



Grand Lake Board of Trustees

Letter of Recognition for Westgate Community School
Students & Volunteers

TO: Mayor Kudron and Trustees

FROM: Katie Hearsom, Community Engagement Manager

DATE: June 26, 2023

RE: Letter of Recognition for Westgate Community School Students & Volunteers

Background:

On May 18, 2023, the Town welcomed 18 sophomore students from the Westgate Community School in Thornton, CO, plus several adult chaperones, who assisted in the cleanup and beautification of the Town's "Gateway Garden" trail. This connector trail, located north of the junction of Mountain Avenue and Hancock Street, transports hikers between Rocky Mountain National Park and the Town of Grand Lake, specifically those thru-hiking the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT).

After a trail maintenance demonstration provided by Maire Sullivan with the Fraser-based Headwaters Trails Alliance (HTA), the students worked in teams with tool provided by HTA to improve drainage, remove rocks and weeds and generally cleanup and re-define the natural trail surface. They also applied a fresh coat of stain to the wooden benches and archway that exist along the trail. After a picnic lunch at the Heckert Pavilion, the kids split into groups to tackle CDT-related projects downtown, including re-branding the CDT logo, or "blaze", on the boardwalk, and getting the information kiosk cabin in town park ready for summer by cleaning and stocking it with brochures, maps and other CDT-related materials.

The following day the group was led on a guided hike up the North Inlet to learn about the impacts of the East Troublesome Fire, and wildfire ecology in general, followed by complimentary boat tour of Grand Lake. This was the second year that the Town has hosted a service project for the Westgate students, and the school has expressed an interest in continuing to work with the Town on future volunteer projects.

As a designated Gateway Community of the CDT, the Town is committed to support the CDT Coalition in its mission to promote, protect and complete the trail by organizing a minimum of four local events per year. In addition to the annual Gateway Garden Cleanup Day in May, we will be offering "First Friday" guided hikes throughout the summer, information booths at various Town events, a community anniversary party to honor Grand Lake's designation day on July 22, and another service project on Public Lands Day in September.



TO: The Sophomore Class of the Westgate Community School

FROM: Mayor Steve Kudron, Town of Grand Lake

DATE: June 26, 2023

RE: Letter of Recognition for Westgate Community School Students & Volunteers

This letter is to demonstrate our sincere appreciation for the efforts put forth by the Westgate School's sophomore class on May 18-19, 2023, in Grand Lake, CO. The various projects completed during your recent visit have contributed greatly to our mission as a gateway community of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail to promote, protect and complete the trail to our residents and visitors alike, and we are proud to have had your involvement in honoring this unique recreational offering in our community.

As a small, rural town in the Rocky Mountains we rely heavily on volunteer participation to keep our town looking and functioning at its best, and we are so grateful to have the helping hands of outstanding young people such as yourselves. We hope that this service trip was as beneficial to your education and future endeavors as it was for our Town and community, and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Mayor Steve Kudron