



PO BOX 854
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Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright,

Crook County Kids Club was established in 2008 and has been the after-school and summer program staple in our community since. We provide quality after-school and out of school programming for school-aged kids in rural Crook County, specifically, the City of Prineville. Our program promotes learning and include activities focused on: STEAM, SEL, physical education, literacy tutoring and gardening for over 200 members in our rural community. We provide off-site field trips during our summer program including walking trips to the local art gallery, pool, museum, park and engage in service projects that give our kids a sense of community and pride.

We partner with a variety of local community organizations to help with our mission: To provide engaging and enriching activities year round, for school aged kids, that promote learning and confidence necessary for life-long success.

We train and work with local high school/college students that are pursuing degrees in Education, Child Psychology, and Social Services.

Crook County Kids Club strives to keep tuition rates low, as employee wages increase. The support of the State of Oregon in 2022 increased our summer program membership by 15% as well as offset the rising costs of program supplies, snacks and curriculum. While grants and donations help, the cost of running a quality program is expensive and as you are aware, grants and donations are not guaranteed each year. If tuition rates are increased to sustain the program, many families will not be able to afford the cost and kids will be the ones to pay the price.

Crook County Kids Club is in support of HB 4082 and Summer Learning. Without programs like these, many kids, especially in rural communities, will be left without the opportunity to thrive and continue learning during the summer months.

Sincerely,

Ashley Thrasher
Executive Director
Crook County Kids Club