

Las Sendas Up Close

Bringing neighbors closer to their community

June 2011

Camp Invention Helps Kids Explore Planet ZAK

By AnnElise Makin

Mesa Public Schools brings Camp Invention to Las Sendas Elementary School this summer for children in grades one through six, and it's a real thrill!

The weeklong program immerses children in creativity and imaginative play, reinforcing school-year learning in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and other fields—without them noticing the learning part. Children will work together to seek innovative solutions to real-world problems. Using teamwork and creative problem solving, they will rotate through five learning modules disguised as nothing but fun.

In *Problem Solving on Planet ZAK*, children will crash-land on an alien planet. There, they collect important data about its environment to help them design sturdy shelters and robust spacesuits to survive the planet's harsh living conditions. In another scenario, *Saving Sludge City™*, children

are called to explore green city design and create an eco-friendly infrastructure of pollution-free water filtration systems, environmentally sound landfills, safe waste disposal systems and transportation powered by renewable resources.

The *Imagination Point: Ride Physics™* module leads children to investigate the science behind thrill rides. Young scientists jazz up Newton's Laws of Motion (inertia, momentum and centripetal force)

with homemade race carts and such. In the *Game On: Power Play™* module, students get to use nontraditional equipment—think water balloons—to add their own twists to classic games.

Finally, a participant favorite, children will be introduced to tool safety when they take apart a discarded household appliance, and use its pieces and parts to invent a working, multi-step machine in *I Can Invent: Edison's Workshop*.

Local educators will facilitate Camp Invention program modules. Enthusiastic high school and college students will serve as program counselors. This approach ensures one staff member is in place for every eight children. ■

Camp Invention CREATE begins on June 13. Debbie Allen, a teacher with the Extended Learning Program, directs the program at Las Sendas Elementary School. The cost is \$215, but discounts apply if you bring a friend or sibling. Registration includes a free Camp Invention T-shirt. Availability is limited, so visit www.campinvention.org, or call (800) 968-4332 to reserve a spot today!



PIRATES ENJOY WATER FUN ON THE SALT RIVER

Submitted by Salt River Tubing

Tonto National Forest, 98 KUPD radio and Salt River Tubing are hosts for the fourth annual National Get Outdoors Day (GO DAY) event on Saturday, June 11, from 8 to 11 a.m.

Prime goals of the event will be reaching first-time visitors to public lands and reconnecting our youth to the great outdoors. Open to the public, the event will provide a diverse offering of educational and recreational exhibits. These exhibits seek out healthy, active outdoor lives and embrace our parks, forests, refuges and other public lands and waters.

The National Get Outdoors Day event has resulted in sold-out crowds the past three years. Salt River Tubing is located in Northeast Mesa (Power Road and Usery Pass) in Tonto National Forest.

YO-HO-HO AND A BOTTLE OF WATER

Ahoy, ye buccaneers! Salt River Tubing officials will offer \$5 tube rental discount coupons and free pirate bandanas to the first 500 participants who complete the exhibit tour during National Get Outdoors Day. The company also will award free tubing passes to participants throughout the event for the best pirate costumes.

Buccaneers will be introduced to a diverse offering of

educational and recreational exhibits, which provide activities in our parks, forests, refuges and other public lands and waters. Attendees can join in the

pirate-themed merriment as pirate-costumed Salt River Tubing employees and pirate warships (shuttle buses) ferry the Salt River pirates to and from the river. Salt River Tubing's infamous pirate line dancers also will be performing hourly during the event.

Please visit www.saltrivertubing.com for event details or the National Get Outdoors Day Web site at www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org. Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day with a splash and extra sizzle at Pirates on the Salt River.

Daily operating hours are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The cost of tube rental is \$15 per person/tube, which includes inner tube rental, free parking and shuttle bus service. Children must be 8 years or older and at least 4 feet tall for tube rental and shuttle bus service.

Salt River Tubing is located in Northeast Mesa on Power Road, 15 miles north of U.S. Highway 60 East in Tonto National Forest, or seven miles from the 202 East on Power Road. ■

For more information about Salt River Tubing, please visit the Web site at www.saltrivertubing.com, or call (480) 984-3305.



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