

Markey Day Craft Fair

Rocky Mountain Classical Academy

Colorado Springs, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Once a year, the Rocky Mountain Classical Academy (RMCA) hosts a Market Day Craft Fair to celebrate family, community, and holiday traditions. The goal of the event is to have families participate and enjoy fellowship, with the potential to complete holiday shopping, win prizes, compete in a baking competition and enjoy holiday celebrations with the school community.

In 2017, over 750 attendees and 50 vendors participated in the Market Day Craft Fair. This year's proceeds, \$2,500, went to RMCA athletics. One teacher (and craftsman) sold handmade pens, letter openers, seam pullers, magnifying glasses, and ice cream scoops made from exotic woods, acrylics, brass, pewter, and steel. The event also included a silent auction. Auction donors included U.S. Taekwondo, Kneaders, The Awtrey Family, The Rhodes Family, The Werner Family, as well as fifteen vendors who provided donations.



An exciting aspect of the Market Day Craft Fair is that RMCA students oversee the planning and implementation. Student groups (Student Council and athletic teams) provide labor in exchange for earning funding for their teams and activities. The practice links directly to RMCA's character education outcomes, including initiative, generosity, trustworthiness, and self-awareness. The school's event coordinator shares: "Over 200 person-hours went into organizing and preparing this year's event. Student, staff, and parent volunteers helped us. Over a dozen of our student-athletes arrived early to help vendors set up their booths. It's an opportunity for us to show our community who and what we are."

The key to success is how one treats the vendors and attendees. RMCA students personally deliver lunch to each of the vendors (it is part of the vendor fee). Vendors appreciate the kindness shown to them. Additionally, the supreme organization accomplished before the event ensured vendors arrived and set up on time, as well as minimizing site tear-down and post-event cleaning.

Standard 6--Collaborating with the Community