

2022 KIN Report to Board

KIN 2022

- It's been a mixed year for KIN, starting up after two years in hibernation.
- We had a lot of PWV enthusiasm and trained 44 new and former KIN-Folk. (As it had been nearly 3 years since anyone had participated in KIN activities, all were required to attend the short training.)
- In January Mary Beth McCubbin had to bow out as KIN Chair and Jeanne Corbin took on the role as Acting Chair.
- When it was time to schedule agencies for hikes, 2 agencies were not ready to get back to the hikes, plus 1 never replied to phone calls nor emails.
- 14 hikes were scheduled, 4 happened = 29%, which is excessively low! (See chart below.) This year one hike cancellation was completely due to COVID, the other known reasons were all staffing issues at the agency, so the economy took its toll. Also, most agencies have new staff, so they are not yet knowledgeable nor invested -- and our initial contacts had to be by phone rather than in person.
- We started with a new agency — Matthews House. Two of the hike participants were recent refugees from Afghanistan!
- Also on the positive side, KIN had three city-based educational outreach events — serving 180 kids and 17 adults. Curricula used were fire awareness at Werner Elementary's Earth Day Celebration; LNT, 10 Essentials & Mammals along a hike at Soaring Eagle Ecology Center with Red Feather Lakes Elementary; and Mammals in our Mountains with Namaqua Center in Loveland.

MOVING FORWARD

- We have a new core team who are beginning to take on background responsibilities in KIN: Janet Chapman, Kim Flower, Julie Ramirez, Joy Sherlock and Stephanie Simmons.
- KIN is ramping up city-based educational outreach activities, which can be done year-round and should not be affected by staffing issues. We are continuing the USFS trail KIN hikes when possible, and hoping to increase them when the economy settles. Referrals to agencies and organizations that might benefit are welcome.

A PARAPHRASE FROM A POST-SEASON AGENCY MEETING: What you do is so very important! Nature is so wonderful for our kids! I remember the first hike we did with you. My little boy was walking with his partner, (one of your volunteers), and he was so relaxed and happy [eyes drifting off in memory, with a smile]; your folks were most patient with him. And one of your volunteers was walking behind with us slow old folks and we were just enjoying the beauty and the quiet. Nature is so good for our kids!

KID QUOTES FROM THE HIKES:

- My compass is going the wrong way.
- The Ponderosa pines smell like syrup.
- It smells like maple; it smells like nature! (Ponderosa)
- It smells like Barnes & Noble. (when smelling horse mint)
- It looks like a burnt s'more. (blackened aspen)
- Whoa! That's so cool! (looking at macro-invertebrates under the magnifier)

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FEEDBACK FROM THE OUTREACH EVENTS:

- During the “Who am I?” game, one child asked if she was a squirrel. I said she was close, then she asked if she was a snake!
- The kids were very excited to be able to touch the exhibit materials. Two girls touched and talked about the scat the entire time they were at the station—they were infatuated!
- The kids were really intrigued with the visible bits of stuff in the scat (seeds, fur, etc.).
- “Your volunteers are wonderful with our kids and so patient. We greatly appreciate the work you do!”

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Year-by-Year Comparison

	2007 to 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022
Number of KIN Hikes Scheduled	1 to 3	not available	not available	15	13	13	15	20	14
Number of KIN Hikes	1 to 3	9	9	9 = 60%	9 = 69%	7 = 54%	10 = 67%	14 = 70%	4 = 29%
Number of Kid-Days on KIN Hikes	not available	107	61	81	85	42	85	160	35
Number of Different PWVs Participating in KIN Hikes	not available	20	27	30	38	21	29	40	17
Number of Adult Family Members, Agency Volunteers & Staff	not available	not available	not available	30	23	16	34	46	9
Number of City-Based Educational Outreach Events									3
Number of Kids Reached through Outreach Events									180
Number of Adults Reached through Outreach Events									17