

**March 3, 2009**

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## Registration begins for Parks and Recreation summer camps

Registration for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation summer camps begins March 9. There are 12 weeks of Summer Vacation in the Parks summer camp programs lasting from 3 days to 4 weeks. Camps are available for children who will be entering grades 1-9. Program and registration information is available online at [parksonline.scgov.net](http://parksonline.scgov.net) or in the printed Summer Camp Guide that is available at any Sarasota County recreation center, library or county building. Financial assistance is available to qualifying Sarasota County residents for day and adventure camps. Payment plans are available to all registrants.

- Traditional day camps are offered in two 4-week sessions from June 8-July 2 and July 6-31 at Arlington Park, Bee Ridge Park, Colonial Oaks Park and Longwood Park in Sarasota and Woodmere Park in Venice. Elementary school students will take three field trips every week and participate in onsite activities that follow a weekly theme. The relaxed curriculum offers physical activity, creative arts, science and nature, values, safety and wellness, unstructured playtime and reading in a secure and fun environment.

Children may attend from as early as 7:30 a.m. to as late as 5:45 p.m. The \$320 fee includes all field trips and onsite activities. Field trips differ per session and include water parks, MOTE Marine, South Florida Museum, Bishop Planetarium, roller skating, bowling, Roaring 20's Pizza and Pipes, Chuck E. Cheese, G-WIZ and putt-putt golf.

- Adventure Camp for youth entering grades 6-9 is offered during the same two 4-week sessions at Colonial Oaks Park in Sarasota and Woodmere Park in Venice. Adventure campers can participate in challenging activities and four weekly field trips. The \$500 fee includes all field trips and onsite activities. Field trip locations differ per session and include theme parks, Tampa Bay Rays game, Lowry Park Zoo, MOSI, Gameworks, MOTE Marine, beach trips, bowling, roller skating, ice skating, fishing and canoeing.
- Specialty Camp allows children to focus on a favorite activity or to try something different. New this year is Nature Videography Camp, providing hands-on experience in videotaping nature and basic editing concepts under the direction

of award-winning videographer, Darryl Saffer. Additional new Specialty Camps include Advanced Environmental Camp at Turtle Beach, Chess Wizard Camp, Mad Science Camp with two new programs; Detective Science – CSI and Survival, Predators and Prey, Theme Park Camp, Advanced Video Gamer Camp, Let's Go Camping Camp, Bowling Camp and Dodgeball Camp.

- Specialty camps returning from previous years include Beach camp, Arts and Crafts Camp, beginner and advanced Chef Camp, Environmental Camp, Games Camp, Gymnastics Camp, Jr. Tennis/Swim Camp, Model Building Camp, Sculpting Camp, Skateboard Camp, beginner Video Gamer Camp, Water Sports Camp and WSLR Radio Camp.
- One-week mini camps are available in four weekly sessions, June 1-5, Aug. 3-7, Aug. 10-14 and Aug. 17-21 at various locations. All activities take place onsite and are included in the \$80 fee. Open gym programs are offered at the greatly reduced cost of \$11 per 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 from June 8 to July 31 in conjunction with the summer school schedule. Parents need to supply all personal care items. The \$420 fee includes all activities. There is also a one-week mini-camp from Aug. 3-7 at a cost of \$80.

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

For more information, visit [parksonline.scgov.net](http://parksonline.scgov.net), pick up a summer camp brochure at any recreation center, library or government building, or contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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