

# RMSKC MEMBERS VOLUNTEER, 2019

**SAFE SUMMER KICK OFF:** On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Garland Lake in Denver was jumping! It was the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Safe Summer Kick Off, a free, family-friendly event to introduce outdoor activities, support under-resourced communities, and celebrate the exploration of nature. Scores of exhibitors presented ways to have fun without being plugged in. People who visited at least ten of the kiosks got free hamburgers or hot dogs, so the visitors were happily making a day of strolling in the park.

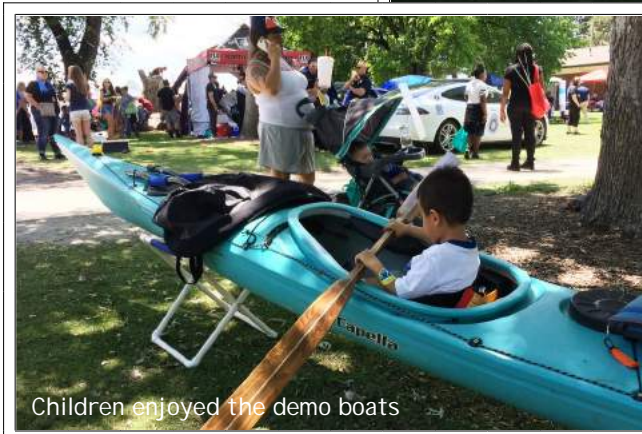
Brian Hunter, Tim Fletcher and Clark Strickland invested hours of work setting up a sea kayak showroom to introduce our sport to anyone who passed by. Most of the people enjoying the scene were families with young children, not the demographic that is attracted to paddling in solo boats, but our volunteers chatted with a handful or more of young adults who'd paddled before they moved to Denver who were excited to learn about RMSKC, and others who wanted to know more about becoming paddlers. Read all about the day: <http://www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/ssko-go>



Brian



Clark spent part of the afternoon pulling trash out of the lake



Children enjoyed the demo boats

**TRI FOR THE CURE:** August 3<sup>rd</sup> started early for Clark, Sue Hughes and Julie Pfannenstein, who were paddling Swimmer Assist for the water leg of Tri for the Cure's triathlon at Cherry Creek State Park. They reported deep in the park at 6:00AM, in time to unload their boats, paddle across to the swimmers' start and finish line and get their instructions.

They'd all done it before, had a great time this year, and said they would be there again next summer.

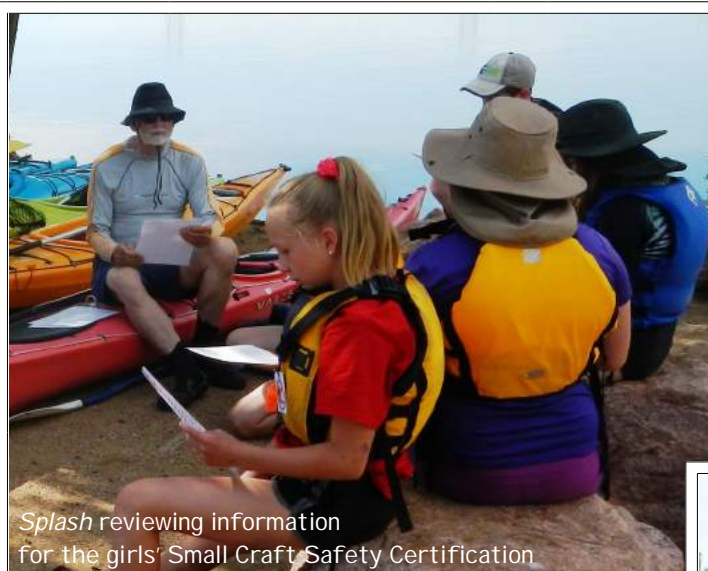


The support for the slowest swimmers near the end of their swim was very emotional

## RMSKC MEMBERS VOLUNTEER, CONT.



**GIRL SCOUT WATER CAMPS:** Julie "Pirate Cat" Pfannenstein, Tim "Spike" Fletcher, Brian "Splash" Hunter, and Clark "Eagle" Strickland volunteered at two Girl Scout water camps again this summer: the last week in June at Big Soda Lake and the end of July at Rueter-Hess Reservoir near Castle Rock.



*Splash reviewing information for the girls' Small Craft Safety Certification*



*Pirate Cat and Archie the kayaking cat*

One of the camps was the *Sampler*, with the girls trying different types of watercraft each day; the other was called *Water Focus*, where they were able to work on boat-specific skills.

Our volunteers said the camps were exhausting; the girls really kept them hopping. But the photos of the scouts with 8 kayaks, 8 SUPs, 8 canoes, 6 sailboats and 6 windsurfers on the lake look like so much fun!

Read about how to get involved on the next page.



*Spike teaching how to use a throw bag*



To become a volunteer, the Girl Scouts of Colorado require a series of registrations and certifications. The forms are filled out online; the links are sent to interested volunteers usually in February or early March. Here's the list:

1. First you need to **JOIN THE GIRL SCOUTS** and pay the annual dues of \$25. That covers you on their insurance and qualifies you to be at the camp.
2. On that registration form you will need to **PROVIDE THE BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION** and pay that fee, which is \$24 and lasts for three years.
3. Water Camp volunteers are required to **EARN TWO WATER SAFETY CERTIFICATIONS**. They are the American Red Cross's *Small Craft Safety in Kayaking* for \$25 and *Basic Water Rescue* for \$12. These also last three years. The easiest way to get the certifications is to volunteer at the Focus Camp in June and do the required steps with the campers.
4. The final step is to **REGISTER FOR THE CAMP** itself, which requires no fee. You will fill out forms including contact info, a medical sheet with emergency contact information, and any waivers required by the venue.



Volunteers bring their own kayaks and lunch. The camp provides snacks each morning and afternoon, a camp t-shirt, and lots of fun on the lake. Clark Strickland, Brian Hunter, Tim Fletcher, and Julie Pfannenstein can tell you how much they enjoy sharing the sport of kayaking with the campers. They can also tell you that registration isn't as big of a deal as it sounds.

People keep doing these camps for the joy the girls experience, the camaraderie between the volunteers, and the opportunity to paddle with them each summer. Camp volunteers are the most important component of the camps because they monitor for safety as they teach. Everyone is pretty tired by the end of the day but they keep coming back!



*Real boaters don't need motors!*