special thanks to donations from Kathleen Nelson, Eric and Jennifer Peers, Brad Schildt, Allen Scott Moore, Raymond and Cheryl Mahaffey, and many others.

2005-06 BELAY Program Notes

(Building Effective Leadership Attributes in Youth)

Climbing for Life volunteers wraps 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, BCM and Girls Inc. of Denver.

We owe the success of the BELAY program to Robin Hubbard, Tony Babb, and Matt Battaglia who accepted leadership roles. Also, Climbing for Life has a tremendous core of dedicated volunteers who made the 2005-06 BELAY program happen! Anyone interested in participating in BELAY should contact Robin at robin@uwalumni.com.

Weekend Programs

We have scheduled summer outdoor climbing programs with IHAD, Rishel Beacon, Girls Inc, and BCM. Other summer programs are also in planning mode!

CFL NEWS

CFL is now integrating the summer outdoor session into the BELAY program to increase our mentoring aspect of CFL goals. We have added indoor gym sessions to our popular outdoor top-rope climbing days. This gives us time with the kids to emphasize safety, climbing techniques, and belaying fundamentals before getting on the real rock!

Spring / summer schedule:

- May 2 - Volunteer Party
- May 6 - Outdoor session with BCM, CYAR
- May 13 - Outdoor session with Rishel Beacon
- May 20 Outdoor session with IHAD, Girls Inc.
- June 24 - Outdoor session with IHAD Lafayette
- July 14 /21- tentative dates with Goodwill

THANK YOU

We appreciate the support of climbing industry organizations including Black Diamond, Trango, Stonewear Designs, and Sterling Ropes!

We also thank the climbing gyms who contribute to our programs: Paradise Gym, Rockn' and Jamn', the Spot, and Boulder Rock Club.

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