

March 3, 2008

Parks and Recreation programs offer spring break fun for kids

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation is now accepting registration for Spring Vacation in the Parks recreation programs for children in grades K-5.

The traditional day camp program at Colonial Oaks offers sports, games, arts and crafts and nature activities as well as a daily presenter. Sessions are offered at Colonial Oaks and Oak Park School in half-days for your children to attend as many or as few as wanted. Morning sessions are 7:30 a.m. to noon, afternoon sessions are 1 to 5:30 p.m., March 31 through April 4. A supervised lunch hour is provided to those attending both sessions. The cost is \$8 per session.

Mad Science camps are as fun as they are educational. Colonial Oaks offers Crazy Chemworks and Reactions in Action. Woodmere Park offers NASA – Journey into Space, Junior Astronaut Training and Engineering Mania. There is a supervised lunch hour for junior scientists attending both morning and afternoon sessions. A snack is provided and children in full-day programs should bring their lunch. The individual session fee is \$165. A \$30 rebate is available to those attending both daily sessions.

Crazy Chemworks provides an opportunity to delve into the world of atoms, molecules and chemical reactions. From the super tiny to the super slimy, this fun, hands-on interactive program sends children on a fascinating journey of exploration and discovery into the world of chemistry. This program is offered 9 a.m.-noon at Colonial Oaks Park.

Reactions in Action is where children discover the science of energy, color and light while creating indoor fireworks and working with lasers. Experience the amazing process of cotton candy and explore the science of taste while creating mini-explosions. This program is offered 1-4 p.m. at Colonial Oaks Park.

NASA – Journey into Space, Junior Astronaut Training is a hands-on program designed with NASA to explore all atmosphere, solar system and space phenomena as well as the forces of flight, living in space and the challenges of space travel. This program is offered 9 a.m.-noon at Woodmere Park.

Engineering Mania gives junior scientists hands-on experience building and testing bridges, buildings and other structures. Fundamental forces and air pressure will be explored when pilots fly a special hovercraft to test the forces of motion. The fun never ends in the science of magic and toys. This program is offered 1-4 p.m. at Woodmere Park.

The Open Gym program at Newtown Estates provides activities that include sports, games, arts and crafts and more. Parents are responsible for providing lunch and snacks for their children. Staff will be on hand to supervise children during game time and sports activities. The fee is \$8 for the week.

Registration is required. Register online at parksonline.scgov.net or pick up a registration form at any Sarasota County recreation center or library, complete it and return the registration form to Spring Vacation in the Parks, 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, 34241 or call 941-861-9870. For more information, contact the County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about Spring Vacation at the Parks.