

Hunt for Hope: Where Faith, the Outdoors, and Healing Intersect

The Redwood Area Communities Foundation is proud to welcome the **Hunt for Hope Fund**, a new initiative with a mission rooted in both faith and a deep love for the outdoors. Founded by Gavin Maurer, Elliott Herdina, Paul Berndt, and Cameron Maurer, this fund is driven by a passion for creating transformative outdoor experiences for children with life-changing circumstances, experiences they may never otherwise get the chance to enjoy.

“We’ve always believed you should pursue your passions in life,” says the founding team. “When the different passions that you have can cross paths, you’ve really found something special.” For them, that intersection is sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and opening the outdoors as a place for adventure, healing, and personal growth.

Hunt for Hope is about more than just time in the woods, it’s about helping kids understand that their current circumstances do not define their future. “The outdoors provides an experience you can’t get through a TV or device. It opens our eyes to the hope of God’s greater plan,” they share.

Each outdoor experience is tailored to the child, accounting for their individual abilities and interests. Activities may vary, but all share the goal of building resilience and connection through nature. Some outings will be one-on-one, while others will happen in small groups, depending on what best suits the child.

To kick off their fundraising efforts, Hunt for Hope is hosting a unique archery shoot in Ramsey Park. Set along a scenic 3-mile course, the shoot features 20 life-sized animal targets, a practice range, contest shot, raffle, and food vendor. It’s open to all skill levels and even non-archers are encouraged to come enjoy the atmosphere and learn more about the mission.

As a first-year event, Hunt for Hope is seeking support from local businesses and donors to help cover startup costs like targets, insurance, and promotional materials. Sponsorship tiers, Silver, Gold, and Platinum, offer local businesses the chance to support a great cause while receiving visibility through the event.

The heart of Hunt for Hope is simple yet profound: letting kids know they’re not alone. “God is right alongside them and promises us much more than this life on earth,” the team says. “We also want them to know they have a lifelong support system in Hunt for Hope that they can lean on when times get tough.”

Their long-term vision includes turning the archery shoot into a sustainable annual fundraiser, growing the program to reach more children each year, and inviting others to join their mission.

While the idea of providing outdoor healing opportunities isn’t new, bringing it to this region is a passion project born from admiration of similar programs elsewhere. “We’ve seen the impact these experiences have had in other states, and it inspired us to bring something like this to our area,” they explain.

So far, the most rewarding part has been the community's response. "People are excited about the event and even more excited about the mission."

Register for the Event

Registration for the 3D Archery Shoot on August 16th 2025 is currently open. Visit the event website at: www.rrarcheryshoot.com to reserve your spot today. Space is limited so don't wait to sign up.

Get Involved

If you're interested in volunteering, sponsoring, or learning more, reach out to the team at **huntforhopefund@gmail.com**. Together, we can help bring hope, healing, and the beauty of the outdoors to children who need it most.

If you have a passion project of your own, an idea to improve our community, or simply want to help make a difference, the **Redwood Area Communities Foundation** is here to support you. Whether it's environmental efforts, youth programming, the arts, or beyond, RACF partners with individuals and groups to help bring meaningful projects to life. To learn more, visit www.radc.org or contact the foundation directly to explore how you can get involved.