

The Keen Group, Inc.

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Click here to see our Green Bunch photo gallery

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are we?

We are KEEN, the Kids Environmental Education Network. It is a 16 year old 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation located in Fort Worth, Texas whose mission is to maximize the lives of children by delivering environmental education, healthy activities and the arts to low income youth and families in Texas. Learn more about us at www.keengroup.org.

Who do we serve?

Our programs are open to the general public. However, KEEN predominantly serves a high percentage of African-American and Hispanic youth ages 8-17 living in households with incomes at or below poverty-level.

What do we do?

Through three innovative projects, KEEN connects inner city youth to the outdoors and is actively working to develop tomorrow's environmentalists. The FOCUS project uses digital and film photography to encourage healthy activity and self-expression. The Green Bunch Project introduces urban youth to fishing, camping, hiking, navigation and respect for the environment. The KEEN Project partners with environmental and health education organizations, school districts and corporations to provide supplemental environmental education materials and programs.

How does KEEN benefit the community?

KEEN believes it is important to maximize the lives of children who do not have access to outdoor recourses, physical activities and the freedom to creatively express themselves through visual art. We raise funds to deliver three strategic programs that enable us to introduce environmental education, health education and art to underserved inner city youth.

FOCUS provides photography as an alternative to unhealthy activities. Kids learn to use their cameras to advocate, to tell stories, to capture the earth in its natural state, to captivate the audience and to capture history. The project promotes active engagement in science, history, math and language arts. In three years, FOCUS has trained 123 photographers and equipped them with their own digital cameras.

The <u>Green Bunch</u> teaches kids new outdoor skills and a respect for nature. Kids have fun fishing, hiking, camping while never suspecting they are developing team building skills and an increased self-esteem. The Project provides intergenerational engagement as Community Mentors provide guidance, nurturing, education and safe surroundings. In three years, KEEN has taught fishing, hiking, environmental stewardship, camping and navigation to more than 1,200 youth.

The <u>KEEN Project</u> takes students on outdoor learning excursions to state parks, forests and area landmarks. It secures naturalists, park rangers and environmental specialists to teach the history and instructional use of the destination. These partners guide tours, teach about wildlife habitats, wildflowers and awareness of natural surroundings. The KEEN Project has taken 500 elementary students to area outdoor facilities over the past three years.

Who are KEEN supporters and partners?

- The KEEN Community Mentors and Volunteers
- Texas Rangers Baseball
- Tarrant County Community College
- Fort Worth Parks and Community Service
- Crosstimbers Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists
- Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

- National Environmental Education Foundation
- U.S. Forestry Service
- Fort Worth ISD Office of Student Engagement and Completion
- Fort Worth Camera
- Barron Photographix Printing
- Burnet Foundation
- Boston Foundation

Evidence of our Work

Over the years we have captured the beauty of our work through photography. Click <u>here</u> to see a small sample from our photo gallery from our Green Bunch outings.

How can you help?

You can sponsor a child, volunteer and become a partner. To learn more or to volunteer, click <u>here</u>. To donate online, click <u>here</u>.