



The TELOS Times

Telos is an accredited agency of the California Association of Child and Family Services

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Telos Enjoys a Quiet Paddle Down the East Carson River

For Telos residents, April showers made for a great May paddle down the East Fork of the Carson River. Everyone helped prepare for the trip on a Thursday evening, and then immediately after school Friday, departed to a rustic campground on the east side of the high Sierras. The weather cooperated for the first time this year, and it didn't rain!

The East Carson is a swift but shallow river, known for its gigantic wild Brown Trout rather than for big water. Though rafting challenges were relatively minor—nothing bigger than a class II (on a five scale)—the cold swift water and sharp volcanic rock required cautious raft handling to make sure no one fell out. For safety against the cold water and jagged rocks, everyone was required to wear a wet suit and shoes, of course in addition to sturdy life vests.

The raft trip originated in California, but terminated in Nevada. Midway down the river, several wild hot springs on the river's edge made for an interesting and fun lunch; while sandwich fixin's were being readied, everyone enjoyed a hot soak. Upon learning their history, Charles (Shasta County) later remarked that being a part of the thousands of years of human use of the hot springs was a poignant moment for him.

Wildlife abounded and the new offspring of ducks and geese were observed learning to swim in the quiet eddies and backwaters. On one part of the river, spooked Beavers were seen scurrying to the safety of their lodges as we approached. At another location, abandoned rock buildings indicated early settlers had once occupied, and maybe farmed a large riverside flat.



Taking a river side rest, the Telos paddlers give a "high five" about midway in their 21 mile float down the wild East Carson River from California to Nevada.

Despite being a long 21 miles, Telos completed the trip on Saturday, enjoyed a relaxing campfire before bed that evening, and then headed home on Sunday, stopping to lunch and play touch football in a shoreline park on Lake Tahoe. All in all,

While awaiting the call to lunch, Charles (Shasta), Oscar (Ventura), Chris (Mendocino), Bobby (San Joaquin), and DJ (Yolo-upper right) enjoy a mid-day soak in a wild hot spring during a pause in the raft descent of the East Carson River.



Finally...Open Beds

After almost two years of few open beds, which has been a frustrating situation for regular users of Telos, we can announce that three graduations are slated to occur over the course of this summer, the first in late May. With no waiting list at present, we are looking for boys who can benefit from our unique outdoor program, and who also may be interested in playing tackle football (not age 15 before December 1st) as the football season will get underway this summer. (Telos has found that football is a very fine therapy itself!) Please fax packets to 530-642-8814.

Telos Turns Age 20!



Ryan (San Joaquin) enjoys looking at a blue bellied lizard he caught while awaiting lunch on the East Carson River float trip. Telos allows boys to be boys, but wildlife must be released, uninjured, near where it was caught within a few minutes by the "critter catcher."

Founded in April 1986, Telos turned 20 this year. One of the very few California children's homes to regularly use the wilderness in its efforts to help young men grow up to be healthy and productive citizens, it has stacked up a remarkable list of wilderness accomplishments: 271 wilderness activities ranging from one to ten days each; 501 nights of camping; 152 peaks climbed; 144 rappels; and 2786 miles hiked or paddled. The environs traveled include rivers, desert, coastline, snow, and mountains (we've climbed Mt. Shasta three times, and Mt. Whitney—the highest peak in the Continental U.S.A.—once.) During that time, safety has been a priority and we will allow ourselves to briefly brag (knock on wood) that we have never had an injury requiring hospitalization.

Telos believes that the major value of wilderness travel with our residents is that they are able to

easily build quality mentoring relationships with staff, and that it is

those relationships that are most beneficial to their growth and healing.

Against a hostile political climate, hopefully Telos' struggle to keep providing its unique program to California's most disadvantaged and vulnerable children will continue for many more birthdays!.



Ryan and Bobby (both from San Joaquin County) enjoy a relaxing evening around the fire, before turning in after a long day on the East Carson River.



East Carson paddlers look toward the still snowcapped high Sierras, the source of the late spring snow melt that made for an enjoyable float trip.

Recognizing the Generosity of a Couple of our Donors

While we are very grateful to all our donors, two individuals deserve special mention: Tim Schroeder got to know Telos as a member of the El Dorado Search and Rescue Team. Now he lives in Washington State. For almost a decade he has been a very generous and regular contributor to Telos. Thanks Tim! We appreciate

and hope to continue to earn your support.

Crenshaw Rall of Ft. Worth, Texas, a retired Continental Airline pilot and life long friend of this writer, has become a regular and generous donor to Telos the past couple of years. After a trip out to California, and time spent with the staff and residents at Telos, he reports that we have become his "most favorite charity." Crenshaw, we appreciate your sentiments, and hope to earn your continued respect!

Paddlers Bobby (San Joaquin), Charles (Shasta), Ritchie (Sutter), and Jason (Napa—hidden), along with wilderness staff Ana Rothschild and Matt Hiatt relax after emerging from the tricky Class II Sidewinder rapid.





Without a care in the world, Jason (Napa) soaks in a hot spring alongside the East Carson River.

Telos Residents Become Regular Workers At Placerville's Upper Room

Community Service has always been a major part of the Telos program, and in fact, service hours are a requirement of each of the four Peak Awards that residents earn. Thanks to volunteer Sharon Miller, who assists in tutoring residents and especially helps them improve their reading skills, many boys have begun

working regularly at the Upper Room, a local food kitchen for those in need of a hot meal. Recently, they received a thank you note for their effort:

Dear Charles, Jason, Josh, Oscar, and Ryan,

You all did a great job at the Upper Room last evening. You hustled for two straight hours. It was a real workout! The regular volunteers were so grateful to have you there. It's hard to know how long it would have taken us to feed everyone and clean up without your help...Some of you even said it was fun. I know you made it fun for me."

Sharon

We Apologize...But Our Website is Now Back Up and Running

After directing readers to our website last edition, we found it necessary to change our Internet Provider. Unfortunately, thanks to the out-of-business registrar of our domain name, it took awhile to figure out how to get the name servers pointed to our new location. But finally, we're back on the web at www.telosyouth.com with information about Telos, past editions of this Newsletter, and slide shows of Telos wilderness activities. We apologize for the inconvenience our website being down caused.



Pre-Trip Briefing One Key to Safe Outdoor Activity Record

When all preparations are complete and residents are about to embark on another wilderness adventure (here snow camping), just before getting into the vehicles a briefing is read by one resident to all the others. The briefing includes expectations regarding safety, team work, environmental and equipment care, behavior, and emergency responses. Perfected over 20 years, the briefing easily flows into how wilderness staff conduct the trip. Then, on each day of the trip, a

"circle-up" is held, a part of which grades each resident's performance in meeting the briefed expectations. The grades earned at those gatherings have a strong impact on the resident's weekly chart back at the house. The charts determine allowance amounts, and privilege and program levels. Thus, motivating safe and cooperative behavior on wilderness trips is an integral part of the entire Telos program. Its been said that "safety is no accident," and at Telos, achieving a remarkable safety record has certainly not been an accident!



Josh (Napa) snowshoes into Telos' winter camp, held this past winter in the high Sierras.



Milo Laguna Named 2005 Staff of the Year

Perhaps the way to a Staff of the Year award is through a boy's stomach, as Milo is an unsurpassed chef (!) who regularly churns out popular meals. But in addition, Milo has a remarkable sense of humor, is unflappable, and is an easy person for the residents to talk with, making him a very stabilizing influence in their young lives.

Before Telos, Milo worked years in a home in Washington state that provided care to the children of illegal immigrants while their parents' issues were being resolved by the courts. Two years ago, Milo came to Telos and good naturedly took the substantial pay cut necessary to work with California's children. Besides being a stalwart staff, Milo is also responsible for the community service program that has involved residents in many local service projects, including creek clean-ups, work for the Habitat for Humanity, and more recently, food service at the Upper Room, Placerville's public kitchen. In addition, he also serves Telos as a relief supervisor.

No staff is more deserving of this honor than Milo, even if his scrumptious methodology is a questionable practice. Congratulations Milo. You earned it! Our hats are doffed to you!

Feedback...

..."What I really learned at Telos is the importance of an education, a career, and a family." (Mike (Lassen) upon graduating from Telos.)

"My life at Telos is the most awesome thing I think that could happen to a youngster like myself...It has been the funnest year of my life." (Josh (Napa) in an

essay written for school.

"...This trip is the most wonderful trip I could ever go on in my life." (Josh (Napa) concluding his Death Valley contest essay after Telos' annual trip to Death Valley National Park, where two days were spent descending from Chloride Cliff, a peak high on the eastern rim, to the valley floor, camping enroute at the Big Bell Mine, a location so remote the mine is phenomenally intact today.)

Congratulations to...

*** Staff Gary Fleming for passing the Telos Staff Certification Program and becoming a Coach/Counselor II.

***Mike (Lassen) for his 1st place award in the Lassen County Science Fair after his graduation from Telos!

***Ritchie (Sutter), Oscar (Ventura), and Josh (Napa) for earning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places respectively in the annual Telos Death Valley essay contest.

***Bobby (San Joaquin), Josh (Napa), and Chris (Mendocino) for earning their Gold Peak Awards in the Telos wilderness program.

***D.J. (Yolo) for earning his Blue Peak Award in the Telos wilderness program.

***Charles (Shasta) for earning his Green Peak Award in the Telos wilderness program.

***Ritchie (Sutter), Ryan (San Joaquin), DJ (Yolo), Jason (Napa), and Charles (Shasta) for earning B averages on their last report cards, thus qualifying for the Telos Grade Challenge award of \$15.

***Oscar (Ventura), and Josh (Napa) for earning C averages on their latest report cards, thus qualifying for the Telos Grade Challenge award of \$7.50.

***2003 graduate Ricky (Shasta) for the birth of his first child—son Gavin. Ricky lives in Klamath Falls, OR where he is employed as a carpenter.

Our Mission...

...is to provide well organized and structured homes in which residents can live safely, in pleasant surroundings, as friends, while receiving professional services aimed at encouraging their healthy growth: Physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually.

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Telos Youth Outposts, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, charitable corporation which provides residential care and psychological treatment to males ages 11-17 who are abused, neglected, delinquent, or who have a failed adoption. Private placements are also welcome. Coupled to the Telos treatment program is a challenging wilderness adventure program.