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Media Contact: Curt Preisser, 941-861-5884 or 941-650-2883, cpreisse@scgov.net

Project Contact(s): Diana Finnegan, 941-861-9838 or 941-915-1213, dfinnega@scgov.net

Camp office, 941-861-9870, parksonline@scgov.net

Registration begins for Parks and Recreation summer camps

Registration for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation summer camps begins Monday, March 22. Children entering grades 1-9 can enjoy a summer of discovery in safe and exciting settings with a tremendous selection of camps offered over 11 weeks.

Traditional day camps are offered in 4-week sessions from June 14-July 9 and July 12-Aug. 6 at Arlington Park, Bee Ridge Park, Colonial Oaks Park and Longwood Park in Sarasota and Woodmere Park in Venice.

Adventure camp for children entering grades 6-9 is offered in the same 4-week sessions at Colonial Oaks Park in Sarasota. Adventure campers enjoy challenging activities and four weekly field trips.

Specialty camps are back and include Mad Science camps, Video Gamer camps, Chef camp, Water Sports camps, Skateboard camp and more. New this year are Skim, Skate and Scooter camp with instruction from World Wakesurf Champion Drew Danielo, Dirty Jobs camps, Clown camp and more!

Parks and Recreation also offers a variety of sports camps including Junior Tennis/Swim camp and the new Pee Wee Basketball camp for ages 5-7. Sports camps are offered in June and August at Woodmere Park in Venice.

One-week mini camps are available in three weekly sessions, June 7-11, Aug. 9-13 and Aug. 16-20 at various locations. All activities take place on-site and are included in the \$80 fee.

Open gym programs are offered at a greatly reduced rate of \$11 per four-week session at Newtown Estates and Robert L. Taylor Community Complex in Sarasota and Laurel Park in Laurel.

Therapeutic Camp for special kids is offered at Oak Park School and runs June 14-Aug. 6 in conjunction with the summer school schedule. The fee of \$420 includes all activities.

Volunteer opportunities are available for youth entering 10th grade and older to complete service hours needed for school while assisting counselors and enjoying camp activities. Following an interview, a limited number of volunteers will be utilized at locations throughout the county.

Rates for Traditional, Adventure and Environmental camps remain the same as 2008 and 2009 and financial assistance is available to qualifying Sarasota County residents for day and adventure camps. Program and registration information is available online at parksonline.scgov.net or in the Summer Camp Guide, available at any Sarasota County recreation center, library or county building.

Register for camp programs at parksonline.scgov.net. For information call the camp office at 941-861-9870 or pick up a summer camp booklet at any recreation center, library or government building.

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