



BRYAN COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT SUMMER CAMPS OFFER GREAT OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

BRYAN COUNTY, GA – May 7, 2018 – Bryan County is doing its part to ensure area children have an enjoyable summer and families have a reliable resource when it comes to quality care and recreational offerings.

The Recreation Department's well-established South Bryan summer day camp will once again run May 29-July 30, at the recreation gym on Timber Trail. And the North Bryan camp, which the county rolled out last year under a trial basis, is slated to host children from June 4-July 27 at Hendrix gym.

The North Bryan camp is still a fairly new addition, but Recreation Department Director Dr. Samose Mays said it's proven successful with local families, so plans are in the works to expand the operation so that it mirrors the South End camp.

The North Bryan camp was just introduced last year and is developing. It originally ran from 9 a.m.-noon and was centered around the county's pre-existing free summer lunch program, which is run by Family Connection and provides a free, nutritious lunch to children at various distribution locations. Last year's format was largely a "drop and play" opportunity, allowing parents to drop off their children for three hours so they could enjoy a few hours of fun, physical activities and games. The session ended with lunch.

After last year's camp attracted more young residents than expected, Mays knew he wanted to add more activities and increase the operating hours. So, this year's camp – while still in the trial phase – will offer attendees a bit more structure and more time to enjoy themselves.

Campers begin their day at 9 a.m. and have a plethora of activities to enjoy. Currently, the north end camp will feature arts and crafts, movies, sidewalk chalk art, water days, and a multitude of athletic offerings, such as kickball, basketball, volleyball and baseball. The camp will be held at Hendrix Gym, and it runs Monday through Friday until 3 p.m. Like last year's camp, it is still free to Bryan County residents and will include lunch.

The program can accommodate up to 60 campers a week and will be run by 10-12 staffers. Parents and guardians can register their children, ages 7-13 only, starting May 21 by visiting www.bryancountyga.com.

"We're excited to offer this program to our North Bryan families," Mays said. "The goal ultimately is to develop it into a full-fledged camp like the one on the south end. So this year, though we're still testing it out, we've extended camp operating hours from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., added more activities and will be utilizing a more structured format. Eventually, though, we'd like it to be the same as our South Bryan camp, which runs from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. and involves field trips and some off-site activities. We want to be

congruent on both ends of the county, but we just staged the north end camp for the first time last year, and we've come a long way in a short period of time. We're pretty confident it will be full-fledged by next summer, 2019."

The eight-week South Bryan summer camp accepts children ages 5-13 and is run by 18 staffers, including a designated camp director. The cost is \$115 per week and \$100 on short weeks, which contain a holiday. The price includes lunch and an afternoon snack for all campers. Registration is already open and available at www.bryancountyga.com.

While the camp is held at the recreation gym, attendees will enjoy a variety of field trips to places like Surf Lagoon water park in Pooler and Grayson Stadium, where they'll take in a Savannah Bananas game. During the last week of camp, they'll throw an end-of-season party for all participants on July 26.

"We've got some great things planned for our young residents," Mays said. "On Mondays, we go to the movies; on Tuesdays we go swimming; and Thursdays are our field trip days – we have seven planned throughout the summer. For transportation, we'll be using a bus owned by the rec department. We do this for families looking for opportunities for their kids to have an enjoyable summer, to have fun, and to experience adventures and make memories with their friends. This is a great option for the community to bring their children, and we're proud to offer it."

For more information about the Bryan County Recreation Department, please visit www.bryancountyga.org.

– ENDS –

For media inquiries, please contact Hollie Barnidge at hollie@lesleyfrancispr.com or 912-272-8651 or Lesley Francis at lesley@francis.com or 912-429-3950 or the team at 912-417-LFPR (5377).