



Community Partner Spotlight

Each month, a different local business or organization will be highlighted for their collaborative spirit in the community and commitment to supporting youth.

If you would like to discuss how your organization is involved in the community, please contact us – we'd love to feature you!

Call Laura Robertson at (303) 670-7539

Youth Driven and Green

By Kiefer Zabel

During the past few weeks, you may have noticed bright green pedicabs driven around Idaho Springs by local teens. This new downtown transportation project is a collaboration between Mountain Youth Network, the City and multiple local businesses.

Mountain Youth Network guided two students from Clear Creek High School, Cooper Frey and Clay Robertson, through the process of starting their business, Mountain Youth Pedicabs. First steps included talking with the city administration and Chief of Police, learning from other pedicab business owners and presenting their idea to the City Council. After completing their business plan and multiple applications the boys received approval in the form of a resolution that was passed (unanimously) allowing the pedicab service to run in the historic district of Idaho Springs.



Mountain Youth Pedicabs started offering rides on the afternoon of August 2nd. The drivers are following health safety orders/recommendations by always wearing a face covering and wiping down the seats and surfaces after each ride. They tested different days and times and determined that (so far) rides are most popular in the late afternoon and on the weekends. Currently, the hours and days available for rides are 4:30pm to 30 minutes after sunset on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays with shorter hours on Thursdays and sometimes Mondays. The pedicabs will run through the end of September to finish off a 60 day test period and then will plan to start back up again in the spring of 2021.

This project has created an opportunity for Cooper and Clay to learn how to start and run a business. The Clear Creek Economic Development Corp also provided advice and support through the process saying, "We are so proud to see our youth identifying community needs and taking action through entrepreneurship". Once the business is more established (next spring), there will be opportunities for additional teens to be pedicab drivers. The drivers are required to have a valid driver's license and to participate in some training to learn about the equipment and the rules of operation in Idaho Springs.

The pedicab service provides an entertaining way for tourists to explore historic landmarks around Idaho Springs. The Historical Society has provided information and talking points for the youth to add to their tours... this will help the teens and the tourists alike to learn more about the community. Whether in need of an easier way to get to your car or a greener form of getting around, the introduction of the pedicab service is a unique and fun addition to the Pedestrian Marketplace in downtown Idaho Springs!



MOUNTAIN YOUTH PEDICABS

Partners for Pedals

By Chloe Alspaugh

The Mountain Youth Pedicabs operation in Idaho Springs has many generous supporters. One of the most instrumental is a Clear Creek County owned company, Park Idaho Springs, powered by Interstate Parking of Colorado.



Gareth James Lloyd, Partner and Executive Vice President, was approached with enthusiasm by Jon Cain from the City of Idaho Springs about the potential for a youth run pedicab business. Park Idaho Springs promptly and generously offered to partner to support youth and help cover the costs of the equipment. Mr. Lloyd commented about this business concept, "we are proud to be actively involved in the evolution of this community and we feel honored to sponsor the pedicabs. We believe it allows youth to develop skills such as entrepreneurship, customer service and business operations that they will carry throughout their lives".

Jon Cain is the Assistant Administrator for the City of Idaho Springs and he played an important role in connecting the supporters to ensure the success of the project. Cain is happy about the pedicab project as he believes that it is critical for a community to provide and create opportunities for young people. He also voices his support by saying, "the pedicab project has provided youth an opportunity to engage local government leadership as they have learned about the process of creating and operating a business in the City".



In addition to Park Idaho Springs and the City, this collaborative project includes the following local sponsors and supporters: Mountain Youth Network, Clear Creek School District, Clear Creek Economic Development Corp, Tommyknocker Brewery and Two Brothers Deli. Several additional businesses have expressed their desire to support in the future! This project has demonstrated how working together in our community with young people can inspire and encourage new ideas that can turn into unique and fun realities!



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