



Brevard County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff J.R. "Jack" Parker

700 Park Ave.

Titusville, Florida 32780

www.BrevardSheriff.com

News Release



2007 Sheriff's Summer Youth "Camp Chance"



Campers visit with Sheriff's mascot "Deputy Courage" on the new dock at Camp Chance.



Camper tests his new skills in archery at Camp Chance.

This year's Sheriff's Summer Camp Chance was a great success. Camp Chance is a summer program with 6 weekly camps for children who are "at risk" due to their economic back ground, the environment they live in or children who are abused, abandoned or neglected. The term "at risk" includes children who live ordinary lives but face the temptations society and peers sometimes place on them. Camp Chance is designed to teach respect, team building, increase self esteem, promote drug and alcohol free living and most importantly show them there are people who care and places to turn when things aren't always looking bright. The goal of the program is to make a positive difference in the lives of young people.

Camp Chance hosted 278 children this summer, giving them an experience they will remember forever. Camp Chance is the perfect prescription for kids that need a caring, understanding, and fun-loving environment. Going to camp changes kids in many ways. They learn to feel good about themselves, respect those around them, respect their environment, and gain self-confidence. Camp Chance provides youth with a diversity of educational and physically challenging activities. From the Brevard Community College's Planetarium to Rock Climbing, this year's campers were engaged from the start.

One of the highlights of Camp Chance this summer was the Archery Program. The Brevard County Extension 4-H Office instructed the campers on archery. Archery techniques teach the children self-discipline, boosted their confidence, and enhanced the old adage that practice makes perfect. The feeling of hitting the target energized the youth to achieve greater goals and gave them the motivation to keep trying harder.

Another highlight of the camp is our rock-climbing wall provided by “On The Edge Rock Climbing” in Melbourne. Each week, their staff brought the portable climbing wall to our camp and the youth climbed for hours. Many of the children would begin with the easier level and by the end of the session; they mastered the hardest level available. The greatest accomplishment of the summer is when a young camper told staff he was afraid of heights, but wanted to try it. When he climbed to the top, the young camper screamed with joy, “I made it!” That young camper will never forget his experience.

The sheriff’s deputies, police officers, corrections officers, and civilian volunteers that worked Camp Chance each week are the true leaders that made a difference in these children’s lives. They played basketball and football, fished and canoed, did arts and crafts, and most importantly, they talked to these kids about overcoming challenges in life.

Sheriff Jack Parker stated, *“It is wonderful to see our Deputies having such a positive impact on these young lives.”*

For additional information on Camp Chance and answers to frequently asked questions, we encourage you to visit our website www.BrevardSheriff.com and click on the “Sheriff’s Youth Programs” icon listed on the right side of our Home Page.

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