

Day campers find great outdoors in city

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It's like experiencing the great out-of-doors without going too far from home.

That's the appeal for many of the day-camping programs offered through the Farmington Hills Recreation Department.

"We've found that the camping programs fill up pretty well," said Andy Lang, recreation director.

The camp programs, which are designed for children of different age groups, are both educational and recreational, and are tailored to the children involved.

"There are some working parents who like this because they can have their kids at camp and use extended care (which is offered)," he said. "That way they can go to work without having to break up their day."

About 1,000 kids go through the camping programs each year, Lang said. The programs begin June 19 and run through Aug. 11.

With the Day Camp Center at Heritage Park and space at the Farmington Hills Activities Center, the program has expanded.

And for parents who want to get a flavor of the outdoor life, with their kids, there is an overnight camping experience offered as well.

"They have tents, cook out and then have breakfast the next morning," Lang said. "It's like being up north. But if anything goes wrong, they're close to home."

A lot of people like the idea of the day camp, because it serves as a training experience for campers who will later try more primitive



Bull's eye! Day camping in Farmington Hills hits the mark for about 1,000 kids during the summer months.

or isolated camping far away from Farmington Hills, Lang said. The programs include Camp Com-On-A-Wonna, for ages 9-12; Camp All-U-Wonna, for ages 6-8; and Nature's Way Day Camp, for ages 6-12.

Camp Com-On-A-Wonna runs by the week from June 19 to Aug. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Heritage Park and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays. The fee is \$70 per person except for the short-

ened July 4th week (\$56). Campers will explore animal and plant life, insects and geology, learn camp crafts, nature lore, sports, archery, and have campfire programs and field trips.

Camp All-U-Wonna introduces campers to the outdoors and features plant and animal life exploration, crafts, archery, sports and special activities. The cost is \$56 per person for the week of July 3 and \$70 per person for the week of

July 31 to Aug. 4.

The Nature's Way Day Camp runs from June 19 to Aug. 11, features aquarium stocking, identifying trees and flowers, orienteering, archery and animal tracking along with an overnight campout.

There are other specialized camps and extended child care at both Heritage Park and the Farmington Hills Activities Center.

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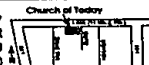
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