

Adventure adornment: With the help of Anne McDavid of America's Adventure (left), Waterford resident Alexa Johnson, 10, tries on a rock climbing hat at the 1997 Michigan Camp and Activities Fair. Thousands of families showed up for the afternoon event.



Furry friend: Bloomfield Hills residents Heather Whitney, 7, (above) and her father Ron take note of a goat. Marshall Lee, 11, (left) of Birmingham looks over a YMCA visual display.



Sporting opportunities: Kristin Halladay, 11, of Rochester Hills checks out sports camps offered by Manitou-Wabing Sports/Arts with her father Patrick.

Campers check out options

By JENNIFER PLACINTO
STAFF WRITER

It was just as busy, but cutting out the registration process and adjusting the traffic flow helped make the search for a summer camp a little easier for 4,000 people Sunday.

The 1997 Michigan Camp and Activities Fair, held at Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills March 2, featured 85 summer camps from around the country and in Canada. The free event allowed parents and children to get information about various camps before making their summer selections.

Co-sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, PASS Sports and Metro-PARENT Magazine, "Super Summers for Kids" was organized by the Detroit-based Merrill-Palmer Institute/Wayne State University.

"I think that it must be so needed because the number that came," said Bloomfield Hills resident Sandy Schwartz,

Merrill-Palmer's special events coordinator. "They're coming from everywhere."

The fair featured a variety of overnight and day camps for children ages 3 to 18. Opportunities were also available for high school and college students, ages 16 and up, to work at the camps.

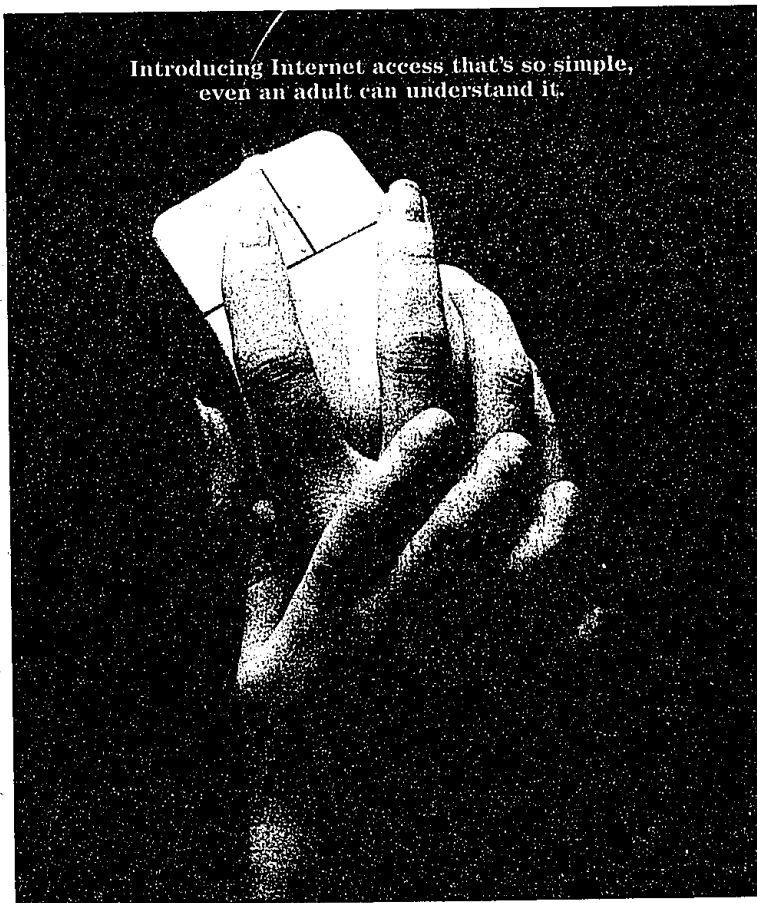
Each family received a free book filled with camp listings and information from the individual camps. Parents had the option of registering their children at the event or at a later time.

"We were thrilled," Schwartz said, adding that interest was so high the Institute had to turn away 40 camps from the eighth annual event. "A lot of camps were very pleased and thought they had a lot of terrific prospects."

It's not too late for parents or students who missed the event. For a fee of \$6, individuals can receive a copy of the Camp Fair book. Help from Merrill-Palmer organizers is also available. For more information call (313) 872-1790.

Photos
by Bill
Hansen

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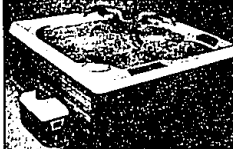
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