

District Wants to Expand Riflery Programs in Villages

Wednesday, 17 June 2009

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Erik Wander/KMXT

The Kodiak 4-H club, in partnership with the Kodiak Island Borough School District, is attempting to establish an island-wide shooting program in Kodiak Island village schools. Recently, the school district and the 4-H club asked for the borough's help in funding more air rifles for each village school.

The shooting program would include a basic rifle course at the beginning of each school year and a 10-week match between the villages later in the year. Instructors are needed for the program, and 4-H is hoping to train two for each village and will approach different organizations for financial support. The district and 4-H have already managed to secure grant funding for two rifles per village and are planning to ask the borough to fund the cost of two more rifles for each, the number it feels it needs to carry out the type of program it envisions. School Superintendent Stewart McDonald said the project is already in motion.

-- (McDonald 1 17 sec. "Our villages came together ... go along with the program.")

Barbara Hodel, a leader with 4-H's horseback riding program, described the shooting program as exceedingly safe. She said in fact that it has a better safety record than the club's horse program. She also said it's one of many 4-H programs teaching children a variety of skills.

-- (Hodel 1 40 sec. "4-H is more than just ... University of Alaska's backing.")

Borough finance director

Karl Short, who is also a leader in 4-H's shooting sports program, said the air rifles the district is requesting the borough to fund are high quality and therefore not without a significant price tag.

-- (Short
1 19 sec. "We started working on this ... so
that would be our request.")

McDonald

said Kodiak High School already has a shooting program and has for several years. He said the program in the village schools would be similar but would also necessarily include differences.

-- (McDonald
2 29 sec. "Where they shoot the target ... just
not in the rural sites.")

All of the island's village schools would be included in the program. Assemblywoman Pat Branson asked 4-H and the school district to present a detailed, formal application request for the roughly 5-thousand dollars in funding it would require, much like other non-profit agencies are required to do. Those interested in being instructors, participants or providing financial support for the shooting program are asked to contact Karl Short.

I'm
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