

# IDAHO DADS

# MATTER!

*A Specialty Publication by The Down To Earth Dad® Featuring Idaho Parents!*

Volume 2, Number 11

## The Does-What-He-Can Dad

### *...He Gives Parenting His Best Shot*

HAYDEN—Justin and Erika Starkey encourage Ryker, 9, and Carver, 7, to do their best, try hard, be honest, and to be kind to others. Even so, says Justin, “If I’m being completely honest, I think we’re all just out here trying to do our best (as parents). I don’t think any of us has the answer. My role as a dad is to ensure that these boys turn out to be productive members of society. I just hope that I don’t screw up along the way.”



The avid hockey player and coach hopes the sport he loves will inspire his sons to learn its life lessons. “Hockey teaches integrity, hard work, and teamwork—all those cliché things that most team sports teach you. But as much of a ‘team’ sport that it is, it takes your own willingness and drive to get better and excel in hockey and other things in life,” he said.

You’ll see the family boating on Coeur d’Alene Lake in the summertime. “Our boat is old but runs like a charm, and I’ll take our family, friends, and their kids out—we fish, jump in the water, and just have fun doing the lake life,” he said.

At home you’ll find Ryker building with LEGO kits—sometimes alongside his father and brother. “He’s into avatars (LEGO models) right now. I let him kind of tell me what to do and when to do it so that he feels like he’s leading the charge as far as building with LEGOs goes so I’m not doing everything for him,” he explained.

“Carver’s a big movie guy. I make sure I set a time for a movie with him—something simple, just a movie night with dad and mom. He likes entertaining us with plays, acting, and doing impressions of people that are outstanding. He likes to make dad laugh,” Justin said with a chuckle. “He’s a natural; he’s just a comic.”

Honor and integrity are valued family traits. “Honor is something as simple as holding the door for someone or being kind to somebody without expecting kindness in return. Integrity means telling the truth no matter what, even if it’s gonna get you into trouble. That’s a big one that I push on the boys; specifically, don’t tell lies and own up to your mistakes.... I always say, ‘Hey, own up to it. You did it. Apologize.’ If you lie about it, it’s going to be worse.”

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