

MNPC Board Call  
May 31, 2018 5:30pm

Present: Dennis Schramm, Shaun Gonzalez, David Lamfrom

Call was to discuss proposal developed by Shaun to fund/equip school groups in SoCal to enable them to take overnight trips into the Preserve. Also, working with credentialed educators to develop curriculum. Below is his proposal.

I'm looking into contingencies for raising funds for the camping gear we would need for the outdoor education project that I explained in my last e-mail. I sent an inquiry to REI's LA region outdoor programs office about a gear donation, but I have not yet heard back. If they are unable to come through (or if their donation only covers a portion of the gear requirements), I'd like to consider seeking donations directly to our Community Foundation page or to a GoFundMe page. If we set up a GoFundMe page for this project, we'd need to register with GoFundMe and PayPal as a non-profit, for which they'd need an EIN and either a bank statement or voided check for the account that will ultimately receive the funds. The PayPal Giving Fund would handle the tax deduction receipts to people that donate, and the funds would be sent to our Community Foundation bank account. The benefit of a GoFundMe page would be a format familiar to most people and a platform designed to make the donation process smooth for the donor.

I welcome other fundraising ideas, as well. Based on an initial tally, I'd estimate that we may need up to \$11,000 in gear to outfit up to 34 kids and 6 chaperones/educators. I don't know what our current reserves are, but I wouldn't want to wipe us out for this one project.

I have been in touch with Preserve staff about scheduling ranger-led activities and the requirements that VESD will need to follow for submitting a special use permit. I may be meeting my brother in the Preserve in mid-June to scout out specific sites for student activities and take photos for the curriculum package.

**Mission:**

To provide a foundation that enables increased primary school field trips to the Mojave National Preserve and enhances local students' understanding and appreciation of the Preserve and surrounding wildlands.

**Problem:**

-Not all educators have a strong foundation in outdoor education, the desert, or how to apply California curriculum standards to trips to the Preserve.

-Educators and students can only spend a limited time on the ground in the Preserve during day trips because of lengthy travel time from surrounding school districts. (Two hours from Victorville and one and a half hours from Barstow and Las Vegas to Kelso Depot, plus additional travel time within the Preserve for additional stops).

-Overnight trips offer expanded learning opportunities, but equipment for camping is not in place and educators are not always aware of the facilities available at the Desert Studies Center.

**Objectives:**

**Curriculum and itineraries:** Work with credentialed educators to develop a curriculum that will make it easier for teachers to envision and plan an overnight field trip to the Preserve. Make the curriculum materials available on the MNPC website.

**Camping gear:** Loan camping gear to support overnight stays by visiting classes (up to 34 students and six educators/chaperones).

**Facilitate connections:** Establish connections between interested teachers and the Preserve staff responsible for providing pre-trip classroom visits and ranger-led hikes.

**Train the educators:** Expose educators to the opportunities in the Preserve and allow them to become familiar with the logistics of planning an overnight trip so that they can bring their students to the Preserve in the future.

Discussed logistics and specifics about how this might work. Shaun will continue to pursue the details and funding options and keep us in the loop.

Adjourned at 6:20pm