



Press Release March 19, 2017

The local mountain sports shop Eastside Sports, the Rotary Clubs of Bishop and the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, along with Columbia Sportswear have again partnered to provide a free five day outdoor education camp for Inyo and Mono County youth ages 12 to 18. This will be the third year of this popular program. The trip will take place in the backcountry above Bishop June 21 - 25. No experience is required and applications will be accepted from all experience levels and all backgrounds. Kids from any community in Inyo or Mono County are welcome to apply. Again, the program is free and no experience is necessary.

Those who are selected will learn basic outdoor skills, including rock climbing, map reading, backcountry equipment basics, backcountry cooking and sanitation, water purification, Leave No Trace principles, and, most importantly, how to have fun in the backcountry.

Eastside Sports co-owner, and long time local mountain guide Todd Vogel said 'this program is a great opportunity for youth of the area to try out rock climbing and backpacking. We're especially hoping to get participants involved who have never climbed or been in the backcountry though kids with outdoor experience had a great time last time and surely will again this time. We're also thrilled that super-qualified outdoor professionals have agreed to donate their time to help make the project happen'.

Designed as a hands on experience to teach basic outdoor skills, other objectives are to improve self esteem, leadership skills, confidence, awareness of the environment and Wilderness and how to protect it.

Russ Hopcus, Senior VP of North American Sales at Columbia said: "We are extremely proud to support these efforts to conserve wilderness areas and get more kids outside."

There is no cost to participate in the program.

Application forms can be submitted up to June 15, 2017 and will be accepted until the program is full. We do expect it to fill up. Applications are available at:

Eastside Sports - in person or at <http://tinyurl.com/z5cwsh5>

Or through Bishop Union High School from Kati Kress, kkress@bishopschools.org

Questions? esyouthoutdoors@gmail.com or Todd Vogel 760-920-0774

