

The Camper's Guide

Quality Outdoor Education Since 1949

Summer Day Camps Finish Six Weeks of Outdoor Learning

Children from the Boys and Girls Club spent six weeks this summer learning and having fun at the Camp Tyler facility.

July 22 was the last week for both Minimum Impact/Maximum Leadership Camp and Mr. Eco's Day Camp. This was Camp Tyler's first year to offer summer day camp programs not associated with another organization.

Each week a different group of kids attended the day camps and experienced several fun-filled days of outdoor education. The camps were designed to teach children the value of education, and although each camp offered different activities, both provided an excellent opportunity for kids not familiar with the outdoors to experience it firsthand.

The Minimum Impact/Maximum Leadership Camp, led by Outdoor Learning Instructors David Ford and Cheri Hughes, educated kids from ages eleven to sixteen. The camp, which was funded by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, focused on

introducing inner-city children to new and more challenging outdoor activities.

During the camp the kids participated in activities including horseback riding, hiking, fishing, swimming, canoeing, GPS navigation and camping and backpacking. The campers were also encouraged to build leadership and team skills.

Both instructors wanted the campers to

experience more than just fun and games at the camp.

"We really wanted to cultivate an interest in the outdoors and help the kids gain other things along the way too," Hughes said.

Ford wanted the campers to understand that there are many opportunities out there for them and they don't have to be in a school setting to learn.

"I want the kids to know there are things they can learn outside of school too," Ford said. "And just because they may not be doing great in school, it doesn't mean they can't succeed in other ways."



Minimum Impact/Maximum Leadership campers July 13-16.

Outdoor Learning Instructors Michelle Arnett and Tori Villerreal were also looking to provide more than just fun and games for the kids who attended camp.

At Mr. Eco's Day Camp children from ages eight to eleven learned about recycling and the importance of making healthy food choices. They also learned how to plant and grow their own produce, feed and clean

farm animals and bait their own hooks before fishing. The Eco camp, which was



Mr. Eco's campers June 29-July 3.

funded by Food Fast Children's Charities and the Tyler Oilmen's Benefit Association, was designed to educate children at risk of not finishing school.

Both day camps welcomed several guest speakers throughout the summer who spoke to the kids about the importance of education and choosing a career. According to Arnett they wanted the speakers to help the kids realize how important school is and that there are many options to choose from when deciding on a career.

Both Arnett and Villerreal also wanted the children to learn valuable lessons they could take with them and use later in life.

"I hope they learned how to make healthy choices," Arnett said. "I also hope they understand that what they eat can affect the way they feel just as the way they act can affect whether they have a good day or a bad day."

The instructors also felt very strongly about teaching the kids how to do the right thing.

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Camp Quality Gives Kids Something to Smile About

What's your favorite thing about Camp Quality?



*Madison, 11
Crafts and we get to sleep in!*



*Micah, 11
Swimming and crafts.*

Last month 39 kids attended Camp Quality where they enjoyed a week of fun, games and excitement, Media Coordinator Connie Glover said.

Camp Quality is for children from ages four to seventeen who have cancer. The camp is also for the siblings of the cancer patients.

The theme for the camp this year was "superheroes." The kids participated in activities including swimming, fishing, crafts, zip lining, a talent show and hot air balloon rides.

Many kids enjoy their time at Camp Quality so much they

become volunteers when they get older. Allison Funkhouser was a camper at Camp Quality for two years and now at age seventeen is a volunteer.

"I'd been to the camp before, but I really liked working with the kids more," Funkhouser said. "It seemed like a good idea."

According to Glover the purpose of Camp Quality is to give the children a week where they can just be kids and not worry about doctors or hospitals. It also allows them to be around other kids who have cancer and are going through the same thing.

Camp Heyday Lets Campers Make Lasting Friendships

Camp Tyler recently welcomed 61 campers from Camp Heyday, a camp for people who have physical and mental challenges.

The campers participated in activities including swimming, boating, fishing, recreation and crafts. They also had a dance, a talent show, an awards program and an evening in which an ambulance, fire truck and several motorcycles were brought for the campers to see.

According to Camp Director Curtis Williams the level of ability differs between each camper. Some require total care while others may be very independent.

Byron Bailey, a cerebral palsy patient, has been coming to Camp Heyday for 20 years. Williams said he is amazed that although Bailey's abilities are limited and he can't speak, he has ways of making others understand him.

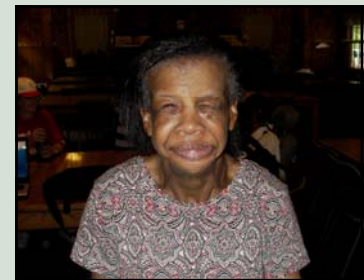
Williams also added that Camp Heyday is a special and memorable experience for the campers.

"This is one of the most important things that happens to them and it's something they plan and wait for all year," Williams said. "They get to do activities, meet new people and be with friends."

What are you most excited for at Camp Heyday?



*Monica, 10 year camper
Swimming. Having fun and relaxing.*



*Cheryl, 8 year camper
Fishing. Being with the counselors.*

Discovering Who's Who at the Camp Tyler Foundation

The Camp Tyler Foundation employees work hard all year to provide your kids with the best quality outdoor education available.

The camp opened in 1949 and since then has allowed thousands of children to experience and learn about the outdoors firsthand.

During the past year our staff has continued to grow allowing us to further our goal of providing premier outdoor learning opportunities to kids across East Texas.

Nothing at Camp Tyler would be possible without the hard work and dedication put forth by our employees.

Our office staff includes Alan Byboth, Executive Director; Kelly Drumm, Philanthropy Coordinator; and Jan Ott, Office Manager.

Our teaching staff includes Program Director Kathy Lagesse and Outdoor Learning Instructors Michelle Arnett, David Ford, Cheri Hughes and Tori Villerreal.

Our maintenance staff includes Head Ranger Bryan Rayburn and Rangers Wilbur Jenkins, Jim Ott and Rob Pinkerton.

Summer Day Camps

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"I wanted them to learn that there are different things in life they can do, and when they make good choices new doors will be opened for them," Villerreal said.

Approximately 200 children were educated at the Min/Max and Eco camps this summer and because of their huge success Camp Tyler plans to offer more summer day camps in the future.

If you would like to know more information about our day camps or any other programs offered at Camp Tyler call us at 903-565-4475 or e-mail kathy@campt Tyler.org.

We would like to give a special thanks to our guest speakers. Mr. Eco's Day Camp speakers were UT Tyler graduate students Chase Lively and Matt Troia; Jeanne Dark from the Department of Public Safety; Sarah Hindman from the Texas Extension Agency; and representatives from Ben E. Keith. The Minimum Impact/Maximum Leadership Camp speakers were Tyler Wagner from the Texas Forest Service and various graduate students from the UT Tyler biology department.



(Left to right) Kelly Drumm, Philanthropy Coordinator; Alan Byboth, Executive Director; and Jan Ott, Office Manager.



(Back, left to right) Michelle Arnett, Program Director Kathy Lagesse, Tori Villerreal, (front) Cheri Hughes and David Ford.



(Left to right) Head Ranger Bryan Rayburn and Rangers Jim Ott, Rob Pinkerton and Wilbur Jenkins.

Camp Tyler Outdoor School Teacher Training Workshop

Dates of Workshop:

Aug. 12, 8:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Aug. 13, 8:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Workshop Topics:

Meet the Staff

Camp Tyler Program Opportunities

Sample Activities

Round Table Discussions



Camp Tyler Foundation

P.O. Box 1916

Whitehouse, TX 75791

School's Just Around the Corner!

School bells ringing, locker doors slamming and children chattering with excitement as they arrive for their first day back after a relaxing break. The heat of summer may still be here, but teachers and kids everywhere are getting ready for that first day of school.

First day of school: All Saints, Aug. 20; Brook Hill, Aug. 19; Bullard ISD, Aug. 24; Chapel Hill ISD, Aug. 24; Gladewater ISD, Aug. 24; Grace, Aug. 17; T.K. Gorman, Aug. 17; Tyler ISD, Aug. 24; Whitehouse ISD, Aug. 24.

Comments or Questions?

*Call us at 903.565.4475 or
e-mail kelly@campt Tyler.org.*

*Also, visit us on MySpace,
Twitter and Facebook.*

This Month at Camp Tyler

Camp Kennedy

Aug. 2-8

Math Triage Camp

Aug. 3-6, Aug. 10-13

Knitting Camp

Aug. 8-9

Teacher Training Workshop

Aug. 12-13

Next Month at Camp Tyler

Whitehouse 5th grade Field Investigation

Sept. 14

Boy Scouts Merit Badge Workshop

Sept. 18-20

Camp Tyler Outdoor School begins

Sept. 21