Summer youth camps are fun and educational

Summer is a time of fun for kids, and parents prefer youth programs that provide enriching experiences for their children. Finding an educational day or overnight program for your child is simple. The University hosts or co-sponsors a wide variety of summer youth camp programs and other family-centered activities. Here’s a list of top northern Nevada summer camps and summer activities for children and families.

**SUMMER CAMPS**

**Child and Family Research Center Summer Day Camp**
The summer day camp program is a full-day, full-week program for children ages 5 – 10 (5-year-olds must have completed kindergarten.) Activities include swimming, movies, crafts and field trips. The program begins June 13 and ends Aug. 26, and is held at the University of Nevada, Reno's 11th Street site. Space is limited. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Contact: (775) 784-6762 or visit www.unr.edu/educ/cfrc.

**Engineering Summer Camps**
These fun camps encourage students, ages 12 – 17, to explore engineering through hands-on lessons, activities, lab experiments, and field trips. Three Intro to Engineering Camps, ages 12 – 14, are offered, along with a Civil Engineering Camp and a Computer Science Camp, both for students 13 – 17. Minority and females are encouraged to participate! Scholarships and financial assistance are available. Contact Debbie DeLauer at ddelauer@unr.edu.

**Girls Math and Technology Camp**
This program seeks to improve girls’ abilities and dispositions in math and technology. A one-week, overnight summer camp in July is for girls who will enter the 7th or 8th grade the following fall. Scholarships are available to girls in financial need. Contact (775) 682-7849 or unrmathcamp@gmail.com.

**Global Kids**
Global Kids is a day camp for grades 1 – 6 run by the Northern Nevada International Center on the Reno campus in June. Children will explore the language, foods, stories, history, art, sports, music, and dance of Nevada’s Native Americans and different continents through hands-on activities, visits from special guests, and field trips. Contact Carina Black, (775) 784-7515 ext. 221 or nnic@unr.edu.

**Great Basin Naturalists Summer Day Camp**
Give your kids a ticket to outdoor adventure this summer at Great Basin Naturalists Summer Day Camp in Galena Creek Regional Park and Recreation Area. Trained counselors will guide children ages 8 – 12 as they discover local flora, fauna, geology and cultural history of the Galena Canyon area and the region. Activities include hands-on programs and games, hikes, guided activities, field trips and special guest speakers. This camp is based out of the new Galena Creek Visitor Center. Contact: Stefanie Gavens, (775) 849-4948 or sgivens@GBInstitute.org or visit www.thegreatbasininstitute.org.
KIDS University
Extended Studies helps the University play host to thousands of youths in grades 2 – 8. KIDS University holds seven themed weeks during June and July, including sessions in music, language, the arts, math, science, humanities, sports and games. Contact: Extended Studies, (775) 784-4046, or visit www.extendedstudies.unr.edu.

Nevada Boys State
American Legion Nevada Boys’ State provides training in leadership and citizenship for America’s most promising youth. The one-week program June 10 – 16 provides a unique summertime educational experience focusing on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. Contact: (888) 646-6594, info@nevadaboysstate.org or visit www.nevadaboysstate.org.

Reading and Writing Tutoring
Located in the William J. Raggio Building on campus, the E.L. Cord Foundation Center for Learning and Literacy provides literacy tutoring and enrichment for children in the summer months. The center tutors children in grades 1-6 who have difficulties learning to read, write and spell. Children are tutored in small groups with an emphasis on developmental instruction and providing positive learning experiences. Contact: The center, (775) 682-5522, or Judy Otteson, (775) 784-1161.

Summer of Discovery
Hosted by the School of Medicine and Nevada Area Health Education Center, this one-week day camp provides 36 Nevada high school students currently in grades 8 through 10 the chance to become excited about science. Students spend their time participating in inquiry-based, group activities in science; designing experiments to test hypotheses; and learning about successful scientists. 775.682.5744, July 30 – Aug. 4 on campus. Contact: Cory Martin, (775) 738-3828, Andrea Gibbins, (775) 682-5744, or visit www.medicine.nevada.edu/dept/k_12/hs_sod.htm.

THINK Summer Institute
Gifted students interested in a challenging academic summer program should attend the THINK Summer Institute on campus. This intense, three-week residential summer program offers exceptionally gifted 13- to 16-year-old students the opportunity to earn six transferable college credits. Contact: (775) 852-3483 ext. 6, THINK@davidsongifted.org or visit www.davidsongifted.org/THINK.

Wolf Pack Sports Camps
Nevada Wolf Pack Athletics and Extended Studies offer day and overnight sports camps for boys and girls with all levels of experience, including elementary school students, middle and high school players and teams, and budding young athletes in such sports as football, basketball, baseball, golf, softball, soccer and volleyball. Contact: Extended Studies, (775) 784-4046, or visit the Athletics department web page: www.nevadawolfpack.com.

(1) KIDS University Health Care Heroes Camp, (2) KIDS University Website Development Camp, (3) Girls Math Camp, (4) KIDS University Robotics Camp, (5) Engineering Summer Camp, (6) Wolf Pack Football Camp, (7) KIDS University Fabric for Life Camp, (8) THINK Summer Institute, (9) KIDS University Hip Hop Hooray Dance Camp and (10) KIDS University Scrapbooking Camp.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Dean’s Future Scholars
This innovative program gives hope to low-income youth who show a great potential for college success. The program helps dedicated students graduate from high school and attend college to become teachers. Students are selected in 6th grade. Tutored by talented University students, middle school students attend a three-week session that introduces them to college life. High school students earn high school math credits during a six-week program. Advanced high school students earn six college credits and have a paid internship on campus, funded by NevadaWorks. Contact Bob Edgington, (775) 784-4237, bobdfs@unr.edu, or visit www.unr.edu/educ/dfs.

Upward Bound
Upward Bound is a federally funded, year-round college preparatory program serving 175 first-generation, college-bound, income-qualified high school students from nine target high schools in Washoe, Lyon, and Douglas Counties. During the academic year, participants attend weekly advising and tutoring sessions, monthly Saturday workshops on college application, test preparation, career choices, study skills, time management, financial literacy, financial aid, and participate in community service, educational and cultural enrichment activities. Each summer, participants enrolled in the program attend a six-week Summer Academy on the University campus with six hours daily of classes in math, science, English, social studies, foreign languages and electives, earning credit toward high school graduation. Some of the Summer Academy participants live in a residence hall on campus during all or part of the six-week program. Contact Elza Major, (775) 784-4978, emajor@unr.edu, or visit www.unr.edu/upward-bound.

4-H SUMMER CAMPS
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension offers summer camping opportunities for 4-H and other youth from all over the state at the beautiful State 4-H camp on 32 shoreline acres on the south shore of Lake Tahoe. Nevada 4-H also offers such summer programs as Discover Your Future, which takes place at the University’s Reno campus and gives students a chance to experience life on campus by living in dorms, eating in the cafeteria and visiting participating colleges to find out more about academics.

Campers with Disabilities
Camp MDA
Camp MDA: Firefighters from Reno and Las Vegas set aside a week to spend at the Nevada State 4-H Camp with youth with muscular dystrophy. They provide campers with fantastic experiences: wheelchair races, eating contests, swimming and boating in Lake Tahoe, as well as the annual waterfight between the kids and the firefighters! The week-long, overnight camp will be held Aug. 15 – 21. Contact: (775) 333-6789, toll-free (866) 279-4754, or mda.org.

Lake Tahoe Music Camp
The Nevada 4-H camp on the shores of Lake Tahoe is the site of Lake Tahoe Music Camp, directed by University music associate professor Andy Heglund and some of the finest music educators in their fields. The camp hosts nearly 200 young musicians for a week of music activities, clinics and concerts. Contact: Chris Money at Extended Studies, (775) 784-4046, cmoney@unr.edu or visit www.unr.edu/ltmc.

Nevada Girls State
Nevada Girls State is a weeklong, fast-paced, leadership program in a camp setting, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nevada and the University of Nevada, Reno. Throughout the week the delegates learn about the various elected and appointed offices on the city, county, and state level, and they run for election. They learn to write legislation and participate in a mock legislative session at the end of the week. This year’s session will be July 1 – 7. Contact: Daela Gibson, nevadagirlsstate@gmail.com, or visit www.nevadagirlsstate.net.
Nevada Youth Range Camp
This overnight camp from June 17 - 23 at Big Creek Campground in the Toiyabe Mountains lets 14-18-year-olds learn from range management professionals. Students learn basic surveying and map reading, identification and importance of rangeland plants, evaluation of sagebrush and woodland ecosystems, wildlife surveying techniques and evaluation of stream health. Contact: Jim Gatzke (775) 726-3101 ext. 103, james.gatzke@nv.usda.gov, or visit http://nevada.rangelands.org/RangeCamp.html.

Retreats and Conferences
Many groups use the Nevada State 4-H Camp for leadership retreats where they can spend a weekend or longer learning, working and celebrating. The camp can provide directors with innovative ideas and challenging outdoor experiences. The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension 4-H Camp is available for rental year round. Day use is permitted between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Overnight use includes use of cabins as well as all other 4-H Camp facilities. For more information about the Nevada 4-H camp, visit www.unce.unr.edu/4H/camp.

Youth Education and Leadership Camps
During the months of July and August, 4-H youth leadership development camps take place where team building, communication skills, and safety and awareness are taught. Camps include the Western Area 4-H Camp, the Central Area 4-H Camp and the Southern 4-H Camp. Other groups that also hold summer camps on the 4-H campgrounds include: Camp Winnaribbun, Girl Scouts, ASUN and University of Nevada, Reno Prospective Students.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center
A fixture on the University’s Reno campus for nearly 50 years, Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center welcomes community members of all ages with its spectacular star shows and SkyDome feature films in the Star Theater. It also offers weekly morning preschool activities, sky talks, free interactive museum exhibitions and an outdoor observatory. Contact: Dan Ruby, (775) 784-4812, dannyruby@unr.edu or visit www.planetarium.unr.edu.

Movies at the Joe
The Joe Crowley Student Union on campus offers many activities open to the public, including free movies on the lawn outside the The Joe. For more information, call the student union’s information desk, (775) 784-6505, or visit www.unr.edu/studentunion.

Nevada Humanities Chautauqua
Nevada Humanities Chautauqua is an annual living history festival in which scholars, in costume and in character, bring historical figures to life. Chautauqua programs provide dramatic insights into the people and events that have shaped our nation and the world, and also provide a historical lens for looking at contemporary issues. The 2011 Nevada Humanities Chautauqua takes place June 26 - 30 at the Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater, Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno. This year’s event celebrates the 20th anniversary of Chautauqua in Nevada, and features such characters as Meriwether Lewis and Henry VIII. Contact: Nevada Humanities, 775) 784-6587 , or visit nevadahumanities.org.

Summer Concerts and Watermelon on the Quad
Voted one of Reno Gazette-Journal’s “Best Family Outings”—free Watermelon Wednesday concerts on the Quad are fun for all ages. Bring a blanket and join the fun from 6 to 8 p.m. on July 11, 18 and 25, and Aug. 1, 8 and 15. Co-sponsored by Summer Session and the Nevada Alumni Association. Contact: Summer Session office, (775) 784-4652, summersession@unr.edu or visit www.summersession.unr.edu.