



YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES CAMP

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YES CAMP FOR 2014 IS NEW AND EXCITING.

YES Camp for 2012 provided a major step forward in activities and curriculum. It was perhaps the most academically and physically challenging in several years. With the addition of the CERT Program requirements, and more training in first aid, there was hardly an idle moment. The campers who completed the program should be very proud of their accomplishments. One of the graduates completed the volunteer firefighter academy during his Senior year in high school. That is true dedication.

There was no YES Camp held in 2013 because adequate facilities were not available during non-school times. This year, all schools will be closed. This year at YES Camp there will be a number of changes to the program which will provide each camper with very special skills not usually provided in any youth emergency services programs. The application process has been changed so that the camper can start getting ready before the camp begins. More classes and activities have been included which will greatly benefit the camper, the camper's family and indeed, the camper's community.

YES Camp is aware that the schedule conflicts with some school sessions in past years, and that has been addressed with the late summer date. If there is still a conflict, try this approach with your school district: Several campers have made arrangements with their schools in the past to attend camp as part of an INDEPENDENT STUDY program. Since there are written and performance examinations during the camp, it fits in well with school requirements. The school itself still qualifies for its ADA funding. Athletes should contact their coaches to see if YES Camp can enhance your special requirements.

Since its inception, YES Camp has included many of the subjects offered by several disaster preparedness and response organizations. Many of the YES Camp presentations meet or exceeded qualification requirements, so it only seemed logical to add a subject or two that would completely qualify the campers in another nationally recognized program. With the assistance and provision of resources from other non-profit organizations, YES Camp will be able to certify each camper in the nation-wide program known as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Many of the skills called for in the CERT program are already offered in YES Camp. Others are being added to satisfy all CERT teaching points. This program is uniquely presented here, but applies anywhere CERT is recognized (throughout the United States). The CERT program is offered by some schools as a "For Credit" course. The curriculum was developed for FEMA by a major university.

The YES Camp First Aid and CPR program has always exceeded minimum requirements for certification through the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, and other recognized standards. We have added sections peculiar to the Boy Scouts and other

organizations. Our program has been reviewed by the County Emergency Medical Services authority which also offers certification. The testing and performance standards have always been high. This enhancement course will better prepare the campers for the tough rural conditions in which they live, or during a major disaster when medical and fire services will be overtaxed and they will have to be ready to care for a patient under less than ideal conditions.

Fire is an ever present danger no matter where you are. YES Camp has provided training in prevention and suppression every year. We include training in the use of hand tools to enhance the fire fighting portion of the activities. We also provide an introduction to various rescue techniques to include the use of a Hearst Tool, or "Jaws of Life". Last year, a cribbing activity was added that teaches campers how to move a heavy object off a victim enough to remove them from that danger. These activities all require team work - something that is emphasized throughout the program.

Law Enforcement will continue to emphasize teamwork through the use of traffic stops, building searches and crises intervention. The drug awareness sessions give the campers an opportunity to learn about the effects of drugs and lets them go nose to nose with law enforcement officers about problems they have seen, or get answers to questions they have not been able to ask in the past.

Swimming! Ah, yes. A great deal of fun and in very high demand by the campers (after all, it is Summer camp). YES Camp does not teach swimming. It is a skill every person should have - dog paddle does not count. The ability to stay on the surface and go quickly from one point to another is an essential skill to everyone. Interestingly, in the past, all but one camper stated that he/ she could swim on the application (swimming is not a requirement for this camp). The first thing the campers have to do when they go to the lake is take a swimming test. Less than half the campers who said they could swim passed the beginners test and were restricted to shallower waters. Impromptu lessons were offered by the lifeguards during the short time they had in the water. It is highly recommended that everyone take swimming lessons. The application this year is a little more specific.

This year is going to be very busy and unlike previous years, in many ways. The graduation day contests will actually be performance test for individuals and their teams and will conclude the CERT program. At the end of the week, the campers, counselors, instructors and staff will be exhausted but the lessons learned and the memories made will last a lifetime.

Parents and sponsors are encouraged to watch the Saturday competitions which start at 9:00 am (0900).

Please watch the video. It shows YES Camp far better than words can describe.

Hope to see you at YES Camp.

RICHARD C. PAIGE, Director