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Registration opens for Parks and Recreation Winter Camps

When school's out, camp's in! Register now for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation's Winter Vacation in the Park holiday break fun for kids or the Mad Science Camp at Colonial Oaks Park.

Winter Vacation in the Park camp offers caring, attentive staff to entertain children during the winter school break. Kids can enjoy lots of activities with a different theme each day creating holiday fun and take-homes.

- Monday, Dec. 21, is Reindeer Games - spend the day playing games with your friends including Wii Fit, obstacle course and more.
- Tuesday, Dec. 22, is Yuletide Yummies - holidays are filled with delicious memories; enjoy old-fashioned favorites & healthy choices.
- Wednesday, Dec. 23, enjoy Winter Wonderland - experience Florida "snow" including a snow storm, and snowball fight.
- Monday, Dec. 28, rock out during Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree - try your hand at the video game Rock Band and DDR, and create tropical bling.
- Tuesday, Dec. 29, is Arctic Adventures - this day will be filled with polar bears, penguins, whales and more. Uncover life in the cold.
- Wednesday, Dec. 30, is Tropical Travels - be a tourist at camp with a pancake breakfast, wacky photo contest, play Wii Resort and more.
- Thursday, Dec. 31, join in the New Year's Celebration - celebrate the New Year early with carnival games, make your own kazoo and more.

There is no camp on Dec. 24, 25 or Jan. 1.

Two half-day sessions are available each day; 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1-5:30 p.m. A supervised lunch hour is provided for children attending both daily sessions offered on Dec. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31. The cost is \$8 per session. Parents are responsible for supplying lunch, snacks and beverages.

The Mad Science Camps focus on fun and excitement while unlocking scientific mysteries in a safe, hands-on setting. A morning session and an afternoon session are offered from Dec. 28-31. A supervised lunch hour is provided for those attending both daily sessions. Pre-camp is available for those needing an early morning drop-off. Each session is \$115 or both for \$205. Pre-camp is \$8.

Predators & Prey is offered from 9 a.m.-noon. In this new nature camp, children learn how birds and beasts catch their prey without becoming someone else's lunch and be challenged to survive in our "Food Chain Survival" game. Discover what Mr. Owl had on his dinner plate during the famous owl pellet dissection, build a bird house to take home and make your own seed mixture to attract your favorite birds. In the Shutterbugs section, explore the use of light and make a working camera and a cool kaleidoscope with mirrors.

Body Works takes place from 1-4 p.m. Discover the wonder of your body by learning about cells and building your own take home model cell out of unique materials. Venture inward on a journey down the "Mad Science Organ Trail" as we explore all our organs and body systems. Create an organ apron and a model lung to take home. Finish with an introduction to some spectacular chemistry and utilize it to make your own brain goo to keep. Visit www.madscience.org/wstampabay for more information about Mad Science Camp.

Colonial Oaks Park is located at 5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd., Sarasota. A minimum number of registrants are required and spaces are limited, so register early and tell your friends. Register for both camps at www.parksonline.scgov.net or by calling 941-861-9870. For general information about Sarasota County parks, contact the Sarasota County Call Center 941-861-5000.

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