



great outdoor adventure trips

summer 2009 newsletter

Volume no.1 Issue no.2

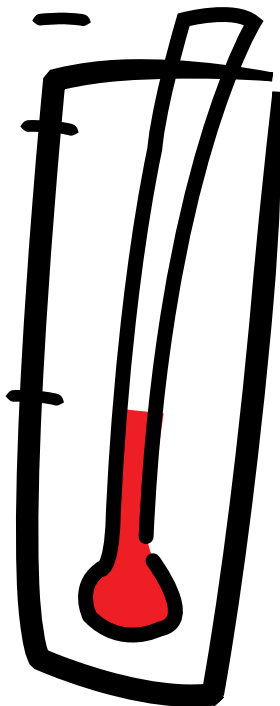
The weather is warming up and so are we! (goat)

The summer is rapidly approaching and things around here are about to get crazy! As of today we have nearly 30 trips scheduled for this summer. That means nearly 300 youth in the Greenville area will have a chance to enjoy God's creation and experience Jesus Christ in a way they will never forget. The local interest in Goat and our trips has been incredible and we're set to let Jesus use us to do big things in His name this summer. It's going to be awesome. Most of the kids currently signed

up and busting at the seams to come are from local groups such as the Boys and Girls Club, Greenville County Recreation District, the Boys Home of the South, the Potential Youth Foundation and even some local youth groups. Right now the breakdown of day trips is about 40% rafting, 30% rock climbing, 30% hiking, and 100% awesome. We've also got three overnight (2 or 3 nights) trips scheduled, including a beach camping trip in August.



A (stud) participant from one of last summer's trips



The lower line represents our current receipts of \$10,048
The middle line denotes our original budget of \$32,000 for which we're on track
The topmost line indicates the additional \$5,000 we will need

Wait a sec, there's a hitch (kind of) (goat)

With all that God has blessed us with and blown our minds with over the last few months, He's gone a little overboard. While we're fairly on track for our meticulously planned budget, we originally planned and budgeted for roughly 15 trips and 150 participants. Well, God decided that wasn't enough. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 19:21 about the difference in our earthly plans, and His plans, and He has clearly shown us that He has real plans for this ministry.

The fact is, about 90% of these kids can't afford to come on these trips. We don't want to turn anyone away from the chance to learn about Jesus, and it's hard to ask a kid who can't pay for school lunch-

es to pay to go rafting. So we need your help to make sure we can get these kids out there!

First, we want to thank everybody who has stepped up and helped make all this possible. What we do day to day in our ministry is no more important than your financial support, and we're so glad, and just praise Jesus to have you all as partners! We know that this is all God's plan, and He will foot the bill somehow, so we're praying that some individuals or businesses can step up in a big way and help us stay on track financially. If you'd liked to hear about possible sponsorship opportunities, we would love to talk to you more about specifics!



Big News!!



So, some big news, and real affirmation from God of what we're doing – we got our tax exempt determination from the IRS in less than 2 months!!! Wait, what are all those exclamation marks for? Basically, it's not automatic (all organizations don't receive it) and, it's typically at least 3-6 month process. This is not normal. It just doesn't happen to get approved in less than 2 months – this is, without a doubt, a move of God himself. Great, what does all that mean? Well, I'll tell you. It means that the IRS thinks we're cool, and that we're a tax-exempt organization and all of your donations are tax-deductible. But before you worry about the donations you've already made, check the facts to the right.

The Facts

Tax-exempt is another term for the fancy, and complicated term, 501(c)3

All of your previous donations are tax-deductible because the determination is retroactive to the filing date.

Being a 501(c)3 opens up doors for corporate donations and grants as well (so cross your fingers. Or better yet, pray. The latter seems to actually work)

If you've made a donation, or donations, thanks a million! And we will send total receipts for donations closer to the end of the year.

TV?!

You read that right. WSPA Channel 7 has asked us to appear on their show, *Your Carolina* on July 3rd. *Your Carolina* is a show with hundreds of thousands of viewers in the Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson and Asheville area and could be a huge break for our ministry. We'll get more details out to y'all through the email list as the time gets closer, but keep an eye out, and please be praying for us!

Prayer Requests

As the summer approaches, we would encourage you all to continue to pray for our ministry, our participants, and our volunteers. Some specific needs we are seeking God's guidance on are below.

Transportation solution
Safety
Presenting the true Gospel
Meeting our increased budget
The Lord's guidance on our future

Contact Info

Are you interested in learning more about Goat? Do you want to volunteer? Would you like to bake us some chocolate chip cookies?

If you'd like to find out more about our ministry, there are quite a few ways to get in touch with us:

Email: info@goattrips.org
Phone: (864) 469-5042

Snail mail:
PO Box 2802
Greenville, SC 29602-2082



Keep up with us this summer:

www.goattrips.org