



# Paintbrushes and a Platform

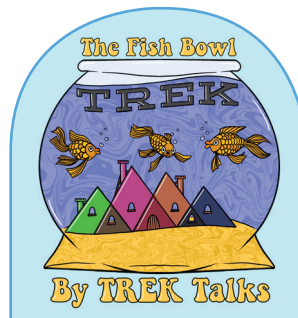
By Chloe Alspaugh, Senior at CCHS

Mountain Youth Network/TREK Headquarters offers a space for Clear Creek students to let their creativity flow! In the new Headquarters (HQ), we have a mountainscape mural completed and a recycling mural in the works. Giving students a creative outlet has made the HQ such a fun space to be for everybody.



The open hours allow students to get much more involved and also provide a place to hang out. *"I like coming to the open hours because of the games, opportunities to be creative, and a space to focus with fun activities for breaks,"* says Bridget Egan, Clear Creek High School junior. Bridget has designed a logo for the TREK Podcast, a recent addition to TREK's communication team. The Communications Workgroup, renamed TREK Talks by students, is made up of all different kids from different grades offering a platform for expression.

**TREK Talks** consists of outreach, design, social media, the new podcast, and video/presentation team. Each one gives students the ability to pick and choose where they would like to put their energy, time, creativity and build skills along the way. Mountain Youth Network staff provides resources and guidance but gives youth the freedom to share their voice in the community.



Another amazing partner with Mountain Youth Network is **Rise Above Colorado!** Rise Above created the Colorado Constellation Project, a network of both youth and adults across the state working to give meaningful and authentic messaging on substance misuse and prevention. In Clear Creek County with the support and guidance from Rise Above we will develop messaging on social norming in hopes to close the misperception gap. *"Rise Above is excited to have this partnership because of the amazing work already done to elevate youth voices through MYN/TREK, and that we'll be prioritizing that work through our social media collaboration, community outreach, and even the mural we'll be painting in Clear Creek,"* says Jonathan Judge, Director of Youth Engagement for Rise Above Colorado. This partnership allows youth in Clear Creek County to have a creative outlet all while bettering the community and closing the perception gap.

We encourage youth in the community to come swing by HQ on Highway 103 in Idaho Springs and help on a project where you can unleash your creativity and send out messages to peers and community members.

## 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

## Stay Active, Stay Healthy

By Ella Alspaugh, Freshman at CCHS

Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation Center (CCMRD) hopes to "unite our community through cooperation and commitment to recreational excellence." CCMRD has recently pursued partnerships with local youth-serving organizations and local businesses to support the youth in Clear Creek County.



With new Coronavirus protocols in place the Recreation Center reopened their doors. Activities consist of group classes, softball, cornhole, hiking and running club, soccer, and open volleyball. So many options for anyone to come and do something fun for all interests and all ages. The Rec Center knows the importance of activities in the community and hopes for continued involvement and much needed interaction during this time.

The Rec Center is offering outdoor activities while the weather is still warm and plans to keep activities going through the winter with scheduled volleyball, swimming, and usage of their traverse wall. Covid-19 protocols like mandatory mask wearing, social distancing, and reserved timeslots (55 min) ensure the safety of staff and community members.

Upcoming events held by the Rec Center include a Self Defense Class on October 13th at the Baseball Fields in Idaho Springs. Anyone over 12 is welcome to participate in this class, donations encouraged. In order to put on this event CCMRD has partnered with Resilience 1220, an organization designed to offer free counseling services for people between the ages 12 through 20.

A very special thanks to the wonderful community partner Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District offering creative solutions that allow our community to come together safely, staying connected and healthy.