

Kiwanis RMD

From: WCiesla@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:38 AM
To: KiwanisRMD@gmail.com; Nancy.Wiehagen@gmail.com
Cc: lathandvicky@gmail.com
Subject: 2017 Signature Project Contest/Rocky Mountain District
Attachments: signature_project_fishing_derby_final.pdf

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is a proposal for the 2017 Signature Project Contest. Information on the Project is as follows:

District Name: Rocky Mountain District (Division 16)
Club name: Eyeopener's Kiwanis Club of Fort Collins
Club contact names: Bill Ciesla and Lathrup Smith
Club contact e-mail addresses: wciesla@aol.com, lathandvicky@gmail.com
Club contact phone number (970) 482-5952
Name of Project: Annual Kid's Fishing Derby

Regards,

Bill Ciesla
Eyeopener's Kiwanis Club of Fort Collins

ANNUAL KIDS FISHING DERBY

A Candidate Signature Project of the Eyeopener's Kiwanis Club
Fort Collins, CO

The annual Kids Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Eyeopener's Kiwanis Club of Fort Collins, CO (Rocky Mountain District, Division 16), introduces young children to the fun and art of sport fishing. In many cases, this is the first opportunity they have to experience sport fishing. The Club reaches out to many organizations serving youth in northern Colorado including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Collins and Wellington, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Northside Aztlan Center, Partner's Mentoring Youth, the Family Center and Turning Point. Approximate age of the children served ranges from 7-14.

This event has grown considerably since its inception 23 years ago when 25-30 children participated. In 2016, a banner year, the event was attended by 196 kids accompanied by 147 adults. An online registration system on the Club's award winning web site (FCEK.org) has enabled the club to reach an ever growing number of children. Many of the 31 members of the Eyeopener's Kiwanis Club participate in the event. In addition to its own members, volunteers from the Colorado State University Circle K Club, Fort Collins High School Key Club, and the Kiwanis Clubs of Fort Collins and Windsor help put on the event. Prior to fishing, all participants enjoy an evening meal of freshly barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by members of the Eyeopener's Kiwanis Club.

The annual project has been held in early-mid May, since 1995. In 2017, the 23rd annual Kids Fishing Derby will be held on May 12. A key partner in the project is the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, which provides fishing poles, reels and barbless hooks for each participant and a briefing on fishing rules and regulations immediately prior to fishing. The kids get to keep their fishing gear at the end of the event as an encouragement to go fishing with their family in the future. Another partner is Colorado Youth Outdoors (CYO), whose objective is to build relationships through traditional outdoor recreation. The Fishing Derby is held at Swift Ponds, a 240 acre facility owned by CYO and located southeast of Fort Collins.

Kiwanis banners are displayed at the event and the Kiwanis logo is incorporated into the announcement of the Fishing Derby. The project is promoted by fliers sent to local youth groups, an on line registration on the Club's web site and will include social media this year. The number of third party news media hits and social media shares is unknown.

The total cost of the project in 2016 was \$1004 and was funded by a grant the club received from the Bank of Colorado earmarked for the Kids Fishing Derby. The Project is not designed as a fund raiser.

The real value of this project can be summed up in a comment that one of our members received from a single mom last year: "You don't know what this means to me as a single parent on a limited budget to be able to bring my kids to this event where we can have a meal and an evening of safe recreational activity at no cost – thank you so much."



Prior to fishing, young fishermen are briefed on rules and regulations of sport fishing provided by a member of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.



Eyeopener's Kiwanis Club members grill hamburgers for an evening meal prior to fishing.



All participants are given a rod, reel, barbless hooks and bait



A successful fisherman!