

IDAHO DADS MATTER!

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The Protector Dad

...He's Preparing His Daughter for the Future

JULIAETTA—Mark Maland's work as a security supervisor for Lewis and Clark State College (LCSC) years ago informs some of his present-day thinking on keeping his four-year-old daughter safe.



"I've developed sort of a rugged view of the world," he confesses, not referring to the terrain of the nearby mountains in the Juliaetta-Kendrick area, but to the need for rural-Idaho children—his daughter Juliaetta included—to become "street smart" in Mark's words, in case they move to a big city one day and/or so they can compete effectively with relatively world-wise urban immigrants to rural-Idaho towns.

"When you live in a big city, as I have, they use this term called 'street smarts,' and if you don't know street smarts, then you're going to get hustled. There's a saying, 'That guy just got off the train from Idaho.' That's a real thing; I've heard that (in Chicago). Everywhere in our country, even out here in Juliaetta, people are going to need street smarts," he said.

How do you teach street smarts if you live in rural Idaho? You make the local world larger by getting involved in your community, says Mark, maximizing your children's interaction opportunities and thus providing a bigger worldview that they can draw from if they move away someday.

"We're lucky; we have a great school here, and we're connected to our community, Mark said, noting he and Juliaetta's mom (Mark's wife, Valerie Lohman) enjoy being involved in the local community. "Raising children isn't just a single-family endeavor; you need your community," he said.

Juliaetta likes watching mixed martial arts (MMA) fights with her dad. "It's probably the worst parenting decision of all time," he said with a laugh, "but I want her to understand strategy, and there's a lot of strategy in MMA matches; it's like physical chess. There's a couple concepts that MMA has taught me: You sometimes have to take a hit to grab an advantage, and one mistake and you could be finished. On a socio-economic level, that's the way it works too," he said.

"Don't give your kids; be honest and treat them like they're future adults," urges Mark. "If you fall into certain cracks in life, the reality is that you can't get out, or it's going to be extremely difficult to get out. It's crucial to have a strategy and concepts to pull from. Juliaetta's generation is going to have to be so much smarter than past generations ever had to be."

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—Mark Maland