



# COURAGEOUS KIDS CLIMBING Newsletter

(including *Jeff's Slackline* and *CKC – Scholarship News*)

**May 1, 2018**

***FREE climbing events for people with special needs!***



From the Editor,

Check out the photo above. Samuel was one of our climbers at our recent event at the University of Idaho. He had fun checking out a pair of our belayer glasses.

Courageous Kids Climbing, through our membership in the

McCall Community Improvement Corporation, is excited to once again be a part of Idaho Gives this year. Idaho Gives – a program of the Idaho Nonprofit Center – is designed to bring the state together, raising money and awareness for Idaho nonprofits. This 24-hour day of online giving takes place May 3rd, 2018. IdahoGives.org provides an easy-to-use platform for donors to search, support and donate to Idaho nonprofits. If you would like to support Courageous Kids Climbing, even if you do not live in Idaho, please consider making a contribution using the link below. If you choose not to support Courageous Kids Climbing, please consider supporting the non-profit of your choice.

<https://www.idahogives.org/organizations/courageous-kids-climbing>

While we were sad to see Elise Clausen, who was the coordinator of one of our host sites move to Las Vegas, we were happy to find out that she now works for the City of Las Vegas as an Inclusion Recreation Specialist. In her position, she develops

after-school, special and summer camp programs for people ages 7 to 22 with disabilities. A passionate volunteer with Courageous Kids Climbing, Elise is now going to help us coordinate events in Las Vegas and surrounding areas to continue to provide the opportunity for people of all abilities to rock climb so that they may gain new experiences, overcome challenges and grow as individuals. Additionally, she is taking her current program participants rock climbing so that they, too can RISE ABOVE!

Keep up the great work Elise, you make us proud! Yes, an event in Las Vegas has been added...that would be a great excuse for a vacation!



During our recent road trip to eastern Idaho, I saw this decal on a car. As a retired firefighter, I thought it was a pretty neat idea! Something for you to think about.

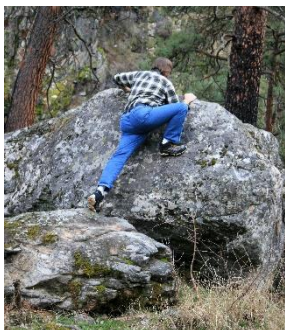
Please remember to share information about

the Courageous Kids Scholarships with those interested in attending college. There are presently two scholarships, both worth \$1000. One is offered through the University of Antelope Valley and the other through the University of Idaho. We are trying to get more colleges and universities on-board and would welcome any help in making more of these

scholarships available to the students in the special needs community.

<https://www.facebook.com/CourageousKidsScholarshipFund/>

Because we are having a difficult time finding T-shirt sponsors, we are going to discontinue distributing them at our events. We do have one or two events coming up that have a sponsor, so we will be giving out T-shirts at those events ONLY. If you know of someone who would like to sponsor T-shirts to give out to the Courageous Climbers, please have them reach out to us.



Finally, we want to encourage your courageous climber to continue climbing. if you have any photographs of your courageous climber doing a little slacklining, rock climbing or just sitting on a big rock, we would love to see them. If it's really cool, we just might use the

photograph in a future edition of our newsletter! As an example, here is a photo of me trying to climb a boulder along the Salmon River, east of Riggins, Idaho back in March.

RISE ABOVE!

Jeff Riechmann  
Event Coordinator  
Courageous Kids Climbing

### IN THIS ISSUE:

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- > Thank you!
- > Emergency Responder Training
- > 2018 Event Schedule
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### SPOKANE, WASHINGTON UPDATE:

Very exciting things are continuing to happen in Spokane! I received this from our climbing posse up there:

*"We're at the stage in Spokane, where we have several different entities, (universities, private gyms, Wild Walls, YMCA, etc.) who want to provide adaptive climbing opportunities."*

*If a generous organization wants to do something for the local kids instead of CKC...have them donate towards sustainable infrastructure in the community so that the local kids will have consistent accessibility to:*

- equipment,*
- expertise to use the equipment,*
- and safe venue to use it*

*This could be in the form of specific adaptive equipment purchase or an adaptive instructor training clinic expense. I've already set up 2 different funds for this "designated and restricted" donation. One is through Team St. Luke's, the other is thru the Inland NW Community Foundation in a memorial fund for a young climber who had a tragic accident, lost 4 limbs, major organ failure and ended up dying. The "Derek Kiehn 'Accessibility to Adaptive Outdoor Adventure' Memorial Fund". His parents are part of our initiative to make adaptive climbing a reality in Spokane.*

*We want to definitely support your mission, but also continue your mission the rest of the year when you're not here!*

**AND!** We have entered into a partnership in which St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute will take the lead in organizing the event in Spokane next year. Not to worry, Courageous Kids Climbing will be involved!

### THANK YOU:

A special thank you to James Graham of the Idaho Hockey Foundation for their recent donation. This Foundation supports youth ice hockey in Idaho and wanted to support our efforts when taking kids ice skating with the Idaho IceCats as well as some of our events.

### APPRECIATION COMMENT:

Hi Jeff;

I wanted to thank you for your hard work and efforts, as well as the volunteers involved - in making this incredible opportunity available to physically challenged persons like myself. Expanding our personal world of activities while proving to others



we are much more capable of achieving these types of results gives us another "win" in our lives.

**EMER. RESPONDER TRAINING:**



Last year, we had an article published in Aviation Fire Journal titled *People with Special Needs - A Few Considerations*. Based upon my experiences with Courageous Kids Climbing along with suggestions from parents, this article gives a few ideas on how to work with people with special

needs at the scene of an emergency. In March, we shared this article with all of our emergency responder friends in the hopes of helping them to better work with people with special needs. If you know an emergency responder and would like to share this article with them, e-mail us and we will send you the article.

**2018 EVENT SCHEDULE:**

May 5, 2018 – *Climbing on Stuff – UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter*. Gowen Field (Army National Guard) in Boise from 10:00 am until noon. “Hands on” tour for legally blind of all ages provided by the Idaho Army National Guard.

May 19, 2018 – Camp Pinewood - McCall, ID. 10:00 am until noon. This will be our 3rd annual event in the outdoor boulder field at Camp Pinewood, next to the Payette River. We also set up a slackline for this event. It is held **RAIN OR SHINE!** If it rains, we will



hide under the canopy that our Eagle Scout friend Noah built for us! McCall firefighters will be on hand to help the climbers reach new heights!

May 20, 2018 - Wings Center - Boise, ID. 10:00 am until noon. This is our 4th visit to Wings Center! It is one of our more popular events with the kids. In addition to the “usual”

climbing walls, the facility also has climbing walls built out of old tires; a cargo net for climbing and a rope ladder.

June 17, 2018 – We are really looking forward to our first visit to the State of Nevada as we will be traveling to the Nevada Climbing Center in Las Vegas. Because of the efforts of Elise Clausen, we will be starting to grow our program into other areas.

June 23, 2018 – Action Sports - Bakersfield, CA. 10:00 am until noon. This is our 3rd annual event (and 4th event) held in Bakersfield. This event is pretty popular with the local rescue teams from Kern County, which really enjoy spending time with the courageous climbers! Looking forward to being joined by the Kern County Fire Department’s urban search and rescue team as well as Bakersfield Police Officers.

Check out this link for an article about the Bakersfield event.

<http://bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/courageous-kids-climbing-returns-to-bakersfield>

June 24, 2018 – Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Search and Rescue Team’s mobile climbing wall be at the University of Antelope Valley Parkview Campus in Lancaster, CA. from 10:00 am until noon. This will be our 2nd visit to Lancaster. In addition to their climbing wall, the local sheriff officers also bring out a variety of emergency vehicles for the kids to check out. If available, we may also find members of the Los Angeles County Fire Department displaying one of their fire apparatus at the event. Thank you to M&G Burgers for sponsoring the T-shirts for this event.

July 20, 2018 – **JUST ADDED!** Slacklining and story time at McCall (ID) public library. 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. FREE!



July 21, 2018 – We are once again returning for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event at the YMCA Camp at Horsethief Reservoir, near Cascade, Idaho for climbing on their climbing tower and rope confidence course. This event happens RAIN OR

SHINE! It will run from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Thank you to **Get It Dunn** for sponsoring this event. Assuming that he is not out fighting a forest fire,

Smoky the Bear will be joining us. Cascade Fire Department will also be supporting us. Be sure and check the signs in Cascade, as several of the local businesses post messages for the courageous climbers!

July 22, 2018 – SLACKLINE SUNDAY at Our Savior Lutheran Church in McCall. Enjoy slacklining in the churches “little forest” and a FREE hot dog roast over a campfire. This event runs from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm. All are welcome to walk the slackline or eat a hot dog or two!

August 11, 2018 – We will be returning to Central Washington University for our 3rd annual climbing event in Ellensburg, WA. This event will run from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the University’s climbing facility. Kittitas Valley Fire Rescue and the CWU Campus Police Department will have representatives on-site to help the courageous climbers!

[https://www.facebook.com/CWURecreation/posts/10155012986226685?notif\\_id=1522868421844188&notif\\_t=story\\_reshare&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/CWURecreation/posts/10155012986226685?notif_id=1522868421844188&notif_t=story_reshare&ref=notif)

August 12, 2018 – Once again, we will continue our trek through Washington state, traveling to the coast as we host our 2nd annual outdoor climb at YMCA Camp Colman in Longbranch. This event will run from 10:00 am until noon.

September 8, 2018 – A return trip to Boise finds us climbing at the Downtown YMCA from 10:00 am until noon. This is a return engagement for this facility just down the street from the State Capitol. We might even have an A-10 pilot show up to support the kids.

September 9, 2018 – Teton Rock Gym - Driggs, ID. This will be our third annual event in Driggs and will run from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm...yes, a time change. We are trying different things in an effort to grow this event. Teton County Fire District is looking forward to supporting the event.



September 15, 2018 – **NOTE DATE CHANGE!** YMCA at Spokane Valley, Washington. This second annual event will run from 1:00pm until 3:00 pm.

Date to be announced: We are working on a second annual *Climbing on Stuff* event for the visually-challenged in the Treasure Valley of Idaho. Last year it was an A-10 fighter jet with the Idaho Air National Guard.

Date to be announced – The Idaho IceCats will be hosting another ice skating session with our courageous climbers on a date yet to be determined, most likely in September 2018.

For more information on Courageous Kids Climbing or to reserve a spot for your child at one of our events, or to volunteer or sponsor an event (T-shirts for the kids), send an e-mail to [JeffRiechmann@cs.com](mailto:JeffRiechmann@cs.com) or please visit Courageous Kids Climbing on Facebook.

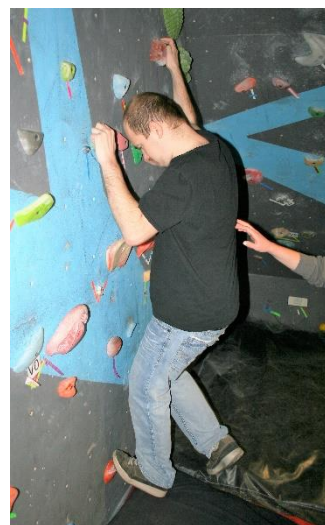
Please feel free to share our newsletter with anyone who might be interested.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

To see photos from our events, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/CourageousKidsClimbing/>

## COURAGEOUS KIDS CLIMBING:



**Rexburg, Idaho (4/14/18):** At the request of HAS Inc., we conducted one of two events in the Idaho Falls area. This event saw 18 mostly adult participants come out with around a dozen or more of them actually experiencing the climbing walls. In addition, the gym’s



slackline was set up for participants to try to walk. Several participants enjoyed jumping on to the pile of crash pads. A couple of participants were also interviewed by two television stations.

Check out his link for one of the news stories:

<http://www.localnews8.com/news/special-needs-group-learns-lessons-from-rock-climbing/729751411>

**Rigby, Idaho**

**(4/15/18):** The second part of the HAS sponsored weekend saw us traveling down the road to Rigby. This event was hosted by The Rock Gym – Rigby. Six climbers climbed the walls, climbed a rope, climbed a rope ladder, walked a slackline – provided by Jeff’s Slackline – slid down the indoor slide, checked out a sheriff’s car and went for a ride in a fire engine.



**Spokane, Washington (4/21/18):**

Our largest event to date was held at Wild Walls in Spokane with 32 courageous climbers participating. In addition, we had lots of volunteer support from several organizations and individuals. Spokane Fire Department came out in full-force, hauling those with physical challenges up the walls as well as giving personal tours of the fire trucks.



**Moscow, Idaho**

**(4/22/18):** 18 climbers attacked the walls at the University of Idaho’s Climbing Center in an event organized by students from the University’s Center for Disabilities and Human Development under the lead of Mazie Moser. Mazie and her posse did a great job in putting this event together! The gym staff seized the



opportunity to practice with some of the new adaptive climbing gear that the University recently purchased. Two firefighters (rope rescue technicians) from the Pullman (Washington) Fire Department snuck across the Stateline to give us a hand! In the photo, that black dot is Caleb near the top of the 55-foot climbing tower in the gym!

**JEFF’S SLACKLINE**

Jeff’s Slackline is available to support events and organizations in West Central Idaho. (In certain situations, we may travel a little bit farther!) Invite us to attend your scouting event, visit your school, church or other activity. As with all Courageous Kids Climbing events, there is no charge!

<https://www.facebook.com/JeffsSlackline/>

**Cascade, Idaho**

**(3/27/18):** We set up our slackline one morning for the campers taking part in the City of Cascade’s week-long Spring Break Camp. We also had the kids create self-portrait



slackers to hang on our “tight-rope!”

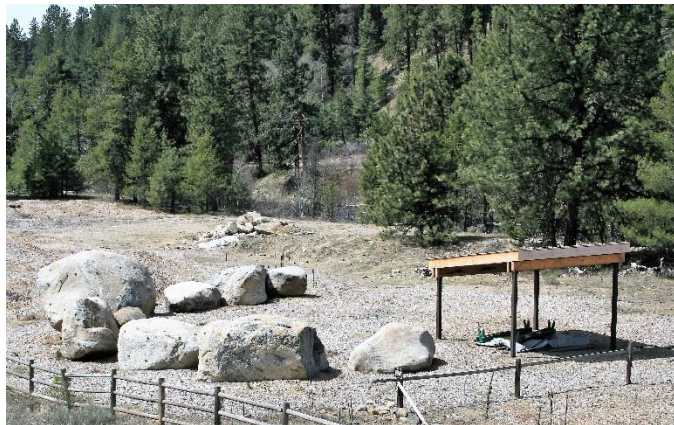


**Crimson Point Elementary School, Kuna, Idaho**

**(4/13/18):** We were invited to spend the day with the kids at this school and teach them

about slacklining. It turned out that the school already had a climbing wall! Over 500 kids had the opportunity to slackline, walk the obstacle course and climb across the climbing wall. We even helped a 1<sup>st</sup> grade with physical challenges climb the climbing wall for the first time.

Courageous Kids Climbing is member of the McCall Community Improvement Corporation, an Idaho non-profit.



The snow is gone and Camp Pinewood is ready! Check out the Payette River in the background between the trees.