

Emerald Youth Camp delivers fun, new experiences

Alexis, 10, had never been fishing before. But by her third day in Emerald Youth Foundation's annual Camp Week, she had spent happy hours with a pole in Fort Loudon Lake and caught four fish.

Justin, age 8, did more than learn bike safety rules and how to adjust his bike and helmet during Emerald Youth Camp Week. He also rode greenway trails across Knoxville and pedaled to a picnic at World's Fair Park.

Teiana, 8, served as mayor of Knoxville at Junior Achievement BizTown. She gave a live television interview that was broadcast throughout the camp.

Caden, age 11, made "blubber" insulation for his hands with shortening during Emerald Youth Camp Week. The science experiment, conducted before plunging his hands into ice water, was a rousing success. The wonderfully gooey shortening blocked the chill. "I barely felt the cold at all," he said.

The occasion was Emerald Youth Camp Week, sponsored June 16-20 by Variety of Eastern Tennessee. About 225 urban children attended the camps Monday through Thursday and concluded the week with a Friday trip to the Knoxville Zoo.

The 11 camps, which included Outdoor Adventures, Cooking, Gardening, Biking, Science and Cheering, were located at sites including Lenoir City Park, New Harvest Park, Safety City, Junior Achievement BizTown in Clinton, and a host of local churches.

The children also spent a fun-filled day at the Knoxville Zoo compliments of Variety. Each child received a T-shirt, lunch, a carousel ride and spending money.

"We look forward to this event all year," said Carol Fusco, executive director of Variety of Eastern Tennessee,



Knoxville Zoo's Erica Coffey shows off a rubber python named Buttercup to Jada Brawner, age 10.



Fulton High School volleyball coach Molly Conaway instructs Kesean Tate, age 10, during All-American Sports Camp.

see, which has sponsored camp week and the zoo trip for the last several years. "We like just seeing the faces of the children. Plus, we enjoy watching them grow up."

Emerald Youth Camp Week is a pull-the-stops-out festival of fun for all involved. This year, with the help of local health and fitness professionals, it also emphasized good lifestyle choices and plenty of physical activity.

A case in point was the hugely popular All-American Sports Camp, which offered expert coaching and

playing time in volleyball, basketball and soccer, plus a range of gym activities.

Twin brothers Yair and Jonathan, age 9, loved sports camp. "It was really fun," Yair said.

Other groups making camp week possible were the Coalition Against Childhood Obesity, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Fulton High School Athletics, city of Knoxville Parks and Recreation, Knox County Parks and Recreation, Premier Athletics, Youth Spiritual Outdoor Adventures and Knoxville Force.



Baptist Center keeps students sharp over summer

At the Western Heights Baptist Center this summer, about 100 youth in grades K-12 are receiving academic enrichment through Emerald Youth's JustLead ministry. Natalie Myers, coordinator of youth programs, is pictured helping Isabella Perry in the computer lab with Odyssey, an online learning program. Elementary school children participate in regular science, math and reading activities. High school students participate in job skills and college preparatory training.

Choice of principal is the next big step for Emerald Academy

Preparations are underway for the August 2015 launch of Emerald Academy, a public charter school originally proposed by Emerald Youth Foundation for inner city children and approved June 10 by the Knox County Board of Education.

Emerald Charter Schools, a separate, non-profit formed to manage Emerald Academy, is now in the process of hiring a principal. Deadline for submission of applications for the position was June 20.

"We anticipate announcing the principal for Emerald Academy by late summer," said Steve Diggs, president of Emerald Charter Schools' board. He said student recruitment and outreach by the school would begin as early as this fall.

Emerald Academy will open with 120 students (that it calls "scholars") in kindergarten and first grade, and will grow to 540 scholars in grades K-8 in the 2019-2020 school year.

"We are excited at the potential of this school to help young people make a real difference in their lives. We believe it is possible to greatly increase the number of Knoxville students who graduate eighth grade well-prepared for high school and the college of their choice," Diggs said.

The development of Emerald Academy

will be the primary focus of this new principal. As founding principal, he or she will have to help create the culture of the new school as well as overseeing its operation.

Based on the Breakthrough Schools of Cleveland, Ohio, whose mostly minority and low income students "significantly" outperformed Ohio public school students on academic tests at every grade level, Emerald Academy already has its own pillars for success. They are: academic excellence, effective teaching, a highly relational culture grounded in high expectations, and robust parent and community engagement.

Emerald Academy will be diverse and open to application by any Knoxville student. Its scholar population will mirror Knoxville's urban student demographics. That includes:

- 47 percent African-American, 41 percent Caucasian, and 12 percent Latino;
- 16 percent with disabilities;
- 10 percent English language learners; and
- 87 percent who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

For information on Emerald Academy, visit www.emeraldcharterschools.org.



The Emerald Youth Choir performed at the Holston Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

City youth perform at United Methodist conference, enjoy Carowinds

About 63 elementary and middle school members of the Emerald Youth Choir traveled to Lake Junaluska, N.C., June 10 to perform at the Holston Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

About 2,000 United Methodists representing 887 churches attended the conference. The young people sang at a service honoring retired pastors and then enjoyed swimming and lunch. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor congratulated them on doing a great job.

In another event June 14, about 50 Emerald Youth middle school students enjoyed a fun packed day trip to Carowinds "Rock the Park" in Charlotte, N.C. They enjoyed water park features and some of the best roller coasters in the Southeast during the day.

At 7 p.m. they enjoyed concerts by Christian performers LeCrae, Third Day and Jamie Grace. The group returned by us, arriving home at 3 a.m. "There were lots of tired, smiling faces. It's the mark of a great trip," said Emerald Youth staff member Kent Stanger.

LOOK for us ... now on Wednesdays!

NORTH

7049 Maynardville Hwy.
Knoxville, TN 37918
865.922.4136 • FAX 865.922.5275

WEST

10512 Lexington Dr., Ste. 500
Knoxville, TN 37932
865.218.WEST (218.9378) • FAX 865.342.6628

www.ShopperNewsNow.com
news@ShopperNewsNow.com
ads@ShopperNewsNow.com

New classified advertising
deadline is 3p.m. Fridays.

