

Rockin' it Outdoors Summer 4-H Day Camp

About 30 kids ranging in ages from 8 to 13 had a great week this summer thanks to April Butler, Highlands County 4-H Director, many volunteers and staff from the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District. From July 6th through July 10th, the youths had a chance to experience all kinds of adventures.

The camp started off with a nature walk through the Sun 'N Lake Preserve where the kids were taken on a guided tour through the forest. The kids learned about the different plant communities and the flora and fauna that reside there. They also learned about the importance of fire and many other interesting facts about the environment. The walk also included identification of animal tracks and a scavenger hunt. After the long, hot and muddy trek through the woods, the youths were ready to splash in the Sebring High School pool.

Tuesday was not only educational for the youths, but lots of fun. Competition was fierce in the Survivor's Challenge. The group visited Bishop Park in Lake Placid where they canoed, fished, dip netted and swam. The challenge was a combination of all these skills and the winners each received a fishing pole as a prize.

A visit to Butler Oaks Farm kept the group busy on Wednesday. They learned about dairies and cows and where our milk comes from. They also visited Wrede's Wildlife Center where they watched an owl, who had been hurt and was healed up, being released back into the wild.

Thursday was time to kick back a little bit and work on arts and crafts. They also got to watch a movie and put on the skits that they rehearsed for all week.

The busy week ended with a trip to Blizzard Beach in Orlando, where the kids had a chance to run, play and get wet. All in all it was a great week for both the kids and adults who pitched in to make the camp a success.

After all the festivities were over, an awards ceremony was held and many awards were handed out to 4-Hers, Councilors in Training, volunteers and others who worked so hard to make the camp the success it was.

Special thanks to all the sponsors of the event; Butler Oaks Farm, Highlands County 4-H Foundation, Highlands County Lakes Association, Highlands County Parks and Recreation, Rose Show Supplies & Custom Embroidery, Wrede's Wildlife Center, Happiness Farms, Inc. Highlands County Earth Team, Highlands County Master Gardeners, Highlands County Soil and Water Conservation District and South Florida Water Management District. The camp couldn't happen without you folks.

It is the hope of all of us at HSWCD that the kids had a great time. If you are interested in being involved in future summer camps, watch for the advertisements next year. Each year just keeps getting better!