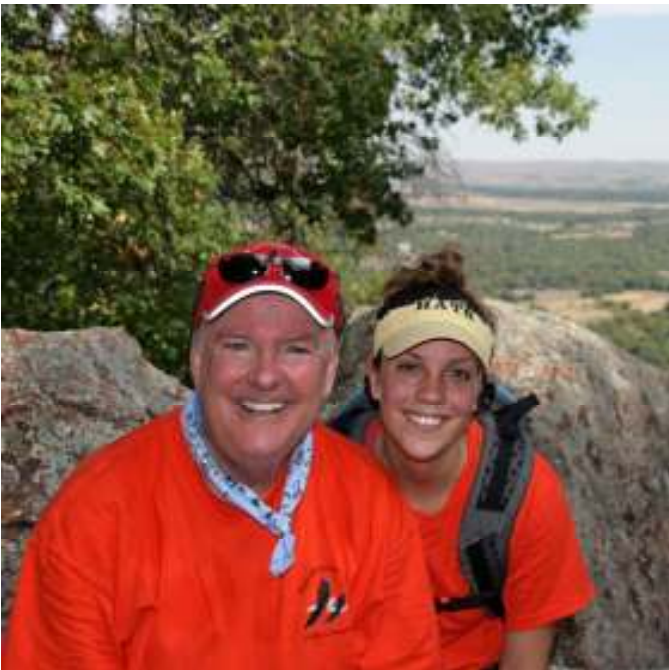




Letter From The President

Kipp and Megan Murray

What a wonderful fall we had, with great weather, great locations, and great dad and daughter bonding opportunities. When you are looking at photos and reliving memories, I have something I want you to remember. At every campout, daughters give up fun activities to be with dad, including birthday parties, dance rehearsals, study sessions, sporting events,



Kipp Murray and his daughter Megan Murray

and girlfriend sleepovers. Dad – give your daughter another big hug today!

And, at every campout dads give up important activities to be with their daughter, including business opportunities, college football, time with mom, and events with other siblings. Daughters – give your dad another big hug today!

We give each other VALUE when we give each other our TIME.

During the recent Thanksgiving season, I made note of these benefits of HATS for which I am thankful:

- A weekend to spend time one-on-one with my daughter,
- A planned agenda of activities and life lessons for the entire weekend,
- A theme for the weekend which is grade specific,
- A group of dads who are dedicated to enriching the lives of their daughters,
- Dedicated volunteers who teach new wilderness skills and communication techniques,
- Time carved out, away from daily distractions, to create memories that will last a lifetime!

With that in mind, I offer a huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers this fall who gave up time with your families to help make the HATS program the success it has become. With every campout you are touching lives, and your impact will be felt for many years to come!

With you in the Adventure!

Need a Recommendation?

When you need them, HATS can provide letters of recommendation for girls applying for National Honor Society, class office, internships, etc. Simply call the HATS office and let us know the details. Let us tell someone how wonderful you are!

Dad's Perspective

Dear Kipp,

As Hannah prepares to finish high school and I look back on her experiences, I wanted to thank you for founding HATS. You have built a fabulous organization, with enthusiasm and passion that is beyond what I could have imagined when I first met you, much less what I could have mustered myself.



Morgan Scott and his daughter Hannah Scott

I've personally watched the growth in your organization, both the growing pains and the success. I'm glad I was there and am appreciative of the output of my relationship with my daughter and in seeing the organization grow. It was a pleasure to be a part of HATS and wish I could have done more financially, but humbly hope you accept my accolades and the minimal volunteer time with which I have been able to devote to your worthy cause.

Best of luck on the future of the organization, and please know you can add my voice to your cheering section. Thank you for HATS, the experience, the dream, and most of all, the relationship with my daughter.

In awe,
Morgan Scott

Daughter's Perspective

I'm astounded at what I've been able to accomplish with the HATS program. I've always loved the camping and risky adventure scene, but who knew that adding friends and trust exercises could leave such a lasting impression. Every time I put on a HATS shirt, it makes me smile and think of all the fun I've had with this program. I can't thank you enough for strengthening my relationship with my father.

Who imagined that dads could actually be cool!?

He will always be my daddy, and I his little girl, and together we can conquer anything! Thanks again for touching our lives.

With the sincerest of gratitude,
Hannah Scott

4th Graders Join HATS

YMCA Indian Princess tribes have traditionally been the lifeblood of HATS. The Y has developed an outstanding program for K-3rd grade girls and their dads, and large numbers of our HATS families find us after a wonderful experience in the Adventure Princess program.



Steve and Joelle Williams improve communication

In the fall, HATS invited YMCA graduates and other fourth grade girls and their dads for our new "Dad and Daughter Treks" program. Groups met at Flag Pole Hill in September and at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve in November for a one mile hike, stopping at stations for large group games, small group games, and dad and daughter breakout games.



Fourth graders explore Arbor Hills Nature Preserve

The afternoon concluded with traditional dad and daughter 'mirror questions', designed to allow dads and daughters to learn the art of communication with each other. If you meet one of these new families, or if you have friends or neighbors with fourth grade girls, please welcome these new families to HATS and encourage their participation!

6th Grade Canoeing on the Brazos

Sixth grade dads and daughters enjoyed canoeing on the Brazos River this fall. "Canoeing required me to be patient and trusting," remembered Rodney Sowards. "When she was in control of the canoe, I had to follow her directions."



Brian and Sara Sterling

"Having six people in one family," said Winslow, "it's hard to get alone time with my dad. HATS activities let us learn and bond together." Besides canoeing, dad and daughter teams played bonding games and learned a variety of knot-tying techniques. "I love the way HATS uses knots to symbolize the bond between dad and daughter," said Rodney. "It brings the message home and reinforces the value of communication."

"My favorite part was canoeing over to the island to set up camp," remembered Shelby Hall.

"I learned I am strong enough to canoe a long way with my dad."

"Being 'present' to your situation takes effort," stressed canoeing mentor Bob Nance. "As my daughter grows older, she becomes more self reliant and more self confident both physically and socially."



Russell and Ashlynn Krasnesky

"We had to talk and work together," said daughter, Winslow. "That helped us take the canoe where we wanted it to go." Mentors taught canoeing techniques, including reading the river, avoiding obstructions, and various paddle strokes. "When we were canoeing and it was difficult, we calmed each other down and kept going because we love each other," recalled Ashlynn Krasnesky.

"Sometimes, busy dads and daughters can drift apart. HATS campouts let us spend more time together."

"I learned our time together is short," recalled Russell Krasnesky. "Learning and working together as a team made us stronger."



Rob and Morgan Reed enjoy canoeing together



Bob Nance and Becca Nance

“I learned that I work best at the bow, and my dad works best at the stern,” said Becca Nance. “If we work together, we can make the canoe go very fast on the river.”

“The part I liked best was sitting by the fire with my dad,” said Alex Spaller. “I learned I can trust him, and he learned I will be there whenever he needs me.”

“Learning to canoe in windy weather was the best part,” said Morgan Reed. “It was hard at first, but once we started communicating with each other, we figured it out.”

“This time with just the two of us gave us an opportunity to get to know each other better,” said Morgan’s dad, Rob. “There is a short time span in which we can do these things with our daughters, and we have to take advantage of it.”

“My favorite part is when we pull up to the river bank, unpack the canoe, and pitch the tent,” said Becca Nance.

“The down time gives us a chance to relax and think about our adventure that we just had.”

New Member Campout

HATS hosted fifth and sixth graders for the New Member Campout and Great Pumpkin Search on the banks of the Red River, near Marietta Oklahoma.

“My dad and I had never spent that much time together on the weekend,” recalled fifth grader Sarah Bowen. “It was great!”

“I learned Sarah enjoys camping and being outdoors more than I ever realized,” said her father, Wes. “I loved spending the weekend with her.”

Dad and daughter teams learned outdoor skills and communication techniques during the weekend.

“I appreciated spending time playing games and bonding in groups, but the best time was the question and answer time alone with my daughter,” said Paul Sheldon. “It helped my clear out the distractions in my life and focus in on her and what an amazing girl she is.”

“We grew closer from the very beginning of the weekend, when we were setting up our tent together,” remembered daughter, Lacey. “It was a



Tom and Katie Cavanaugh



Paul and Lacy Sheldon



Dad and daughter games teach teamwork and cooperation

wonderful experience I got to share with my dad. We had a bunch of fun.”

After selecting and carving a Halloween pumpkin together, dads and daughters cooked dinner over the campfire and told ghost stories under the stars. “I left the campout with a renewed sense of connection to my daughter,” said Paul.

“We learned to use our senses to focus in on each other.”

7th Graders Go Rock Climbing

HATS hosted its rock climbing campout for seventh graders at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Lake Lawtonka in Lawton, Oklahoma.



Dads and daughters learn to trust each other

In addition to rock climbing, dad and daughter teams enjoyed rappelling off Mt. Scott and meditating at the top of Tarbone Mountain. Venturing into a remote area used by the Kiowa Indian chiefs and medicine men for the past four hundred years, dads and daughters learned about climbing safety and enjoyed exercises designed to help them learn about and appreciate each other.



Chris and Grace Gilker

Camp Y’Shua, a YMCA camping facility, was the site of evening cookouts, and star gazing & ghost stories followed around the campfire.

8th Grade Fall Kayaking Campout

HATS hosted its fall Kayaking Campout for eighth graders in September in San Marcos. “It was a little scary to go over the waterfall in the kayak,” remembered Isabel Pask,

“but I knew I could do it with my dad there to support me.”

“Our daughters can do more than they think they can,” said Isabel’s dad, Neil. “Once they learn the skill, they are ready to take on any challenge.”

Dads and daughters learned kayaking techniques from Olympic kayakers Ben and Michelle Kvanli,



Ricardo and Michaela Cortes

including paddle strokes, kayak surfing, whitewater navigating, and water safety. "Dads have an advantage in upper body strength," mentor Chris Kopf told the group. "But the girls have a lower center of gravity and excellent

balance. They all mastered the skill and made us proud."

After a fun day on the river, they enjoyed dinner around the campfire, stargazing, and ghost stories. "Relaxing with my dad is always my favorite part of a HATS campout," said eighth grader Katie Ritenour.



Isabelle Pask goes over the falls

"He enjoys spending time with me, and that makes it even better."

Ninth Grade Backpacking Trip

Ninth graders and their dads traveled to Cedar Bayou Resort near Whitesboro, Texas for the fall backpacking campout. Besides navigating trails and appreciating nature, dads and daughters learned to pack wisely, so that everything they needed for the entire weekend would fit on their back. "When you go to Colorado this summer, you'll have to carry all your gear with you," backpacking mentor and HATS board chairman David Kent told the group. "This weekend is a test, and I'm here to make sure all of you pass with flying colors."



Warren and Emily Lewis

"I can't wait for our big adventure in Colorado," said Mary Margaret Johnson. "It will be a challenge, but together we can do it."

Dad and daughter teams hiked the Cross Timbers Trail, then relaxed in the waters of Lake Texoma. During the summer following their freshman year, HATS dads and daughters combine the various skills they learned over the five year program and put them to work at Adventure Experiences Camp in Colorado.

"Once these girls have mastered the Rocky Mountains," said Kipp Murray, Executive Director, **"they are ready for any challenge life throws at them."**



Ninth graders prepare for their big Colorado Trek

HATS Mother's Perspective

Dear Kipp,

Emily missed Hillcrest High School's homecoming last weekend when she volunteered to mentor the New Member Camp-out. Some of her friends couldn't understand why she would choose camping with her dad over the homecoming game and dance, but it goes to show you what a wonderful program you have.

God has a way of working out all situations, and she really enjoyed her weekend and had no regrets in going to mentor with her dad.

In fact, when they came home Sunday night, she immediately started telling me why she wanted to mentor again the next weekend! Blessings to you for your HATS vision and blessings to Gwen for sharing you!!

Kim Lewis

Check out Shutterfly for More Photos!

Don't forget to look at Shutterfly, which is an online library holding all photos from all HATS campouts. Shutterfly sells prints at nineteen cents each (a bargain) and gives you access to the photos of other campers. You can also see what future campouts will be like. Simply go to www.HATSdallas.shutterfly.com.

Annual Rock Climbing Lock In

In November, HATS hosted our annual rock climbing lock in. We had a fun evening at Summit Rock Climbing Gym in Grapevine, a new location for us. We had a great crowd of dads and daughters from all grades, and most of the group was still climbing well after midnight.

Rock climbing is an important part of the five year HATS program, because it is one of the fastest growing sports in America for women. Women are ideally suited for rock climbing because of their low center of gravity and their natural propensity to use their legs instead of their arms.

When most men first attempt rock



Girls from all grades and their dads enjoyed indoor rock climbing into the wee hours

climbing, they tend to climb in a series of chin ups. Women naturally use their legs for climbing and use their arms for balance and direction.

Rock climbing sets up a great opportunity for dads to learn from their daughters.

When the dad has been properly trained in the belaying techniques, it is a priceless experience to hold the safety of your daughter while she is 40 feet up on the face of the climb. The experience requires communication, trust, patience and team work. We hope you'll try rock climbing with your daughter soon!

Are You Lost?

If you are not getting HATS emails at least one per month, we may not have your email address in our database. We may have entered you incorrectly, or perhaps our system has knocked you out. We DON'T want to lose you and your daughter! If you think you might be "lost," please call the HATS office at 214-348-7800 or email us at highadventuretreks@sbcglobal.net to ensure that you don't miss any of our fun dad and daughter activities.

A Special Thanks to our Volunteers

Special thanks to our tireless volunteers who have given countless hours of instruction and support at HATS campouts. Our HATS girls (and fathers) are stronger, more knowledgeable, and more confident – thanks to you! Congratulations to our graduated ninth graders who have earned the ability to volunteer as Key Mentors on future campouts. These girls are adventure experts, ready to advise and instruct in a variety of outdoor situations. Look for the special red hat on HATS volunteers at your next campout!

Thanks to our Generous Donors

We are humbled by and grateful for the generous contributions from our faithful sponsors in 2008 school year:

- The Joel Allison Family
- Reed Ashwill
- The Brian Austin Family
- The Robert Bayless Family
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- Patti Brewer
- The Mark Bryant Family
- The Ricardo Chan Family
- The Wyatt Davis Family
- The Mark DeWitt Family
- The David Ehrlicher Family
- Joe and Cathy Estes
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- The Corey Ford Family
- The Steve Goss Family
- The Cliff Grimes Family
- Terri Hawkins
- Robert and Pat Hinton
- Jack and Elizabeth Hittson
- The Andy Irwin Family
- The Gordon Keehn Family
- David Kent
- Roger and Lea Manny
- The Mark McGough Family
- Tim Morgan
- Kipp and Gwen Murray—In memory of Rex Sebastian
- The Sean O'Connor Family
- The John Parrish Family

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The Rodney Sowards Family
The Vance Sparks Family
The David Spence Family
The Jeff Strong Family
Gary and Claudia Taylor
The Steve Williams Family
James Wirz
The Jeff Ziehm Family

HATS® Calendar for Spring 2009

(locations not listed will be announced soon by e-mail)

2009

January 30th-February 1st-Winter Campout

(all grades)

Feb. 12th-Sweetheart Banquet (all grades)

Feb. 20th-22nd-Colorado Prep Campout A (9th grade)

Feb. 27th-March 1st-Colorado Prep Campout B (9th)

March 8th-Orienteering (all grades)

March 27th, 28th & 29th-Backpacking A (8th grade)

March 27th, 28th & 29th-Rockclimbing A (6th grade)

April 3rd, 4th & 5th-Backpacking B (8th grade)

April 3rd, 4th & 5th-Rockclimbing B (6th grade)

April 17th, 18th & 19th-Canoeing A (5th grade)

April 25th & 26th-Canoeing A (7th grade)

May 1st, 2nd & 3rd-Canoeing B (5th grade)

May 2nd & 3rd-Canoeing B (7th grade)

May 16th-Mountain Biking Day (all grades)

(note: campouts A and B represent your choice of dates, not level of difficulty)