

June 2, 2007

A new type of summer camp developed by the Kimberly family of Weston will allow boys and girls from ages 11 to 17 to explore the Grand Canyon, Mt. Rushmore, and numerous other national parks out west.

The camp is called American Wanderer RV Camp for Kids, and is a totally new concept in summer camp programs, according to Lyn Kimberly, the camp's co-director and co-owner.

"Our goal was to develop a camp that offered an unsurpassed opportunity for middle and high school age students to spend a summer traveling and exploring our national parks," Ms. Kimberly said.

Unlike most summer camps, this one starts off with a flight to Denver, Colo. For the next four weeks, campers and staff will embark on a tour of several national parks in "RollingCabins," special travel trailers that are pulled by SUVs. The RollingCabins serve as a home base, where the kids will bunk at night.

During summer session one, which begins June 23, campers will explore parks in Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. Session two begins July 22, and campers will travel to Wyoming, South Dakota, and Idaho. In both sessions, campers will travel approximately 2,000 miles.

"We combine the feeling of a traditional summer camp with the adventure of a travel camp and the character building of a wilderness camp. Only, our campground is the 83-million-acre national park system. Our cabins roll and our camp moves," Ms. Kimberly said.

The cost is \$7,750 for each four-week session. Campers may go on one or both sessions.

The concept of a summer camp on wheels is one that no one has done before, Ms. Kimberly said. But she believes it is the best way to fully appreciate the beauty and excitement that parks like Yellowstone and Yosemite offer. "Everyone should visit the national parks at least once in their lives," she said.

This is the kind of summer camp where kids will see wild buffalos and pronghorn in their natural habitat. "Walk with us and learn what you can't read in a book," she said.

In addition to the presence of the directors, the campers will be accompanied by experienced teachers who will act as guides. "Our guides are professional educators who have the ability to kindle an appreciation for the history and natural beauty that exists within our country," Ms. Kimberly said.

Meals will be prepared by the camp chef in a special cookhouse trailer and will be served family style.

The concept for an RV traveling camp came to the Kimberlys after they were outbid on an attempt to buy a campground in Vermont on Lake Champlain. Ms. Kimberly had attended the camp as a child and her daughters Anna and Catharine had enjoyed it as well.

The Kimberlys had hoped to operate a summer camp there, but were outbid by a local YMCA. That helped foster the idea of a traveling camp, where the national parks would serve as the campground.

They look forward to introducing children to parts of the country they may never have seen before.

"My favorite park is Yellowstone because it has so many things like geysers, waterfalls, buffalo, and mountain goats," she said. "Every time you turn a corner there is something new and unique."

Co-owner Chris Kimberly said his favorite park is Yosemite, because of its pristine reservoirs and Ansel Adams landscapes.

Each session of the camp will be limited to 48 campers. Ms. Kimberly said there are still slots available. "The camp will go forward no matter how many campers we get this year," Ms. Kimberly said.

She said she hopes the camp will be able to grow and expand in the future and to someday offer a special education RV summer camp.

For more information about American Wanderer RV Camp for Kids, contact Lyn or Chris Kimberly at 203-557-3339 or by e-mail at TheKimberlys@rvcampforkids.com.