



Kismet Rock Foundation

Photo courtesy of Anne Skidmore

OCTOBER 2013

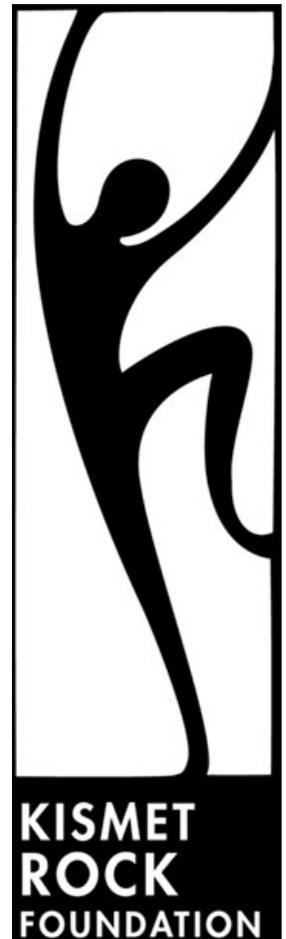
Three Classes Graduate From Kismet in 2013!

Kismet Rock Foundation celebrated the graduation of twenty students this year. Two of the three graduating classes kicked off Kismet's 2013 season with the third class graduating on the last and seventh week. Our season started on Sunday, July 7th and ended on August 24th.

This year local families and longtime supporters of Kismet hosted graduation celebrations and cookouts with games and time for reflection. After receiving certificates of completion, students spoke of their favorite Kismet experiences. Many of our students expressed their desire to return as interns, volunteers, and staff members in the near future.

We extend our warmest thanks to Dr. Tony & Barbara Iorfino, Paul & Lynda Schuepp, Joe & Maureen Soraghan, Ted & Sharon Wroblewski and Pete & Sharon Surette for opening their homes and their hearts to our students.

Congratulations Graduates, we will miss all of you.



Note from Kismet Founder and Program Director - Mike Jewell

As we finish yet another program season during which our students have told us that Kismet has been *the* essential turning point in their lives, a couple important things are increasingly clear.

First, our student selection process is central to our success. After 14 years of refining this process, we are successfully finding children who have not yet turned their despair, their loneliness, and their marginalization into rage, violence, or utter resignation. Whether or not they are consciously aware of it themselves, they are still actively longing for a chance to develop their potential. They have not yet given up.

Some are aware that they are still “waiting at the door”. I am reminded of one candidate, who during the interview said; “I want to be with other kids who will understand what I’ve been through”, and then at the end of the interview; “What will this program do for me?!” Others are so lost that their longing is not even visible to themselves. Finding children who have not yet turned the corner -- who do not *yet* need active therapeutic intervention -- allows our great program to be extremely successful.

It is frustrating for us that at least thirty- three of this year’s applicants very much needed our program and because of limited funds we were able to accept only 11.

Second, we have learned that the social, family-like atmosphere that we provide is as important to the nourishment of our students as the education in climbing. I did not expect this (it should have been no surprise since relationship trumps most things). I knew that an education in technical climbing was a perfect match for children whose fabric of potential was being largely lost amidst limited social and material capital. But I’ve been delighted to discover (actually, our students have informed us of this) the critical importance of Kismet’s social environment. I asked a graduating student this year why the Kismet family was so effective. Her answer; “We bond after two days because we discover that everyone else here understands our lives.” This is the essence of relationship: hearing and being heard; seeing and being seen.

Our students tell us that the Kismet program is powerful and transformative. Some say that they wouldn’t have survived without us. We need a broader audience to hear this. If we can find a way to reach that broader audience we will receive the support required to accept every applicant who needs us.



The 5th annual Kismet Cliff Run was held on Sunday, September 22, 2013. Thanks to Gabe Flanders and Heidi Chauvin for many hours of hard work and planning to make this years race a success.

The Kismet Cliff Run is made up of two different courses.

The classic Kismet Cliff Run 5-mile race begins at Echo Lake State Park and takes runners around Cathedral and Whitehorse Ledges for stunning views of the Mount Washington Valley.

The Beast of the East is an even tougher course. The loop climbs and descends the beautiful granite ledges of the Red Ridge trail and North Moat Mountain, making for a total of 14 miles and over 4,000 feet of elevation gain.

The Beast of the East Course is a part of The Granite State Trail Series, presented by Acidotic Racing and Trail Runner Magazine's Trophy Series.



Kismet on NH Chronicle

On Friday September 6th Kismet Rock Foundation was featured on WMUR's NH Chronicle.

Chronicles Cindy Jones filmed our staff and students, capturing the essence of the Kismet program. If you missed it go to:

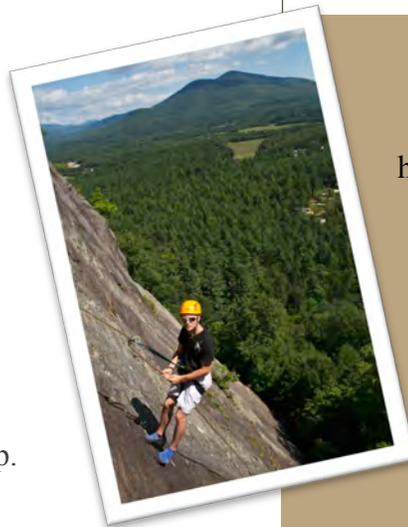
<http://www.wmur.com/new-hampshire-chronicle>

Climbing the Walls



evolution
ROCK + FITNESS

To escape rain this season we occasionally climbed at Evolution Rock and Fitness in Concord and Vertical Dreams in Manchester. As a result we have decided to integrate climbing wall instruction into the curriculum whether it rains or not. Many of the best climbers in the world begin their careers indoors and our students are likely to have access to indoor walls in the future. Indoor training methods, climbing technique, and etiquette will enhance our curriculum. Our thanks go to Corey at VD and Hilary at ER+F for their support, and to James Stone, Kismet alum and current staff member for his help.



Thanks to these supporters for making Kismet 2013 possible!

While we don't have room here to thank everyone who has provided support for Kismet in the past year, please know that we are profoundly grateful for your generosity.

- Arthur Gertz Charitable Trust, RBS Citizens, N.A Trustees
- Great Circle Foundation Inc.
- Kiwanis Club of Mount Washington Valley
- OTA LLC
- Speedway Children's Charities
- The Evenor Armington Trust
- The Kendal C. and Anna Ham Charitable Fund
- The Marana Webber Tost Charitable Fund
- The Ryan E. Bishop Outdoor Leadership Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation
- The Stare Fund
- Anne Skidmore Photography
- Bagels Plus
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- Hannaford Super Market
- International Mountain Equipment
- Joseph's Spaghetti Shed
- La Sportive
- McKaella's Sweet Shop
- Ragged Mountain Equipment
- Sherman Farm
- The Cut Off Salon & Day Spas
- The White Mountain National Forest
- Trails End Ice Cream Shoppe
- Wild Things

Thanks to PETZL & EORA

PETZL has generously donated new helmets to Kismet Rock Foundation. These Elios helmets kept our students safe and looking sharp all summer

The Eastern Outdoor Reps Association generously donated several pairs of much-needed approach shoes to help Kismet students get to and from the cliffs safely this summer.

Kismet Rock Foundation Mission Statement

Kismet Rock Foundation (Kismet) offers comprehensive courses in rock climbing and mountaineering to children who, because of financial limitations, would not otherwise have access to such an education. Based in North Conway, New Hampshire, Kismet accepts emotionally stable and well-functioning youth from both urban and rural areas into its programs. Kismet's goal is to offer children an opportunity to benefit from the immense value inherent in a climbing education.

Kismet serves students ages thirteen to sixteen from Boston, Massachusetts; Portland, Maine; Waterbury, Vermont; Berlin, Bartlett, Gorham, and Manchester, NH.



Photo courtesy of Anne Skidmore

Kismet Rock Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, find us at:

Web: www.kismetrockfoundation.org

Email: info@kismetrockfoundation.org

Phone: (603) 730-2715

Facebook: /kismetrockfoundation

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P.O. Box 1744
North Conway, NH 03860

