

# The Camper's Guide

Quality Outdoor Education Since 1949

## Asthma Camp Teaches Kids Important Lesson in Health

The Texas Asthma Camp, which specializes in educating children who have asthma in the importance of controlling their disease, brought 65 children and 47 adults to the Camp Tyler facility last month, Camp Director Rhonda Scoby said.



*Campers groom the miniature horses at the Therapet event.*

Throughout the week asthma camp workers and medical staff helped the kids develop a better understanding of their condition and learn ways to prevent asthma attacks. According to Scoby there have only been about three or four asthma attacks in the 19 years she has served as camp director.

The asthma camp not only educates the children, but also

allows them to participate in activities they normally would not be able to.

Therapet, a local pet therapy organization in Tyler, visited the kids during their stay at Camp Tyler. The organization brought

dogs and miniature horses for the children to pet and groom. Before the children could touch the animals they were instructed to keep their hands away from their face and to thoroughly wash their hands after petting the animals, Scoby said.

The asthma camp also provided other activities for the kids such as dances, hay rides, karaoke, a talent show and a traditional candle lighting ceremony in which the counselors provided the children with encouraging words.

Scoby added that Camp Tyler was always their first choice when deciding on a facility for the camp.

“The camp has always been here, and it’s a perfect facility for

us,” Scoby said. “I’m also a board member for Camp Tyler, so I believe very strongly in the philosophy of introducing children everywhere to an outdoor learning environment.”

Scoby is hopeful the children who attend the camp each year will continue to learn the importance of understanding and controlling their asthma.

“I want them to take responsibility for the management of their asthma,” Scoby said. “I want them to be knowledgeable about what triggers their asthma, what their medications are and how to take them appropriately and not to rely on mom and dad for everything.”



*Camp Tyler's ranger helps a student from the asthma camp prepare for the zip line.*

# Teens From Cherokee County Juvenile Services Attend Camp

Last month 11 teenagers from Cherokee County Juvenile Services attended a week-long rewards camp at Camp Tyler.

The rewards camp was part of the summer programming offered by the Cherokee County Juvenile Services. The teenagers were given the opportunity to attend the camp after earning a certain number of points for exemplary behavior, attendance and participation, Case Work Supervisor Maria Huse said.

During the camp the teenagers learned about the importance of farming and how to care for horses and other farm animals. They also participated in activities such as horseback riding, working on the farm, swimming, canoeing, zip lining and volleyball.

Huse wanted the kids to learn more than just how to farm and have fun.

“I hope the kids learned that they can accomplish anything they

put their minds to, and that they can have fun while they’re doing it,” Huse said.

At the end of the week a graduation ceremony was held for the campers and parents were invited to attend.

According to Huse this was the first time the Cherokee County Juvenile Services attended a camp at Camp Tyler. They plan to return July 27 with a different group of kids for another rewards camp.

## Diabetic Camp Encourages Kids to Eat Healthy, Exercise

For more than 15 years the Growing Together Diabetic Camp has educated countless children in health, fitness and diabetes, Camp Director Anjani Upponi said.

The camp is for children who have type 1 or type 2 diabetes and overweight children who may be at risk for developing diabetes.

This year 40 children from ages

six to fifteen attended the diabetic camp at Camp Tyler along with nine counselors, 20 adult workers and three junior volunteers.

Throughout the week the children learned how to utilize different tools such as meal planning, exercising and taking insulin on time.

“All of these tools go into diabetes self-management,” Upponi said.

The kids also participated in regular camping activities such as hiking, fishing, canoeing, soccer, basketball, zip lining and arts and crafts.

Upponi added that the camp is free for all kids and is made possible through donations. Some



of the camp’s biggest supporters are the ETMC Foundation, the Rose City Kiwanis Club and other local organizations including the Junior League of Tyler and the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

Upponi wants children who attend the diabetic camp to walk away from the experience having more knowledge about their diabetes than when they first came.

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# Camp Tyler's New Horses Recover From Recent Neglect

Throughout the summer Camp Tyler has been nursing four neglected horses back to health.

In May the Humane Society of East Texas received a report that 11 horses were being neglected at a nearby home, Attorney Deborah Dobbs said.

Six of the neglected horses were immediately seized by the HSOET. Of the five horses remaining the owner was allowed to keep two and place three for adoption.

The HSOET then contacted Camp Tyler and offered to donate four of the six horses they seized to the CTF. The other two horses

were stallions that are now in private homes until they are adopted.

Dobbs said she hopes to encourage people who see animals of any kind being abused to call in and make a report.

“The Humane Society is not able to take in all animals,” she said, “but they can assist in getting the animals out of a bad situation.”

According to Camp Tyler the horses are now on their way to a full recovery. Although they still need more care, the CTF expects



them to be ready for the children by the end of the year.

If you would like to help by sponsoring a horse please contact Kelly at 903-565-4475.

## July Campers, Workers Look Forward to Week of Fun

### SCCADA June 28-July 3

The Sister Communities Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has been educating middle school children in drug prevention since 2003.

This year there will be about 100 children and 25 workers and volunteers at the camp, Executive Director Charlene Shreder said.

SCCADA teaches kids about character education, drug refusal skills, making good choices and resisting peer pressure.

Shreder said the children attending the camp will also participate in regular camping activities such as fishing, swimming, canoeing, hiking, crafts and scuba diving.

### Camp Quality July 12-18

Camp Quality provides services for children ages three to eighteen who have cancer.

The purpose of the camp is to give the children a chance to be regular kids for a week without worrying about their illness. They get to fish, swim, play games and do everything else kids do at camp, Camp Quality volunteer Bob Uzzell said.

Uzzell also said there will be about 40 children and 80 volunteers attending the camp this July.

“I want these kids to be able to look back and say I can’t wait until next year to go to camp,” Uzzell said. “It’s a week they look forward to all year.”

### Camp Heyday July 18-25

Camp Heyday is for people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

There will be about 65 campers between ages fourteen and seventy-one and 70 workers/counselors at the camp this year, Program Director Rhonda Boaz said.

They host several activities for the campers including bingo, a talent show, boat rides, arts and crafts, canoeing, fishing, dances and more.

“This is like their Disney World,” Boaz said. “They look forward to it all year and they get to build memories and special friendships while they are there.”



Camp Tyler Foundation

P.O. Box 1916

Whitehouse, TX 75791

## Local Boy Collects Cans to Raise Money

Last month KLTW Channel 7 featured a story about a local eight-year-old boy named Jay Bambeck. Jay has cerebral palsy and has difficulty getting in and out of his wheelchair and van. He has decided to recycle aluminum cans and use the money to buy a wheelchair ramp and docking station for his van. Jay's mom said that if they collect enough cans she will buy a full size van, which will make it easier to transport Jay.

They need to collect over 10,000 lbs. of cans to reach their goal. Please join Camp Tyler and other local businesses in collecting aluminum cans for Jay.

You can take your cans to Tyler Iron & Metal. Their address is 1630 W. NW. Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75702. You can also contact Amanda Bambeck at 903-944-4271 or [younggreymare912@yahoo.com](mailto:younggreymare912@yahoo.com).

## Diabetic Camp

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“The main thing I want the kids to learn is that if they have diabetes, there is nothing they can't do,” Upponi said. “I want them to learn good habits, such as exercising, eating right, taking care of their diabetes and not letting it get out of hand. I also want them to make lasting friendships with others who have diabetes so that they can have that bond.”

***Gear Up*** is coming to Camp Tyler July 6-10. Ten students from John Tyler High School will experience science and nature firsthand. The camp is a unique experience for students and provides an emphasis in science and math, leadership skills, team work and personal development, Camp Director Wes Hickey said.

*Starting Sept. 1 we will be e-mailing all newsletters. Hard copies available upon request. Send your e-mail addresses to [kelly@campt Tyler.org](mailto:kelly@campt Tyler.org).*