

Thank you ...

22nd Annual Skeet Shoot a Rousing Success Thanks to Our Sponsors

SA Youth would like to extend a deep gratitude and appreciation to all of our sponsors for making the 22nd Annual Skeet Shoot on Aug. 13 a great success.

Platinum Sponsors – Ez-Bel Construction, Johnston Industries, Lynnwood Building Materials, Niznik Concrete Contractors, Bill Hall Jr. Trucking LTD., Valero Energy Corp., Countryside Nursery & Landscape, NuStar Energy, Palmetco Steel, Martin Marietta Materials, JR Sitework, Keystone Concrete

Diamond Sponsor – CMC Construction Services

Gold Sponsors – Mission Pharmacal Co., Suncoast Post-Tension, Vulcan Materials Co., White Cap Construction Supply, San Antonio Police Officers Association, L&M Steel, Nufab Rebar, Security State Bank & Trust, EDP Concrete, Performance Equipment Service, Ingram Readymix, Concrete Related Products, C.L. Concrete, CDI Technology Service, Capital Pumping, Schneider Steel

SA Youth is discontinuing its print newsletter. However, you still can keep up with all the latest news and information about the organization through its monthly e-newsletter. To subscribe, e-mail info@sanantonioyouth.org



PO Box 7844 San Antonio, TX 78207-0844 | Office: 210.223.3131 Fax: 210.223.9939

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio, TX
Permit No. 3333



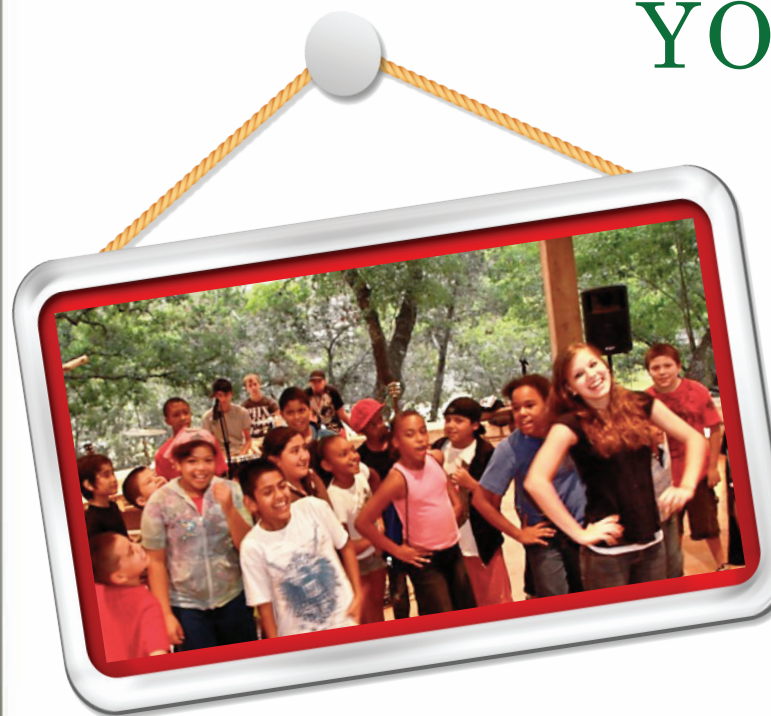
UNITED WAY OF SAN ANTONIO

Winter 2011



Success Beyond Circumstance

YOUTH MATTERS



Contractors and her cooking volunteers, Pattie Gamez, Jeannette Bunch and Kim Olson. After lunch, campers and counselors alike were excited to get outside and begin the weekend's events.

Each planned activity focused on the outdoors, exercise and creativity through things such as canoeing, swimming, hiking as well as building and decorating custom birdhouses. Campers were also taken on nature walks through the woods to learn more about the environment while simultaneously working up a sweat.

For Ashley Pacheco, 11, it was the first time she had ever gone camping. "It was awesome. I can't wait to go back next year," the Roosevelt Elementary fifth-grader said, adding that she enjoyed swimming, hiking, and arts and crafts.

Matthew Taylor, SA Youth Health and Wellness program director, said the camp proved to be a great experience for all those who attended. "I think the kids really learned to have an appreciation for the outdoors," he said.

Giving those who are normally surrounded by the hustle and bustle of the city a much needed change of pace was the ultimate goal, Taylor said. Through connecting with nature in a fun way, kids were able to see the important role that environment plays in daily existence.

Thanks to the support from the camp's volunteers and contributors, such as Bear Ready-Mix, as well as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Community Outreach Grant, kids who wouldn't normally be able to attend camp because of their financial background were able to have this experience at no cost to them.

H-E-B CAMP GIVES INNER CITY YOUTH A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

There were smiles for miles on the morning of Sept. 16, when 90 SA Youth children, ranging from ages 8 to 12, piled into buses and made their way to the H-E-B Youth Camp for a weekend of adventure.

Built on the edge of the Frio River just north of Leakey, this sprawling campground provides access to every outdoor activity imaginable, proving to be a perfect spot for kids to experience the finest nature has to offer.

Upon arrival, children were greeted with a meal of homemade chicken fried steak, green beans and mashed potatoes, thanks to Cindy Niznik of Niznik Concrete

SA YOUTH MISSION

To develop the character, strengths, talents and skills of San Antonio's high-risk urban youth through fun, safe experiences, positive learning environments, and holistic programs that inspire each individual to fulfill their potential personally and in the community.

IN THE NEWS



Brooke Garcia, SA Youth chief financial officer, receives a Making a Difference Award from KSAT12 anchor Ursula Pari on Sept. 14 sponsored by Ruth's Chris Steak House. SA Youth was honored with the award for our ongoing commitment to improving the community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Advisory Board

Charlie Amato
SWBC
Dr. Robert Durón
SAISD
Robert Emmitt
Community Bible Church
Rev. Buckner Fanning
Tim Haegelin
generations federal credit union
Katie Harvey
KGBTexas
Rosemary Kowalski
the RK Group
Nelson Wolff- Chair

Board of Directors

Executive Board Chair
Jack Roney
PlainsCapital Bank
Past Chair- Ralph Grimmer
Tesoro
Vice Chair- Bob Benavides
Sarma
Vice Chair- Matthew Reedy
Treasurer- Louis Marin
generations federal credit union
Secretary- Laura Flores
Physicians Mutual
Member-at-Large- Louis Cardenas
Blonde Creative
Member-at-Large- Craig Pfeiffer
Interior Ideas, Inc.

Member-at-Large- Kelley Farwell
Firstmark Credit Union
Member-at-Large- Joe Maratea
Valero
Member-at-Large- Jacob Palmer
SWBC
CEO- Cynthia Le Monds
SA Youth

Members

Shannon Anderson
Wolters Kluwer
Greg Kaneb
NuStar Energy
James Lifshutz
Lifshutz Companies
Sean Metcalf
Community Bible Church
Cynthia Phillips
Ph.D., OLLU
Jason Riggan
Community Member
Jon Turner
Tetco
Dawn Volesky
Clear Channel Comm.
Robert Vasquez
Consultant



Ambassadors Kelly Rodriguez, 20, (left) and Alexandra Diaz, 24, will educate visitors to the Mission Verde Center about green initiatives and energy conservation.

SA YOUTH GOES VERDE

YOUNG ADULTS PREPARE TO BE MISSION VERDE AMBASSADORS FOR SA YOUTH

SA Youth has partnered with the City of San Antonio Office of Environmental Policy to provide visitors to Mission Verde Center an opportunity to learn about green initiatives taking place at the center.

Because there is no Mission Verde staff housed at the Center, managed by SA Youth, the city suggested an ambassador program where members from SA Youth's recovery program can serve as guides, both educating visitors and offering comprehensive tours of the facilities.

"This will provide good opportunities for the students to operate in this capacity, allowing them to engage in speaking opportunities, make contacts with community and business members and build their resume," said Anna Aguirre, SA Youth chief operating officer.

Texas Engineering Experiment Station has been training SA Youth staff to prepare them to facilitate the training of youth members on the core facts about SU CASA, Energy Efficiency Retrofits and Renewable Power Systems.

"I not only enjoy the program, but I acquire knowledge because there are lots of things I had no idea about," says 24-year-old Alexandra Diaz, a technology member at SA Youth. "It's something I never thought I would do, but I got the opportunity to do it and receive additional free training so I'm grateful for that."

The goal of the Ambassador Program is to prepare SA Youth members to provide tours for Mission Verde Center visitors to educate them about energy conservation, and renewable energy innovations within Mission Verde Center.

"Everything has been fascinating," says Kelly Rodriguez, 20-year-old technology member. "I really enjoy learning about the environment and how to be eco-friendly. I'm glad I get to be here because I know whatever I learn will benefit me in the future." The services will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Special occasion service opportunities can be addressed on a case by case basis.

'Elves' needed to host Christmas parties for SA Youth

SA Youth is inviting corporate sponsors to host a Christmas party at one of our centers. Parties will be held during the first and second weeks of December. Angel wish lists will be delivered to each sponsor's office so that an angel tree drive can be conducted to provide gifts for children. There will be 100 to 230 children per Christmas drive.

Sponsors should schedule the party on a date and time convenient for both the sponsor and center. They are asked to bring 10 to 15 volunteers, provide food and drink, or funding for food and decorations. Someone will be needed to play Santa along with a few staff to act as elves. Additional entertainment is optional.

Individuals may also contribute to the Christmas drive through the following options:

- Donate to a center to assist in the cost of food and decorations.
- Sponsor a set number of children for personalized gifts; \$20-\$25 gifts are recommended.
- Obtain a center wish list from SA Youth to purchase items needed year round at the centers, and return the items to the organization's administrative office.
- Volunteer individually or bring a team to volunteer at one of the centers' Christmas parties.

For more information on sponsoring, donating or volunteering for SA Youth's holiday giving program, contact Jason Maratea at (210)223-3131 Ext. 207 or jason@sanantonioyouth.org.

GREEN GAMING IS HERE!

NEW ECO CLUB SITE WATERS SEEDS OF SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS FOR KIDS

Do you happen to know which tree has been honored as the state tree of Texas? Or why those beautifully, vibrant, black and orange Monarch butterflies only visit us during a specific time of year? Unfortunately, many of us would not be able to answer these questions and are often unaware of the great effect the environment has on our daily lives.

To turn over an eco-friendly leaf for the community and its youth, SA Youth has teamed up with San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and the Mission Verde Center to create an exciting new educational web site called Eco Club.

Kid-friendly and wildly entertaining, Eco Club offers four interactive virtual games that feature various themes of sustainability. Each activity is geared towards providing youth with information about the local environment as well as informing families on easy ways to conserve energy while living a more "green" lifestyle.

If you're in the mood for a video game, try the probe, inspect,



correct (PIC) activity first. It allows you to move an animated character through different rooms that are filled with examples of "phantom energies," due to their ability to pull power when not in use simply by being plugged in.

Once the energy waster is detected, the character is able to touch each offending area and read about solutions to fix the problems, which may also be evident in your own home. Daily examples of the preposterous phantoms include anything from leaving a computer plugged in while it's turned off to forgetting to unplug the toaster after breakfast.

More of an animal lover than a video-gamer? Try the environment cohabitating (ECO) game that helps to educate youth about fauna unique to South Texas ecosystems.

ECO features a list of footprints from all kinds of animals, bugs, and birds that can be scrolled over to watch them instantly come to life on the screen and hear the types of noises they make. While each creature moves into view, an informational paragraph is simultaneously brought up containing detailed information on its history and habitat.

After learning about these amazing animals, discover your green thumb with the trees improve environment (TIE) activity. Different seeds native to Texas are able to be planted and watered in a virtual garden, producing trees that grow instantly before your eyes. TIE serves as a fun and informative tool to help young kids learn about the importance of saving energy and preserving nature through the planting of trees.

Once you've learned the environmental essentials, put your creative side on display with the Eco Club's coloring book game! Each page features a popular historic landmark around San Antonio, such as the Alamo, Riverwalk, zoo and Tower of the Americas. After choosing a location you are able to paint each page with whatever hue you desire, without any worry of coloring outside the lines.

To join the fun and get started on your exciting environmental journey, make sure to visit the Eco Club web site at www.sanantonioyouth.org/ecoclub/. Special thanks to Louis Cardenas of Blonde Creative for his innovative design of this amazing interactive web site.

SECOND "GREEN" HOUSE ON JEMISON STREET SET TO FINISH BY LATE DECEMBER

SA Youth is currently building its second energy-efficient home on the East Side of the city at 227 Jemison St.

This custom "green" home, slated to finish by December's end, is the nonprofit organization's second gift to the real estate market after completion of their first home located next door at 223 Jemison St.

SA Youth's custom made casa went from conception to blueprint thanks to the design mind of architect John Speegle, co-owner of speegle KIM-davis architecture, who has been working on the project with the nonprofit.

Using predominately green certified materials, the future residence is not only energy efficient but stylish as well.

The 1,200-square-foot space comes furnished with many electrical appliances including a full-size washer and dryer, microwave, refrigerator and dishwasher.

"The beauty of our homes comes through in the custom features that we offer," said Recovery Program Director Cassandra Littlejohn. "It's nice when you can have a part in upgrading someone's life."

Each individual working on the house is a member of SA Youth's YouthBuild program. In this unique job training/education program, young adults between the ages of 16 to 24 are able to work on receiving their high school diploma or GED while concurrently gaining on-the-job experience in the construction industry.

The house on Jemison is currently accepting offers from first-time home buyers in the market for a spacious single-family home with an eco-friendly footprint.

For more information on the Jemison house or making a donation, please contact contact Jason Maratea at 210-223-3131 ext. 207 or visit www.sanantonioyouth.org.



This second, energy-efficient home for low-income, first-time homebuyers is being built by YouthBuild participants. It is expected to be completed by late December.