

Veronica Strong
P.O. Box 284
Linville, NC, 28646

May 4, 2017

Jim Swinkola,
Kiwanis Club of Banner Elk

Dear Mr. Swinkola and all at the Kiwanis Club of Banner Elk,

I first want to thank you for your generous sponsorship and support in sending our Avery County High Key Club students to Key Leader Weekend at Camp Caraway in Asheboro this past weekend, April 28, 29 and 30. On so many levels, the camp was an inspirational, authentic and a growth opportunity for all.

For our students, Key Club newly elected officers practiced leadership in dynamic student teams with similarly recognized peers from across the Carolinas District. Together, they learned to deliver the Kiwanis message of personal and community values in engaging activities. They learned about trusting themselves by trusting others. They practiced leading the Kiwanis mission of community development. All students heard some important concepts like 'lead from the bottom up' and 'act in ways that reflect your values.' They heard timeless wisdom such as 'you can never go wrong doing good', and they had time to redefine 'SMART' Goals. They had authentic challenges and successes placing these concepts into practice in some great group activities.

As an adult, I learned the high caliber of adult volunteers within the Kiwanis Carolinas District, which is an extension of the volunteer profile we have locally in Banner Elk. I learned of the strength of our Banner Elk local Kiwanis, and how that contributes to the strength of our district as a whole. It was quite impressive to me and extremely gratifying to see Avery High School students represent 1/2 of all the student facilitators for the camp. It was equally wonderful to plant a seed of inspiration in four Avery Middle School students during this trip.

As a sponsored chaperone of two of the students who participated in Key Leader Weekend, again, I want say 'thank you Kiwanians', for this fabulous opportunity. I was able to experience the shaping of some of tomorrow's leaders this past weekend. One final piece of evidence that demonstrates the strength of this Kiwanis district, literally, almost every person in attendance, both student and adult, were hoisted over a twelve-foot wall using only the power of each other as support. If we can accomplish that in just a few hours, the possibilities seem endless on the global scale.

Sincerely,

Veronica Strong
Mother of Tiffany Brocco, class of 2020, ACHS
Penelope Brocco, class of 2021, ACHS