



Contributed photo

Westonites Chris and Lyn Kimberly are kick-starting their new RV camp for kids this July.

## New camping concept brings kids to door of national parks

By **JEREMY SOULLIERE**  
*Hour Staff Writer*

**WESTON** — With rolling cabins and an ever-moving campground, Westonites Chris and Lyn Kimberly are starting a new kind of summer camp for kids next month.

On July 22, the couple will be hitting the open road with roughly five staff members and more than 20 kids ages 11 to 17 in Chevrolet Suburbans towing travel trailers.

The moving camp, called the American Wanderer RV Camp for Kids, will depart from Denver, Colo., taking campers

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**Lyn Kimberly**  
RV Camp for Kids co-owner

through Colorado, Utah and Arizona on a tour that is peppered with national parks, including the Grand Canyon and the Petrified Forest.

"We thought, 'Why can't we take advantage of what this country has to offer and open

up children's eyes to something that's being seen less and less?'" Lyn Kimberly said, referring to America's national parks. "This has the continuity of a traditional camp, but the joy of it is you're not doing the same thing every day — every day is different."

The four-week camp, which offers the kids trailer cabins that are outfitted with bunk beds, a full bathroom, living space, televisions and DVD players, is the first of kind, the Kimberlys say.

"We couldn't believe anyone

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## Camp going places

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else wasn't doing this," said Chris Kimberly, who noted they had consulted numerous national park officials about the camp concept.

Unlike rushed family vacations where kids just have the time to pose for a picture near America's natural wonders, the RV Camp for Kids will take kids beyond the parking lot, Lyn said.

"We're there to explore and learn, and take in what's there," she said, speaking to each camp stop's intention.

The camp, which will meander roughly 2,000 miles by trip's end, includes staff guides, Lyn said, each one a professional educator who will help the children kindle an appreciation for the history and natural beauty of the parks. Even the camp chef, who will be cooking the kids family-style meals from a cookhouse trailer, has a teaching background, she said.

"What we're about is teaching the future generation," Lyn said.

This summer's camp, which still has openings, costs \$5,750, she said. The tuition includes camp activities, state park fees, room and board, laundry, and travel and emergency medical insurance. Not included in the camp fee are airfare to and from Denver and a National Parks Pass.

The Kimberlys came up with the RV camp concept, they said, after traveling 9,700 miles of America's roadways to see a variety of national parks with their daughters Anna and Catharine last summer. The Westonites had recently

been outbid in an effort to purchase a Vermont summer camp that Lyn had attended as a kid, and the cross-country excursion had cultivated the new business idea. They decided they would bring the national park experience to their future campers.

"It doesn't matter what movies or television shows you watch, you haven't experienced it until you've been there," Lyn said about the natural landscapes offered by America's national parks.

Next summer, the couple is planning two camp sessions, one sporting a new route that includes parks in Wyoming, South Dakota and Idaho such as Mount Rushmore and Devils Tower. Chris said the hope is to have up to 10 or 12 different routes in the future, including trips that explore Alaska and Canada.

"The kids (will) never have to do the same trip twice," he said.

The couple also wants to offer RV camp sessions for kids with disabilities in the future, Chris said, which would have trailers outfitted with the necessary equipment.

Presently, American Wanderer has enough trailers and camp equipment to take up to 48 kids for each session, they said, and it already has 40 kids signed up for next year.

For further information about the American Wanderer RV Camp for Kids call (203) 557-3339 or visit [www.rvcampforkids.com](http://www.rvcampforkids.com).

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