

Comments on the Provider Pals® Experience

Students Speak...

There are NO words that can describe how grateful I am. Provider Pals™ taught me things a text book could not. It makes me happy to say that I not only left Montana with an experience, but knowledge. *Ben H., Wash, D.C.*

Provider Pals™ is working to close the gap between consumers and their providers. Without these connections there would be no future for the providers of tomorrow. *Sperry R., Libby, MT*

I took a new turn after becoming part of this program. I really think about the things that are in my life now. *Kalisha R., Little Rock, AR*

I think this program is important because you don't truly understand different ways of living until you have been shown or taught about it. You may forget me, but I will never forget you. *Darby W., Libby, MT*

It was like opening me up to a new world. *Tiara L., San Diego, CA*

Provider Pals™ is important to me, not just experiencing such great places, but learning more about our resources and how their use is important in our every day lives. *Riley D., Libby, MT*

This is a really great program, and I hope that it can continue for many years to come, so that lots of kids can be as lucky as I was and get to take this incredible journey. *Ada R., NYC, NY*

It taught me about the real way rural culture is - the real thoughts and personalities of the people and the students there. *Derek M., West Covina, CA*

To their 'Pals'...

I really enjoyed learning how loggers did their jobs and how they love trees not hate them. *Isabell S., NYC, NY*

I am now considering being a fisherman when I grow up. *Kevin L., NYC, NY*

Thank you for coming here and telling us about your life and what you do everyday. And telling us things we didn't know. Now I understand all the hard work that you all do each and every day. *Darlene B., Little Rock, AR*

I learned that loggers aren't trying to destroy our forests. *Davon H., Detroit, MI*

Thank you for taking us on the trip of a lifetime into the mine. Everyone was really excited afterwards. I hope other kids can get the same experience we did. Even though the mine was dark there was nothing dark about the trip. *Justin B., NYC, NY*

You made smiles come on everyone's face at my school. *Damaor S., Wash. DC*

Student perceptions of sponsorship...

We used to be a Chevy family...now we're a Ford family. *Trista B., Libby, MT*

I wish to express my true & sincere gratitude for the generosity of your corporation & how much you put into my peers, my self, and the future of America! It means more than you will ever know! *K. Lee, Plantation, FL*

Sierra Cascade gave me the best experience of my life and I would do anything to do it over again. You do a great thing by sponsoring the Provider Pal™ program and giving kids like us this chance. *Kelsey O., Little Rock, AR*

Notes from teachers...

I was thrilled at how the staff went out of their way to present consistently unbiased information. They didn't tell us *what* to think, they simply encouraged us *to* think. It was noted and appreciated. *Caroline Tacy, NYC Center School*

What an opportunity you have given so many - for "small town America" to see where their "stuff" goes and for "Big City America" to see where their "stuff" comes from. It has been an incredible experience. *Maggie Anderson, Troy Middle School*

I now have students, once complacent to spend their lives in DC, wondering if maybe one day they would like to live in Wyoming. They will use this experience to remind them that their options are not limited to the jobs and experiences their parents and acquaintances have.

Ms. Liebman, Ron Brown Middle School, Wash. DC

The program fits in perfectly with the new Science curriculum and makes the students' studies much more relevant. They have been learning about ecosystems and sustainability and have asked some excellent questions of their 'Pals' which reflected their new knowledge of how ecosystems work and the ways human activity can impact them. It makes the whole study so much more relevant to them, something which is often difficult to do.

Kathy Fitzsimmons, Southgate Middle School, B.C., Canada

I had my doubts about how game my students would be to go to "school" during the summer, but you made learning fun.

Denise Hand, Mabelvale Middle School, AR

It was a terrific, informative week! This has been one of the best school experiences of my career. *Christie Ellwood, Libby Middle School*

From mind boggling realities and life fights to awesome food - my Camp Raven experience was incredible. *Sue Bache, Plains Elementary*

Adopted Provider Pals Comment...

I was amazed at how the kids in NYC had the same questions and concerns as the kids in Troy, MT. The difference was when I asked the NYC kids questions, they knew more of the answers than the MT kids. Why? Because the teachers who were at Camp Raven went back to NYC and taught their classes about what we do. How exciting. We need this program in as many places as possible. *Paul Tisher, Logger/Provider Pal, Libby, MT*

Being adopted and meeting the kids in class is one of the greatest experiences of my life. *Mike Poulson, Farmer/Provider Pal, WA State*

I work in Arkansas and live in a rural culture that shares a past and a future with folks from the city. It was being able to share a part of my life with them. *Bobby Taylor, Logger/Provider Pal, Sheridan, WY*

Media Response...

'One of the most exciting education initiatives in years.'
Wall Street Journal

It's all good, the more information that's out there, the more we can make decisions based on common sense and reach a consensus. *Chris Mehl, The Wilderness Society*

Provider Pals has found a way to promote education, restore and protect a national treasure at Historic Raven and celebrate cultural diversity all at the same time. *Jack Palazzolo, Ford Division Brand Communications Manager*

Provider Pals takes the story of rural life and living to the urban areas across America. *Olympic Peninsula News*

The national urban and rural cultural exchange program *Provider Pals* is helping in restoring and using Historic Raven as a Natural Resource Learning Center and the resulting program of education and restoration is unique and worthy of this Presidential Award. *Bob Castenada, Kootenai National Forest Supervisor*

Our Association is honored to support this unique cultural exchange program. The President could not have chosen a better recipient for the Preserve America Award. *Dave Wallin, Montana Ford Dealer Association President*

From a father...

I cannot begin to express my gratitude and appreciation for the opportunities that *Provider Pals* has given my son. The memories and lessons that he has received will stick with him a life time. My daughter has been looking forward to the opportunity to become part of *Provider Pals* for a number of years and I am hopeful that she will be able to participate in the same experiences!

Jeff Hoyer, Father