

Kids Around the World



Building Playgrounds

Building Hope

Kids Around the World partnered with a group of lifeguards and firefighter from California to take part in a unique fundraiser to help some of the children in the New Orleans area devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Sam Clemente, California native, and lifeguard, James Birdsell (pictured right) spearheaded this noble endeavour by organizing the "Lifeguards for Louisiana" fund. Their goal was to raise \$30,000, which would be matched by the local school district, to build a playground in a hurricane ravaged area around New Orleans.



On the morning of August 25, 2006, Birdsell and 6 volunteers, all premier watermen, launched 3 dories from Dana Point Harbor to paddle 50 miles to La Jolla in one day in order to raise the money. They would change watercraft to individual surf skis and then to stand up paddle boards along their nine hour journey before reaching La Jolla, California. Birdsell organized the fundraiser through www.kidsaroundtheworld.com by soliciting corporate donations, asking friends to provide escort boats, and organizing the team of athletes to make the 50 mile trek. When asked to comment Jeff Rosene, director of development for Kids Around the World, said, "Having one man do all this, raise all the funds, and be responsible for the team is just amazing", (Orange County Register).

By its conclusion, the fundraiser had raised \$70,000 for a playground to be built at Andrew Jackson Elementary in St. Bernard's Parish on February 11th through the 16th. The 1,100 students that attend Andrew Jackson Elementary are sure to enjoy their %100 handicap accessible playground, their first of this type, and are extremely grateful to Birdsell, all the volunteers, and to Kids Around the World for their tireless efforts.



Pictured left: Kids Around the World installation at Lake View Maria Montessorie Pre-School, Covington, LA
Pictured right: Kids Around the World installation at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,

New Product Info

[New Chain Net](#)

Due to the constant exposure to ultraviolet rays, the coating on chain components degrades over time. So much so, that one year ago New York City declined to include any type of chain net at any of their facilities. In response to this issue, and a growing movement in Metro areas toward concern for the amount of PVC content in many consumer goods including playgrounds, GameTime researched a stainless steel equivalent for a new chain net. Researched and developed by Mike McWilliams, this new chain component was shown at the latest NRPA in Seattle. The new chains, featuring 1" rungs, is now the standard net on the Xscape line, and will also be available as an option for PowerScape and PrimeTime. Part of the City Tough line, this new chain is an industry exclusive. The innovation in metal chains is sure to be a hit with consumers looking for a durable compliant metal chain for their playgrounds.



GameTime's old chain nets, seen above, are a thing of the past due to the shiny, new stainless steel chain! Have you installed a new chain net yet? If so, send us a photo, we'd love to see it!

Design to Win

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners of the Design to Win contest, held at this years national sales meeting. The focus of the contest was to showcase GameTime's diverse design capabilities throughout the rep agencies. The winners of the contest were: Doc Johnson at Minnesota Wisconsin Playgrounds, Charlene Myers and Raymon Lambert at Southwest Parks and Playgrounds, and Shelley Budke at Dominica Recreation. We would also like to thank all of the participants of the contest for their design submissions.

[New 07' Spring Sale Flyer](#)

The Spring Flyer for 07' will begin circulating March 1st, and the sale ends June 30th. With 8 pages of colorful playground units, complete with sale prices, it will be sure to catch the attention of potential customers making it a valuable tool for your sales team! Here's a sneak peek at the flyer draft, watch for an upcoming field bulletin with more info!



Installer's Meeting

The annual GameTime installer's meeting was held on February 8th through the 9th this year. Installers from each rep agency attended the two day training, giving us the opportunity to meet them face to face, train them in the installation of GameTime equipment, increase their knowledge of the industry, and create a great relationship between manufacturer and installer. The first day of the meeting consisted of classroom training featuring an installer presentation by Steven Hoge, an ADA presentation by Anne-Marie Spencer, a new product presentation by Kim Blackwood, and a surfacing presentation by Don King. The second day was hands-on training, breaking installers up into teams and erecting a play structure. When the structures were completed, they discussed problems they encountered with the build and their questions were answered by Hoge. This is one more way we are improving installation. At the conclusion of the course all 53 attendees received a certificate stating that they were certified by GameTime, along with an "Installers Kit" containing field necessities such as extra nuts, bolts, touch up paint and other needs. This improves our overall service by providing the installers with on-hand extras so they do not have to call customer service for one or two bolts, and replenishing these kits throughout the year allows Hoge to see where we made mistakes on our end of providing equipment for the installation. The certification must be renewed every two years by completing a renewal packet provided by GameTime. This meets the criteria specified in most bids, as well as CA law, that all installers be certified by the manufacturer. GameTime now has a total of 117 certified installers, 57 more than six years ago, helping to maintain our status as the leader in the playground industry. Thank you to all the installers that participated, and all the GameTime employees that made it a success.

