



7/6/09 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photo Opportunity: Yes

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FREE FOOD & FUN FOR YOUTH IN SHUTE PARK THIS SUMMER

City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation and community partners are presenting the 4th year of The Outpost, the largest open summer food site in Oregon...

Hillsboro, Oregon – Children ages 1-18 are invited to saddle up and mosey on down to Shute Park this summer for The Outpost, a free summer drop-in lunch & activities program at Shute Park weekdays for eight weeks from June 22 through August 14, 2009, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm.

The Outpost is entering its fourth year of providing Hillsboro youth with a nutritious lunch and a fun, positive experience. From 10:30 am to 1:30 pm children can participate in art, sports, a daily Genentech Science Lab, reading, and other rotating activities provided by Hillsboro Parks & Recreation and various sponsors, partners and volunteers. From 12-12:30 pm youth are served a healthy lunch prepared by the Hillsboro School District's Nutrition Services and funded by the USDA Summer Food Program. Volunteers from Hillsboro's churches deliver and serve lunches to the youth.

"Hillsboro Parks & Recreation and our Outpost partners provide Hillsboro children with a safe and healthy place to come have fun, get exercise, eat a nutritious lunch, and learn valuable life skills," says Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Community Resources Manager Corinne Bloomfield, "These types of free programs are even more valuable in these tough economic times and we have already exceeded the record-breaking 300 youth served per day last year."

In its first two weeks of the 2009 season The Outpost has seen a significant increase in the number of youth it is serving. Around 200 children have participated in activities so far each day, and lunch has been served to as many as 500 per day.

The Outpost sports a fun "Wild West" theme overall, but each of the eight weeks also features a special weekly theme and involvement from various partners:

- **Week one (June 22 – 26):** Visit the Old West - sponsored by and with special activities from Hillsboro Police Department; Genentech Science Thursday: Pine cone bird feeders & nature science.
- **Week two (June 29 – July 3):** Americana – with special visits from the Hillsboro Fire Department; Genentech Science Thursday: Pop rockets and natural energy sources.
- **Week three (July 6 – 10):** Tie Dye – with a Friday special guest visit from the Oregon Zoo; Genentech Science Thursday: Tie dye/ink investigation and DNA fingerprinting.

- **Week four (July 13 – 17):** Bee Well – sponsored by and with special activities from Tuality Healthcare; Genentech Science Thursday: Components of blood and the human heart.
- **Week five (July 20 – 24):** African Safari – sponsored by Washington County Commission on Children & Families, with a rock wall and tumbling mats on July 20th from Metro Mountain Climbing and Kidnasium NW; Genentech Science Thursday: Nature science (snakes) and air-powered race cars.
- **Week six (July 27 - 31):** Fiesta – with Young Chef Academy teaching participants how to make a yummy dish; Genentech Science Thursday: Flubber/Polymer Science and germs.
- **Week seven (August 3 – 7):** Luau – with special activities and snacks from Trader Joes Hillsboro; Genentech Science Thursday: Ocean in a bottle and currents and convections.
- **Week eight (August 10 – 14):** Let's Go Camping! special camping activities; Genentech Science Thursday: Science identification and categorization and energy sources.

The Outpost also features four regular activities every week:

Monday Genentech Bubble Science with all-purpose and bouncy bubble solution to experiment with and recipes to take home.

Tuesday Reading Teepee with story time from the City of Hillsboro Library & Libros Outreach.

Water Wednesday with water play education and activities from the City of Hillsboro Water Department.

Genentech Science Thursday with educational and fun science projects funded by Genentech - ***New program to The Outpost this year!***

The Outpost 2009 sponsors and partners are Intel Involved, Genentech, Hillsboro Police Department, Tuality Healthcare, Washington County Commission on Children & Families, Hillsboro Fire Department, City of Hillsboro Water Department, City of Hillsboro Library & Libros Outreach, Soroptimists International of Hillsboro, Sonrise, Westport and Westside Community Churches of Hillsboro, Trader Joes Hillsboro, Metro Mountain Climbing and Kidnasium NW, Hillsboro School District Nutrition Services and Willamette Writers.

The Outpost started in 2006 as a partnership between the City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Department, the Washington County Commission on Children & Families, Sonrise, Mosaic and Vineyard Churches of Hillsboro, and the Hillsboro School District. The program is one of the largest summer food sites in Oregon and has grown from serving around 60 children per day to serving well over 300 per day.

For more information on The Outpost or other Hillsboro Parks & Recreation programs or offerings call 503-681-6120 or visit www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/ParksRec.

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