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KAMPGROUNDS OF AMERICA



KOA Convention Attendees Plant Trees Near Bastrop

KOA News Service - AUSTIN, TEXAS (Wednesday, November 20, 2013) – Nearly 100 KOA campground owners and managers from throughout North America spent their first day at the International Kampgrounds of America Convention in Austin planting more than 3,000 tree seedlings near Bastrop, Texas.

Two years ago, the area near Bastrop was devastated by the Bastrop County Complex Fire, which burned 34,000 acres of land, destroyed 1,600 homes and killed two people.

Each year for the past four years, KOA owners have participated in a “green” community event in the area that hosts the KOA International Convention.

KOA volunteers teamed up with the Bastrop County Community Reforestation Program for the green event, planting native, drought-resistant Loblolly pine seedlings. The KOA volunteers received training from an expert team to ensure the newly planted trees have the best chance for survival.

The project was personal for Elizabeth Kitay, the new owner of the Bastrop/SE Austin/Colorado River KOA. Kitay and her husband lost their home in the Bastrop Complex Fire. They evacuated to the Bastrop KOA, where she lived in an RV for more than a year. When she found out that the campground was for sale, she decided to become a KOA owner.

“It’s so gratifying to see my fellow KOA owners out here helping me to give back to my community,” she said. “It means so much to be part of an organization that cares about the communities they serve.”

Kampgrounds of America is celebrating its 51st Anniversary in 2013. KOA, the world’s largest network of family-friendly campgrounds with 485 locations in North America, was born on the banks of the Yellowstone River in Billings, Montana in 1962.

There’s camping. And there’s **KOA**.™

Kampgrounds of America Inc
PO BOX 30558 | 550 N 31st TW3 | Billings, MT 59114 USA

kOA.com