



Rocky Mountain Round Up



Kiwaniis – Helping Build a Playground for All

As featured on FOX21 in Colorado Springs, a new inclusive playground, the Heart of Monument Play Park, is set to enhance recreational opportunities for all individuals, including those with disabilities and senior citizens. The project is estimated to cost \$900,000. A fundraising goal of \$770,000 has been established for the first phase of construction, with organizers needing an additional \$80,000 to begin bidding. The Heart of Monument Play Park is a collaborative initiative led by the Town of Monument, the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, and Monument Community Presbyterian Church. The project’s design is heavily influenced by community input, as more than 25 local groups, including Special Olympics teams and various support organizations, contributed ideas. This engagement has ensured that the park will cater to a diverse range of users, promoting not just accessibility but community interaction.

“When you build for people with disabilities, you’re really building for everyone,” said Sheila Ferguson, a member of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club and a coach for the Monument Warriors Special Olympics, highlighting the park’s universal design.

Park organizers aim to create an environment where families can enjoy time together without anyone feeling excluded. Ferguson mentioned a notable contribution from the Lewis-Palmer Key Club, which donated \$1,000 as a testament to the value the youth see in building an inclusive community. The play park will also serve the elderly population, with Adrienne Timmons, Director of Healthcare Integration and Strategies with Silver Key Senior Services, stating that parks can help alleviate social isolation among seniors. “Social isolation is horrific for our health,” she added, emphasizing the park’s role in fostering community connections.

Organizers plan to break ground in spring 2026, with the hope of a grand opening later that summer. The success of the project will depend on meeting the fundraising goals and community support.

ICON Manila – Register Now



Regular registration ends February 2nd - US\$409
 Late registration (February 3rd- April 13) - US\$509
 To register: [Kiwaniis ICON](https://www.kiwanis.org/rocky-mountain-district/icon-manila)

Note from our Governor

Hello RMD Kiwanians!

Happy New Year! We are one quarter into our Kiwanis year...so how you doing? I am excited to report our membership numbers are up so far this year. Thanks to the clubs adding new members! If your club is looking for assistance, ideas or activities, be sure to contact the District and let us know.

We are busy planning the Mid-Year Rally to be held March 7 at CSU Fort Collins, along with the CKI DCON. Registration is open, so be sure to sign up and come join the fun. We are also preparing to plan our DCON to be held in Pueblo Aug 14-16... "The Kiwanis Family Fiesta." Get your club on board to attend!

I look forward to visiting your clubs (as many as possible) this year. If you have something special planned, be sure to reach out and let me know. My most favorite thing is to see our clubs in action, making the difference for their communities! Keep up the good work and we will remain "Rocky Mountain Strong"!

With Kiwanis Spirit,
 Carol Chiarito
 Governor
 Kiwanis Rocky Mountain District



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Bells, Smiles and Service

Clubs around the region ring the bell for Salvation Army



A Healthier Future

One of the Kiwanis Clubs of Anthem Ranch in Broomfield, Colorado, focuses on improving mental healthcare for children and teens. The club consulted with staff at Children’s Hospital Colorado North Campus in the area to determine how they could help efforts already underway to move past a dated model of mental healthcare. The dated model could increase patients’ fear and stress by moving to a new model that is more humane, individualized, and effective. A pediatric medicine support grant was given by Kiwanis International to create a positive, therapeutic environment in the renovated mental health unit, with murals, rocking bouncy chairs, weighted blankets, stuffed animals, sensory toys, and “psych safe” handles, windows, ceilings, and other fixtures designed to prevent self-harm.

In the past 10 years, 80% of Colorado’s mental health facilities have closed, and the redesigned Children’s Hospital will accommodate hundreds more children. Additionally, Anthem Ranch Kiwanis Club members will continue to volunteer as they are dedicated to serving this worthy cause in any way possible.





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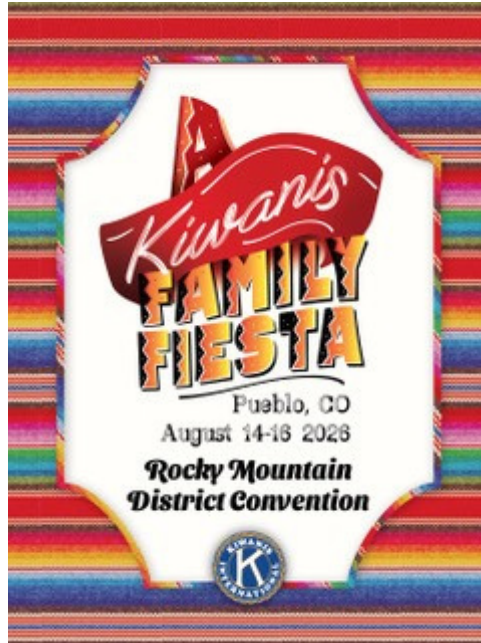
RMD - Grants Available



2024-25 is the year we awarded the more grants that before. The district has money to grant! Link to grant guidelines and/application: <https://f24.site.kiwaniis.org/foundation-grant-request-guidelines-2/>

District Convention

August 14-16 - Pueblo, Colorado



Mid Year - DCON

Mid year district conference is Saturday, March 7th in Ft. Collins. To register [DCON Mid year](#)

Kiwaniis Spirit

Kiwaniis International talks about branding. Why? Because it helps to let others know about our passion for serving children of the world. There are a lot of ways to brand: Facebook, websites, newsletters, bumper stickers, pins, shirts, vests, flags, banners, window clings, road signs, lanyards and much more! How do you share the Kiwanis brand? Here is how one Kiwanis family shares their passion over thousands of miles each year! Please send what you are doing and your ideas to KiwaniisRMDKMarketing@gmail.com.



Save the Date!

Kiwaniis
Rocky Mountain District

Mid-Year Rally AND CKI DCON

Saturday March 7

CSU Campus in Ft. Collins 10-4
Registration opens December 20!!

Santa Visits Kiwanis

