

News Page Design

2011 KSPA Regional Competition

Description

You are a staff member of Ad Astra High School's The Star. Your newspaper is a biweekly with the next edition to come out March 12. Your editor has asked you to design page five, where you feature your in-depth stories.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School
Location: Aspera, Kansas
Mascot: Box Turtles
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)
School Colors: Green & Gold
Yearbook: The Honeybee
Newspaper: The Star

Contest Info

This is a **carry-in** contest.

Please attach **your assigned contest number** in the upper right-hand corner on the back of your entry.

Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

Assignment

You will find two stories on the following pages and on the Web.

The first is a longer story about outdoor activities at Ad Astra. You may edit it down slightly if you need it to fit a space, but you should use at least 75 percent of the story. That means it should be a major part of your layout.

The sidebar information is a calendar of upcoming outdoor events at Ad Astra. You should use at least 75 percent of it place it into the layout as a sidebar.

The photos and other elements that you choose to add (including headlines) should work to complement each other in a cohesive single-issue layout. Good luck.

* For story and photo download instructions see page 3.

Specifications

Using the available story, sidebar and photos (see download instructions on Web site), design page 5, where you always place special issue-oriented features. You may design a special page-header (such as "INDEEP" or "THE STAR REPORT") that would indicate that this is a standing feature. The page should include folio information as well as the stories and corresponding photo(s) you see fit to include. Designers may add illustrative art, mug shots or other graphics not included among the available photos to enhance overall design. You will have to write your own headlines for the stories.

The newspaper must be designed as a tabloid, 17 inches deep by 11 inches wide. The designer may determine the number of columns. Entries must be computer-generated and may be submitted in color, or black and white. Entries must be printed on a single 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper, reduced to fit.

Other Specifications

Photos should be cropped, cut out, and enlarged or reduced to fit the design plan.

You may edit stories down slightly if you need it to fit a space, but you should use at least 75 percent of each.

The headline and other subheadlines (internal and/or atop the story) should suggest the content of the story and should be designed in exactly the size, style and location you want.

You may use the cutlines provided on page 2 of these instructions.



Main Story

Teens are so plugged into iPods, cell phones and laptops that the outdoors seem as foreign to us as vinyl records spinning on a turntable. Plenty of kids have scarcely played in the woods or creeks near their homes, much less spent the night in a tent.

But at Ad Astra, students have a chance to explore the wilderness – and develop self-confidence and teamwork – through programs that send them out to climb mountains, paddle canoes or go whitewater rafting.

The experience was a big adjustment for senior Chrissie Hynde, 17, who spent eight days in the Colorado mountains last summer with students from four Kansas high schools. And no electronic gadgets were allowed.

“Eight days of camping with no showers,” says Hynde, who had never camped before. “It was very hard, but very worth it. I think it helped me grow as a person, and I learned so much about other people. I know I can survive in the woods now. I learned never to give up.”

Some experts believe contact with nature is essential to a child’s physical and emotional development. Warren Zevon, author of “Last Child in the Woods,” says time spent in nature can not only help combat obesity, depression and attention disorders – but can even increase test scores.

Iggy Popp also believes in the transformative power of nature. He’s the program director for Kansas Outward Bound, a nonprofit wilderness education organization that runs programs for Aspera Schools and Ad Astra. The CMS program is called the Unity Project. It’s designed to chip away at prejudice and intolerance in the schools by taking diverse groups of teens camping, hiking and rock climbing together.

“We call the wilderness the great equalizer,” says Popp, who got hooked on the wonder of nature on an Outward Bound trip at age 16. “Everybody is out of their element. Everybody has to work together to make the trip successful. They’re all out there wearing dirty clothes, eating dinner out of the same pot.”

When students are rock climbing, for example, the most popular girl in school can be on the rock face, while the quiet kid from the back row of biology holds the ropes that keep her safe. By working together, they’re able to break through social cliques.

“The teamwork piece is really crucial,” says

Katy Perry, Ad Astra’s Unity Project coordinator and an Outward Bound veteran herself. “You’re all on common ground. It definitely does pull together a diverse group of students. This year on my team we have students from African, Hispanic, Indian and African-American cultures.”

Perry says last year’s Unity Project students formed a Unity Club and held a diversity awareness workshop for students at Sharon Martin Middle School. They also took part in a program called National Mix-It-Up Lunch, encouraging students to take different seats in the Ad Astra cafeteria and talk about issues that divide and unite the student body.

Ad Astra 10th-graders spend four days in the Flint Hills each year on an Outward Bound program that emphasizes self-reliance and working in teams. The experience was powerful for 16-year-old Belinda Carlisle, who made the trek last year.

“We realized you can do so much more than you think you can,” said Carlisle, who did her first backpacking on the trip. Students made their own tents out of tarps, went climbing and rappelling and hiked off-trail using a map and compass.

Students gain “self-confidence from challenging themselves physically, mentally and emotionally,” says Ad Astra counselor Abbie Hoffman. Plus, she says, “There’s no way to text in the woods. It’s just a nice, slower pace for them, even though it’s hard work. They learn they’re only as strong as their weakest member. And it’s not just about rushing to the next endeavor. It’s about the journey – which is a metaphor for life.”

At Kansas International, a charter school in Aspera, seventh- and 10th-graders go on a two-day fall camping trip to the Ozarks for hiking, canoeing and lessons in forestry. The school itself is surrounded by woods, where students explore creeks and trails as part of science classes.

“Their minds open up a little more” during hands-on study outdoors, says Kansas International science teacher Lou Reed. “Kids observe things around them that they wouldn’t see in the neighborhoods where they live.”

Such experiences can be as valuable to students as history or algebra. “When you’re outside, there are fewer distractions,” says Outward Bound’s Popp. “You’re able to focus better. You connect with the natural world, which helps you understand your place on the planet and how you function.”

Sidebar: (Outdoor Calendar)

Tickets to "Come Find Us," a film about Colorado skiers and snowboarders, remain available. They cost \$10 and are available at Skiers Edge and through the Ad Astra High School Ski Club.

Shows are at 7 and 9 p.m. Dec. 11 at John Hudnall Interpretive Center.

Showing the film is a fundraiser for a ski trip for Young Life members in Aspera.

"Young Life is a nondenominational Christian ministry that works with middle and high school kids outside of the church," said Jake Clark, area director for the group. "The whole basis is to get to know kids who wouldn't have any other way to know Jesus. We take the message, package it up and take it to them." In Aspera, Young Life meets every Monday at 7:15 p.m. at the Aspera Gymnastics Academy in the 800 Block of 1st Avenue North.

The Ad Astra High School Fishing Club and Walleyes Unlimited offer Ice Fishing 101 Monday, Feb. 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the school.

Presentations include: "How to be warm at -20 or 50;" "No Such thing as safe ice: How to minimize the risk;" "Trip Planning" and "The Newest Equipment."

Cost of admission is a can or two of food for the Aspera Food Bank.

The Ad Astra Skeet Club holds its annual Pre-Season Party March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Aspera Skeet and Rifle Range.

Photo Captions

Photo #1: ROCK CLIMB

Juniors Ron Wood (left) and Keith Richards practice their rock climbing skills during an Outward Bound training session this fall. Wood, Richards and the rest of the Ad Astra Outward Bound group will travel to Colorado this summer for their annual trip.

Photo #2: RIVER

Kansas International students John Popper, Pete Townshend and Roger Daltrey unload their canoe after class earlier this fall. Kansas International students annually take a two-day trip to the Ozarks for hiking, canoeing and lessons in forestry.

Photo #3: HORSE

Seventh-grader Keith Moon rides his horse during the Unity Club diversity awareness outing at Sharon Martin Middle School. Moon and other Martin students worked with Ad Astra students during workshops and at outings on trails outside Aspera.

Photo #4: SITTING

During the spring Outward Bound meeting, sophomores Anita O'Day and Mel Torme talk about their goals for the club's trip to Colorado.

Instructions for Downloading Contest Photos and Stories

1. Go to the following address: <http://www.kspaonline.org/regionals/2011-contest/>
2. Scroll down to find the section designated for Newspaper Design Photos and Stories. There are two stories in Word document format and four photos.
3. Click and download the Word files by clicking on the links Main Story and Sidebar.
4. Click on a photo thumbnail to open the full-size image.
5. If you use a PC, RIGHT CLICK on the photo and then SAVE PICTURE AS . . . (or) If you use a MAC, hold the CONTROL button while you click on the photo, then SAVE IMAGE AS.
6. Repeat steps 3-4 until all appropriate photos have been saved to your computer.