

Crowley Fish Foundation hosts fishing trip for local youths on Crowley Lake

Special to the Mammoth Times

Just days after stocking Crowley Lake with more than 1,600 pounds of quality trout, nonprofit Crowley Fish Foundation, with financial support from Mammoth Mountain Community Foundation, made guided fishing fun for 11 Mammoth area youth.

MMCF's assistance allowed Crowley Fish Foundation to rent pontoon boats where the youngsters, ranging in age from 7 to 18, together with eight supervising adults — CFF board members and volunteers, including some who came up from Southern California for the weekend to help out — enjoyed a sunny half-day on the blue waters of the lake.

The outing was inclusive and representative of all types of fishing. Some kids caught trout while trolling, as others stung fish with fly rods in hand. And a few kids caught fish using bait and worms. The weather was perfect, and all the kids had some action with the fish.

"Our objective was met: We wanted kids to have fun, and they did. We got them stoked



Mammoth Middle School eighth grader Brendon Zhang shows off his catch Saturday during a trip for local youth organized by Crowley Fish Foundation.

Crowley Fish Foundation/Courtesy

on fishing," said Crowley Fish Foundation board vice president Danny Corral.

He and volunteer William Hoefft spent time on the water with local eighth graders Leo Sliticha and Brendon Zhang. Zhang said his objective that morning



Mammoth High School ninth grader Finley Kaukola smiles big while holding the first trout he ever caught Saturday, during an outing on Crowley Lake with Crowley Fish Foundation.

Crowley Fish Foundation/Courtesy

was to "get addicted to fishing," while Sliticha said he has already asked his mother if he can buy a boat.

CFF board secretary Chris Leonard asked 12th grader Kevin Miranda on the pontoon how he feels about graduating

None of this could have happened without the volunteers and MMCF's generous support, Leonard said.

Crowley Fish Foundation will continue to host future kids' fishing events open to the community, he said.

One such upcoming event CFF is co-sponsoring is the 37th Annual Kid's Fish Festival in Mammoth Lakes from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 25. This popular event will be free for all kids 14 and under. Volunteers will be there to demonstrate casting techniques, and fisheries staff will be on hand to teach the kids about California's trout fisheries. For more information, visit www.kidsfishfest.com.

Photos from Saturday's youth event are up on Crowley Fish Foundation's website, crowleyfishfoundation.org, where anyone can also make a donation to support Crowley Fish Foundation's work.

Please also follow Crowley Fish Foundation on Facebook or Instagram — search for Crowley Fish Foundation — to learn about outings this season.

For more information, please write to Leonard at cleonard@crowleyfishfoundation.org

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Movie-worthy heroism steals show at Mono County Board meeting



Investigator Alex Flores receives the Mono County Sheriff's Office's Lifesaving Award medal from Sheriff Ingrid Braun for his quick thinking and courage that helped save lives in the face of last November's Pack Fire in the McGee Creek area.

Mono County Sheriff's Office/Courtesy

Sheriff presents staff with Lifesaving Awards for Pack Fire valor, selflessness

By Louis Medina
Mammoth Times Staff

When presenting two Lifesaving Award medals from the Mono County Sheriff's Office at Tuesday's County Board of Supervisors meeting, Sheriff Ingrid Braun might just as well have been narrating the plot of an action-packed movie.

As if reading from a script, she began by describing the setting: late morning, November 13 — the Pack Fire had just erupted near the McGee Creek Pack Station and the wind was whipping it into a fury, "putting numerous lives and structures in imminent danger."

She then introduced her story's heroes.

One of them was Sheriff's Investigator Alex Flores, who happened to be at the Sheriff's Crowley Substation when the initial call came through, and he wasted no time in responding, whereupon he met with Long Valley Fire Chief

Scott McGuire.

"In addition to being a Mono County deputy, Investigator Flores is also a volunteer firefighter and he and Chief McGuire immediately recognized the life-threatening nature of the fast-moving fire," Braun said.

As the flames advanced quickly toward the McGee Creek Trailer Park and the Gregory Lane residential neighborhood, she said, Flores "drove straight into the path of the fire while relaying information to dispatch and requesting additional units for evacuation."

Flores went door to door telling residents to evacuate immediately, then "began coordinating the responding units from multiple agencies to ensure all areas of the mandatory evacuation area were notified," she said.

One of the people most grateful to Flores for his heroic efforts was McGuire, Braun said: "He believes his quick actions saved the lives of his children and ex-wife who were in the immediate danger area and lost their home to the fire."

Thanks to Flores' "quick thinking, quick actions, and willingness to put himself in harm's

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