

LASSEN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE LASSEN PARK FOUNDATION

FALL 2010

SHARING OUR PASSION FOR LASSEN WITH KIDS!

This fall when school started there were 200 young people whose lives had been changed by a special camping trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park during the summer. These youths were energized by their outdoor camping experience, expanded both mentally and physically, sharing in the knowledge of what it means to go camping in a national park. This year twelve youth groups and schools were awarded Lassen Park Foundation grants to facilitate their trips. The groups came from Paradise, Gridley, Oroville, Corning, Red Bluff, Redding, Burney, Montgomery Creek, Big Bend, Davis, Sacramento, and San Francisco. Even though most of the young people live in close proximity to Lassen Park, many had never been there and come from homes where unemployment, substance abuse, and lack of transportation are prevalent. For most of the kids this is a first time ever-camping experience. Often it was the first time they had ever been away from their parents. The trip coordinators said the youths' self-esteem and confidence were increased as the kids took positive risks in an environment of support from both peers and adults. One teen group coordinator said that kids had never even heard of hot springs, steam vents and mud pots much less seen them. The teens designed a trivia game about Lassen and had a great time showing off their new knowledge about volcanoes, mud pots, and national parks. While they were in the park, the kids went to the visitor center, Loomis Museum, and Subway Cave, earned their Junior Ranger badges, hiked a part of the Pacific Crest Trail, swam in Manzanita and Summit Lakes, and learned to use a compass and maps. They went fishing for the first time, enjoyed Kings Creek Falls, Mill Creek Falls, and discovered you could learn many things outside a classroom. They took on new responsibilities like planning and cooking for others, setting up and taking down camp, and caring for the campsite and trails. They also had to problem-solve as interpersonal issues came up and new friendships were forged. One group experienced how to deal with an emergency when a fire got out of control at the next campsite. Another was a very diverse group of youth, ranging from very emotionally handicapped to high functioning teenagers. The group was encouraged to work as a team and to focus on each individual's strengths as opposed to their disabilities.



Our youth program is expanding! The Lassen Park Foundation feels strongly this is a vital program that deserves to grow so that it can serve more young people. Currently, a team of Foundation directors is working on steps to guide the program to a larger scale. Your contributions have helped to fuel the passion we have for the program and we hope that you can continue to give generously.



HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- YOUTH PROGRAM EXPANSION
- REACH THE PEAK LIFTS-OFF
- INTERPRETIVE INTERN PROGRAM
- STRATEGIC PLANNING
- NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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HELP US REACH THE PEAK!

On July 17th we kicked off our "Reach the Peak" campaign to help Lassen Volcanic National Park restore the signature trail of Lassen Park. Lassen Peak is a geologic icon in northeastern California. Each summer, over 30,000 visitors hike 2.5 miles to "reach the peak." The trail takes visitors to the top of one of the largest plug dome volcanoes in the world, providing them with stunning views of surrounding areas, dacite rock formations, and an impressive overview of the Devastated Area. The trail rehabilitation project is partially funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, fee monies set aside from park visitation, and contributions from the Lassen Park Foundation and the National Park Trust with the help of donations and grants through their supporters. The Foundation has committed to raising \$500,000 for the restoration project, which will take four years and be completed in 2014. Work on the trail began this summer with many, many helicopter trips to transport construction rock to the peak. It was quite a show!



(Above) LVNP Superintendent Darlene Koontz and Lassen Park Foundation Chairman John Koeberer cutting the Reach the Peak celebration cake with the kids from St. John's Shelter, Sacramento.

INTERPRETIVE INTERN PROGRAM CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

This was the fifteenth year of the Lassen Volcanic National Park Interpretive Intern program, which is supported by the Lassen Park Foundation. The 2010 program had eight students, from Red Bluff, Chico, Corning, and Arcata high schools. The students collectively contributed 1,025 volunteer hours to Lassen Volcanic National Park this past summer. Their accomplishments were in support of the park's interpretation and education, maintenance, visitor protection, and resources management programs. The contribution the teens make at Lassen is very appreciated and the program helps them explore career opportunities for the future.



CHECK OUT OUR REDESIGNED WEBSITE

Visit the Lassen Park Foundation website, www.lassenparkfoundation.org, to learn more about our programs and where your support is critically needed. There is a new shopping section where the "Reach the Peak" logo items are available for sale - your purchases benefit this special campaign. You may also use the website to help support our youth camping programs and other important projects.

The Lassen Park Foundation was recently awarded a Google grant that will help us to share information about the Foundation mission, projects and even share your Lassen experiences on Facebook.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In January 2010, the Lassen Park Foundation completed a strategic plan that has brought new energy and enthusiasm to the Foundation. The plan identified that we have a "passion for Lassen", and that our major initiatives are the Reach the Peak campaign and the Youth Program. Two new board members have joined the Board of Directors. Patrick Carr, of Cottonwood, is recently retired from the California Department of Transportation and has many years of business and non-profit governance experience. During his college years he worked on trail and survey crews in Lassen Park. Randall L. Townsend of Monrovia is the MIS Manger for the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, and a longtime visitor to Lassen Park, and especially to Drakesbad Guest Ranch. Townsend is our first director to reside in Southern California. We are fortunate to benefit from both of these individuals' interest and enthusiasm for Lassen. Recently retired from the Board of Directors is Vice Chair Susan Watson, who was a founding member of the organization and has given 26 years to overseeing the projects of the Foundation. We are so grateful for her dedication to the Lassen Park Foundation.