

KIB Newsletter



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Phi Theta Kappa and Service Learning students joined forces for the first of several paint projects at the City of Irving's Fritz Park Petting Farm.



The First Baptist Church of Irving Missions group welcomed the Service Learning students to their paint project at the Irving Soccer Complex on March 11.



The "Canon Clean Earth Team" held a service day on March 29 at the Petting Farm, giving several buildings and fences a brighter look with a fresh coat of paint. Four of our SL students helped with this project as well.

KIB and North Lake College - Community Partners

Keep Irving Beautiful has had the privilege of partnering with North Lake College for many years, and through that partnership, we have become acquainted with a variety of organizations on campus. What started as a nation-wide partnership between Keep America Beautiful affiliates and their local Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapters has led to thousands of hours of service by students and staff. We continue to work with the students of the Alpha Zeta Eta Chapter and VP of Service Jenny Maique, who is now helping us to plan and recruit chapter members for the Trash-Off. KIB joined the Service Learning Program in 2008, which further enhanced our North Lake presence.

In just the 2014 Spring Semester, our Service Learning students have worked alongside a variety of partners, giving them a new perspective on volunteerism. They have demonstrated their painting skills in projects with the AmeriCorps team at Senter Park, the First Baptist Missions group at the Irving Soccer Complex and the Phi Theta Kappa members and Canon employees at two Fritz Park Petting Farm projects. They used their people skills at Community Fest, encouraging attendees to spin the prize wheel and answer questions about recycling, energy conservation and the environment. This month they will help at cleanups on both land and water,



These Service Learning students helped make Community Fest a Green Event.

assist in tree plantings, dress up in mascot costumes to teach about the consequences of littering, and help at North Lake's annual Earth Day event. KIB Board Vice President Jim Scrivner summed up the students' experience by saying, "We try to present the Service Learning students with a wide variety of opportunities to give back to the community. By inviting them to join in projects with faith or corporate groups, they see that volunteerism is something they can take with them after they leave North Lake, and it can become part of their way of life. Hopefully, they will in turn encourage others to do the same. We have really enjoyed getting to know so many students through this program, and we look forward to each new semester."

What's Happening at KIB:

Thanks to the volunteers who have already registered for the "Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off" event coming up on Saturday, April 5, from 9 to noon. The site is Trinity View Park, an important area to keep clean because of its proximity to the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Many other Texas communities will be having similar events on this day, which is also part of the Great American Cleanup.

April 22 may be Earth Day, but here at KIB, it's Earth Month! Some of our projects include a tree farm planting with Con-tech on the 9th-10th, a cleanup with Mosaic Solutions on the 25th, and the Lake Vilbig cleanup on the 26th. We will also be visiting some of the IISD's youngest students at Clifton Early Childhood School on the 24th with mascot Kirby for our environmental skit. You can't start them too young!

Have you heard? Keep Texas Beautiful and TxDOT have announced the 2014 winners of the Governor's Community Achievement Awards. In the 200,000+ population category, the winner is ... IRVING! Irving will receive a \$310,000 landscape grant to be used along a state highway. This is a community-wide honor that KIB shares with all of Irving, and will be awarded at the KTB State Conference in June.