

Kermit summer camp draws more kids than ever before

by Daily News Staff
06.27.10 - 06:00 am



KERMIT - Kids in northern Mingo County may be limited when it comes to choices for summer activities that are organized, safe, and enriching. But that doesn't mean they'll have nothing to do, thanks to the annual summer camps that one local agency has offered for more than a decade now.

On June 21, ABLE Families, a Kermit-based nonprofit, opened its 2010 season of day camps for local kids. First up was a 5-day offering called CSI Camp, a fun and educational exploration of forensic science.

After CSI Camp, there are plenty more camps to keep kids busy. Week-long day camps to follow include Swim Camp,

Books Camp, Ecology Camp, Music Camp, and Chef Camp. Age levels of participants vary depending on the camp.

"Every one of our camps offers a creative mix of activities that are fun, educational, and healthy. That's an excellent combination for a great summer," said agency executive director Barry Hudock.

It's a combination that seems to work, because this year the agency received more registrations than ever before from local kids. Camps sizes have been expanded and an additional camp week has been added to accommodate as many kids as possible.

For the first time, Hudock said, ABLE Families has rented the Williamson Municipal Pool for two weeks rather than one. This will allow an additional forty children to participate in the popular Swim Camp. Along with lots of fun in the pool, participants will also get lessons in water safety, first aid, and plenty of exercise.

Along with CSI Camp, the Books Camp is a new theme this year. It was developed in collaboration with Donalyn Miller, a nationally-recognized expert in childhood literacy.

But the most popular offerings for several years running have been Swim Camp and Chef Camp, both of which are back this year. All camps are offered to local children completely free of charge. Much of the funding for the camps came this year from the

Congregation of St. Joseph, an order of Catholic sisters.

”The Sisters of St. Joseph founded ABLE Families to help children and families in northern Mingo County. Fifteen years later, they are clearly just as committed to the task. We owe these sisters a lot of thanks,” Hudock said.

© williamsondailynews.com 2010