

Another amazing year of Kismet is in the books, completing **25 years** of making a difference in kids' lives! Over these years Kismet has had the privilege of providing nearly four hundred students from nine schools, and across three states with over one thousand days of climbing at no cost to the student! This level of commitment is possible because of the generous support of hundreds of donors throughout the years.

Most importantly, we record our critical impact as quality over quantity. We see the power and value in the Kismet experience repeatedly every week of the summer. There are no words to better describe the program than the words of our students. Here are a few reflections from the 2024 summer program.

"Kismet is a part of my life. It made me believe in myself and others. I love how much I have grown as a person." -'24 Kismet graduate - Berlin, NH

"I am so glad I was picked for this program, Thank you!" -1st year student - Manchester, NH
(this was expressed repeatedly throughout the week)

"Kismet is a place that I know how to be the happiest I can be." -2nd year student - Fryeburg, ME

"The most fulfilling part of the week was all of it, the unrelenting support." -2nd year student - Berlin, NH

It is an honor to work in a space that fosters deep empathy, collaborative problem-solving, and a collective courage that lends itself to empowerment and joy. Thank you for being a part of this world of Kismet through your continued support.

With Gratitude,

Krissy Fraser
Executive Director
978.420.5831



THE PROGRAM

Each program week is powered by a collaborative effort including students, staff, and volunteers. This summer we experienced an amazing seven weeks of climbing, hosting fifty-four students, and seven returning Kismet graduates as staff and interns.

Program Manager Owen McAndrew led the climbing curriculum each week, introducing techniques starting with the primary knots, belaying, and communication; progressing to rappelling, building anchors, and ultimately, multi-pitch climbing for the older groups. When the climbing wraps up, the group circles up to reflect, often sharing things from the day that made them feel accomplished and expressing gratitude for the peers in the group who made them feel supported.

The group then shifts gears to evening activities that include a special outing such as ice cream, star gazing, or swimming, along with a daily routine of a family-style dinner, house chores, lunch prep, one hour of phone time, and then the wind-down circle where the students discuss “Peaks and Valleys” of the day before turning in for the night.

The days are full, the weeks are fast, and the emotional growth, valuable interactions, and transformative moments are numerous.

“Kismet is one of the best weeks I’ve had. Meeting people, learning how to climb, and the bonding in only one week is impressive.”

- 1st year student - Manchester, NH



CHALLENGE & REWARD

The youth we serve represent an underserved, diverse population, with various ethnic backgrounds and gender identities. They are aged 13 to 17 and come from Fryeburg and Portland, Maine, areas around Boston, Massachusetts, and in Bartlett, Berlin, Conway, Gorham, and Manchester, New Hampshire.

Students are introduced to Kismet because they are recognized by a representative in their school system who sees a spark, a need, a special individual who will flourish when given an extraordinary opportunity. Many of the students have little exposure beyond the boundaries of school and home to explore not only an outdoor environment, but more importantly the freedom to speak freely, laugh loudly, and communicate boldly.

We visit the school and present to the students, who can then apply to be considered for a full four-year scholarship. They tell us they apply because otherwise they wouldn’t leave their house all summer, they want to learn something new, or because they want the chance to meet friends.

Once selected it is a brave endeavor...leaving home often for the first time to participate in a climbing education, in an unfamiliar town, with all new people - a bold leap into an arena often far outside the scope of something they have ever done. Within days, because of this shared experience, there is a confidence and connection that defies logic and it is felt by all involved.





Our sights are now on to the next 25 years for Kismet and staying true to the invaluable mission. We continue to develop our strategic plan and build on a trusted foundation.

While a rock-climbing education is central to the work of Kismet, we also have opportunity to genuinely learn about each student and support their growth beyond the boundaries of their weeks at Kismet. One focus remains on providing year-round support for Kismet students to connect with the community and the sport, allowing for further growth and development opportunities. We are fully dedicated to every student involved in Kismet. We are a valuable resource to the students in their journey at home, school, and within their community. By expanding partner connections in each community we can introduce resources for our students through collaboration with other organizations.

We continue to expand our outreach efforts, to increase diversity in our donor base and incremental growth in our annual income. With this we have secured a full staff and will be increasing our summer programs to eight weeks and provide a more robust off-season program.

THE FUTURE



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT!

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 Calvin Tague

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 Rachel, Liz, Asa, & Wilder Eirman
 Paul, Lisa, and River McCoy
 Ted and Sharon Wroblewski
 Joe, Ardis, & Christine Yahna

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Kismet Rock Foundation
PO Box 1744
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MISSION

Kismet Rock Foundation nourishes the physical, intellectual, and emotional development of rural and urban children throughout New England before they enter their formative teen years.

VISION

To create a pathway for underserved youth throughout New England to connect with each other through the exploration of rock climbing. To support their emotional and social growth in a diverse, multicultural community, enhancing their ability to thrive in life. Kismet Rock Foundation serves as a replicable model for other organizations with similar constituents and goals.



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THANK YOU

Kismet is proud to be entering its 26th year of programs thanks to the trust and support of countless friends over the years.

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