



Fall, 2007

Dear Friend of Youth,

Do you remember hopping off the bus after school, grabbing a snack and bolting for the outdoors to meet with friends? Later, you might have headed home from the adventure with soggy socks and stickers in your laces. Your cadence reflected both your concern for being late to dinner and the joyful anticipation you had for returning to that place tomorrow. Although you never stopped to think about it, (nor did anyone else back then), the past few hours had shaped you considerably. Helping your friend up that tree would leave you sore tomorrow, more aware of your ability to work with others and, most significantly, there was something special about that oak. Something about “your spot” on that fat limb next to the trunk. Your mom might have talked about God but this was the place where you knew, without a doubt, He was real.

People born before 1974 or so often have stories like this. But those who are younger, the “Millennial Generation,” quite often cannot relate at all. You probably have recognized how few of today’s youth spend time in nature and that some have never truly entered the natural world. We have learned, over time, to expect generational lifestyle changes because of a diminishing need and desire to be outside. But this time we are not just out in creation less than the generations before us, now we are almost not experiencing it at all. Among many concerns this reality produces, Kids in Creation is most alerted to a question too few parents and leaders are asking, “How does growing up indoors affect our spiritual development?” Have you ever read the following, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

We believe most students today have an “excuse.” To our knowledge there has never been a culture, so sheltered and distracted from what God has made. We have very comfortable, climate-controlling homes, autos, schools, gyms and places of work. If we need to go outside, it is usually a momentary requirement. Most of those who recreate or exercise outdoors use sidewalks or playing fields, rarely touching the natural world. And our innate desire to experience creation is squelched by a plethora of indoor inventions sophisticatedly designed to captivate our attention for hours on end. The majority of today’s young people have rarely, if ever, “clearly seen” God through what He has made.

Kids in Creation was born to see more youth experience God through His creation.

We must help this generation, and future ones, compensate for the spiritual void left by the lack of nature in their lives. Modern man has built gyms and learned 1000 techniques to “work out,” simulating the physical activity God designed for us in nature. They have also developed artificial, hands-on challenges for groups and individuals so we can learn “experientially,” attempting to replace the mental and social development brought

about by the problem solving dilemmas we used to encounter naturally on a daily basis. But how have we compensated spiritually for the shortage of God's creation in our lives? We cannot replace what can be "understood through what has been made" (by God) with modern techniques or inventions, but we can re-learn an appreciation for the unfathomable handiwork of our Creator. We can take people back into creation and introduce them to their all loving and all powerful Maker. Leaders and parents can be awakened to this critical and growing need. Kids in Creation can inspire, train and equip parents and leaders to provide youth with this essential, fundamental root to a relationship with God.

The first level of influence is already underway. Kids in Creation is writing magazine articles and speaking to groups of youth pastors and the leadership boards of Christian camps. We are all aware that countless kids do not value being in nature, but many leaders and parents are also oblivious to what they and their youth are missing. We are alerting and inspiring leaders to rise to the needs of this de-naturalized culture.

This is also the time for Kids in Creation to begin providing scholarships for underprivileged youth to attend Christian adventure camps where they can experience God through hands on, fun, dirty, wet, hot, cold, exhausting, peaceful, thrilling, awe-striking quests in creation. We are continuing to build up a network of approved camps across the nation who are already prepared to receive camperships for adventures that meet Kids in Creation standards of ministry. These funds will provide qualified camps with the needed leverage for drawing lower income youth into their priceless programs.

Secondly, Kids in Creation will become known as a source of training, inspiration and financial provision. We will reach out to a much larger group of camps which do not provide the adventures in nature they could. Kids in Creation will be able to offer the inspiration, philosophy, staff training and funding required for opening new adventure programs. Pioneering new programs, and possibly new camps, we will make available more opportunities through which parents and youth leaders can provide the spiritual essentials found in creation.

The third stage of Kids in Creation operations will be to enter the inner cities of America. We will establish Kids in Creation Stations providing guided excursions for youth, in-the-field seminars for parents, teachers and youth pastors, training them to lead kids into creation. We will also provide gear and supplies at low to no cost; equipping qualified leaders to lead adventures on their own.

In 2008, Kids in Creation plans to augment the cost of 500 to 700 adventure campers around the nation and influence over 12 traditional camps toward leading adventures into creation to meet with God. This goal can only be obtained through the generosity of others. We would be honored if you would review the attached proposal and consider joining us on an expedition to see more of today's youth experience God through His creation.

We sincerely appreciate your willingness to consider assisting Kids in Creation in our quest to see more youth experience God through what He has made.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Lomax, Founder/Executive Director
Kids in Creation

Enclosure

Kids in Creation Summary Page

Mission and Vision Statements:

Kids in Creation generates and refines opportunities for youth to experience God through His creation by equipping camps, youth leaders, teachers and parents across the nation to provide adventures in nature. We desire to see every youth in America connect with God through His creation in powerful and meaningful ways on a regular basis. We know that through adventures in creation, Christian leadership, and the Holy Spirit, American youth will discover Jesus Christ in more depth. We envision adventure camps, traditional camps, church youth ministries, Christian schools, and families adapting and building programs to such an extent that no child lacks life-changing opportunities with The Creator in creation. The dynamics of our mission are:

- To provide quality support for camps and development of adventure programs in the form of campership funds, directional seminars, program development consulting, staff training, and program grants.
- To inspire and enable camps, youth ministries, schools, and parents with hands-on seminars and gear that equips them with vision, confidence, and logistical help to lead their youth on simple excursions into God's creation.
- To ensure that each dollar invested builds more opportunities for life-changing experiences in creation.

Target Market and Geographic Area Served:

In the past it was primarily the lower class of inner city youth that were unable to reach the natural world. For the first time, with the advent of so many conveniences that protect humans from creation and entertainment devices which distract them from it, the need for youth to experience God through creation crosses economic, geographic and ethnographic lines. Therefore, Kids in Creation strategies are mindful of the need of all American youth. Campership funds are primarily limited to the economically challenged inner city and urban youth and less program development energy is put toward organizations and parents serving the youth of remote areas.

Type of Organization:

Kids in Creation is formally incorporated as a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization in the State of California since 2004. We are governed by a Board of Directors of three and an Advisory Board of 9 (See Page 6 and attached 501(c)(3) IRS Department of Treasury Correspondence).

Primary Contact:

Mr. Craig Lomax, Founder/Executive Director	(530) 622-4115, Office
Kids in Creation	(530) 622-4123, Home
P.O. Box 233	e-mail: craig@kidsincreation.org
Coloma, CA 95613	Web site: www.kidsincreation.org

Financial Request and Purpose:

Currently, we are building scholarship and grant funds for qualified Christian adventure programs who serve underprivileged youth. We are asking you for a grant of \$10,000 to \$25,000 (or any portion thereof) toward our scholarship and grant funds. **TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$10,000 to \$25,000**

Evaluation and Accountability:

The progress and effectiveness of Kids in Creation will be determined by ongoing analysis and oversight of those we serve, our staff, Advisory Board, and Board of Directors. Because we are committed to integrity, we are willing to complete any reasonable evaluative measure that you request.

Kids in Creation Proposal

The Need:

The majority of America's youth are growing up indoors. Man has developed a plethora of sophisticated luxuries which protect us from the inconveniences of nature, and distract us from it with nearly irresistible forms of entertainment. The ramifications of such a lifestyle are leaving us with record breaking levels of obesity and serious questions concerning the mental, social, and spiritual development of our children. Kids in Creation is especially concerned about the spiritual consequences of a nation's youth who are not connecting with God through His creation. Romans 1:20 says, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

We believe many Americans now have an "excuse." The majority of today's young people have rarely, if ever, "clearly seen" God through what He has made. Over time, humanity has learned to accept the various, generational lifestyle changes that occur from less and less time spent in nature. But we cannot accept, even for spiritual reasons alone, seeing a generation grow up without ample opportunities to physically, mentally and spiritually experience what God has made.

The Solution:

We must first surface this need. Surprisingly, most leaders and parents are unaware of the seriousness of our present situation. This condition has come upon our society so gradually, over the last few centuries, that the ridiculousness of our current de-naturalized state is being tolerated almost without notice. Christian leaders and parents of youth must be awoken to the dramatic spiritual need of those they serve. Books, magazine articles, seminars and day to day conversations igniting our passion in the hearts of leaders, and the leaders of leaders, are on the rise partly as a result of Kids in Creation efforts. This must continue and expand until every child has someone arranging for them to experience God's creation first-hand.

As Pastors, youth pastors, camp directors, Christian educators and parents begin to understand the importance of seeing their youth in God's creation, they need a qualified source where they can receive the appropriate council, training and funding in order to respond to the need. Because so many organizations and leaders have undervalued the need for creation for so long, they are now generally unprepared to meet this need. They need qualified outdoor leaders to guide them with expert consultation and hands on training that prepares these individuals and their organizations for the task at hand. This means building a network of qualified outdoor leaders who can minister in this way across the nation. This means implementing proven curriculum for a variety of circumstances so no subculture is left out. As Christian leaders and Christian organizations become more sensitive to this need, Kids in Creation will be there to help them answer the question, "How?"

In some cases, leaders and organizations need more than advice and training to get the job done. Many of our nation's youth can not afford the "luxury" of experiencing God's creation firsthand. Kids in Creation provides scholarships for underprivileged youth and grants to organizations that need assistance to start new outdoor programs.

Our Strategic Plan to Meet the Need:

After acquiring the necessary funds, Kids in Creation's first phase of action will involve:

First Phase: Scholarships for individuals to access God's Creation through qualified adventure camps. This will not only provide new opportunities for youth, but will also help build relationships with providing organizations and individuals who can play a roll in Phase 2. Continuing to build a network of Christian outdoor leaders who are dedicated to communicating the need. Awakening Pastors, Youth Pastors, Christian Educators, and parents to the critical need our youth have to connect with God through Creation. Alerting them to the need through writing and speaking and then leading them to resources they can utilize.

Second Phase: Developing new adventure programs at traditional camps. Kids in Creation will supply consultants to those organizations considering the implementation of more creation in their programs and be able to provide the training needed for the new program. In some cases Kids in Creation will also provide the leadership staff and program grants necessary to get them started.

We will be utilizing established relationships with adventure camps across the country (see one of our sites: christianadventurecamps.org for a list) to implement campership programs for underprivileged campers. No camp will receive more than 20% of Kids in Creation funds designated toward scholarships and campers will receive financial assistance to attend these camps based on criteria established by Kids in Creation. As Kids in Creation becomes recognized as a provider of Christian-led adventures, we will have more influence among traditional camps and be invited to help establish adventure programs where we can consult leadership, train staff and grant funds.

Third Phase: The process of aiding traditional camps will build Kids in Creation's capacity to serve. We will have a greater network of qualified Christian leaders to draw from in establishing regional Kids in Creation Stations. Each station will serve its area by training and supplying gear to individuals and their organizations. These stations will also give Kids in Creation the power to lead local youth adventures from time to time.

Measurable Outcomes for the First Phase:

Kids in Creation's campership program will include an annual review of each participating camp to insure that funds are being well spent. The camp will show an account of each campership dispersed and provide the access needed to assess the quality of their program according to Kids in Creation standards. Each camper who received financial assistance will be asked to fill out an evaluation questionnaire. (A minimum of 80% response rate is required.) Campers, parents and staff will be interviewed on a random basis.

The camp will also allow a Kids in Creation representative the freedom to participate in their program with little to no notice. Up to 4 of these potentially spontaneous visits may occur within one year. Each annual review will be summarized by a 1 to 5 score (5 being excellent) in four categories. Any camp receiving less than a score of 4 in more than two categories or a 2 or less in any one category will automatically receive a secondary review before further funding is allowed. The 4 categories to be evaluated are:

1. Potential to Inspire Spiritual Growth: Staff Maturity, Preparedness, Commitment, Programs.
2. Use of Creation: Quality of Adventures, Daily Implementation of Creation, Quality of Quiet.
3. Camper Satisfaction: Fun, Food, Fulfillment.
4. Organizational Quality: Effective Leadership, Efficient Systems/Procedures, Integrity of Operations, Safe Systems and Procedures, Maintenance of Facilities and Equipment.

Organizational History:

With nearly 30 years of camp directing experience, in 2004 Kids in Creation was founded in memory of Jason Allen and Lindsay Cutshall. They were Christian adventure guides dedicated to seeing youth experience God through His creation and they were working toward establishing a new Christian adventure camp. Jason and Lindsay were murdered in Jenner, California a few weeks before their wedding. With their same passion to see youth in nature, Kids in Creation has structured a national strategy, established its leadership, incorporated as a 501(c)3, developed relationships with kindred camps across the country, and is ready for its first functional phase of ministry.

Budget Summary and Plan:

Kids in Creation is fashioned and its budget is structured so that every possible dollar is spent toward more opportunities for youth to encounter God through creation. Please see the Budget Page that follows.

Timing: The only barrier holding Kids in Creation from entering its first phase is financial.

Kids in Creation Budget

(estimated in thousands)

2007 -2008

I. Staff Salaries, Wages, and Benefits	20
II. Office Space and Utilities	3
III. Campership fund dispersal	105
IV. Supplies and Materials	6
V. Travel and Conferences	8
VI. Other Miscellaneous:	6

TOTAL: \$ 148

Summary:

You can offer us tremendous help as we take one of our first pioneering steps toward making a significant impact on America. It will be financial gifts that transform Kids in Creation from having great ideas into making a significant impact.

We are very open to any evaluation, input, or ideas you are willing to give, and would be very excited to work toward an ongoing partnership. We are eager to discuss this proposal with you and stand ready to provide any additional information which will assist you in your decision-making. Thank you.

Kids in Creation Leadership and Board of Directors

Executive Director:

Mr. Craig Lomax, Founder/Executive Director (530) 622-4115
 Kids in Creation
 P. O. Box 233 e-mail: craig@kidsincreation.org
 Coloma, CA 95613 Web site: www.kidsincreation.org

Advisory Board

	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>City, State</u>
Robert and Deloris Allen	Research and Development Chemist	Cleveland, OH
Chris and Cathy Cutshall	Senior Pastor	Fresno, OH
Aaron Daly	Director of Youth Ministries	Encinitas, CA
Hillary Dickman	Professor of Communications	Colorado Springs, CO
Amanda Helton	Jr. High Ministry Coordinator	San Diego, CA
Jansen Wendlandt	Assistant Camp Director	Coloma, CA
Adam Turner	Marketing Director	Madison, WI
Beverly Feusi	Office Manager	Kelsey, CA
Erik Allen	Adventure Guide	Colfax, CA

Board Members:

Pastor David Cooke, Treasurer
 Cold Springs Community Church
 2600 Cold Springs Road
 Placerville, CA, 95667
 (530) 622-2171

Pastor Ed Kennedy, Secretary
 Mother Lode Church
 P.O. Box 53
 Coloma, CA 95613
 (530) 622-0686

Mr. Craig Lomax, Executive Director
 Rock-N-Water
 P. O. Box 307
 Coloma, CA 95613
 (530) 621-3918