

2013 Summer Playground Report

	Registration	Average Daily Attendance
Green Acres	59	20-30
Lindberg	84	30-40
Devonshire	31	15-20
Laubach	83	30-40

The daily average attendance at all of the parks was basically consistent with last year.

Tennis Clinic: Samantha Foulke was our tennis clinic instructor this year and did a great job. The clinics were well attended at both locations.

Arts and Crafts: Antonella DiMatteo and Patrick Jacoby were the Arts and Crafts instructors. They split their duties with Arts and as Head Counselors. Arts and Crafts remains one the favorite events in the program and is always well attended.

Special Programs

Movie Nights: This year we showed the newly released movie Escape From Planet Earth. It was well attended for both scheduled performances.

Park Day: Park Day was held at Lindberg Park and was a lot of fun. This year's attendance was about 125 children. Bus service was provided from Laubach, and Devonshire Parks. As in the past years there were relay races, field events, capture the flag and water games. Ribbons and candy prizes were awarded and the day concluded with hot dogs, soda, chips, and "goody bags". It was an enjoyable day for both the staff and children. A representative from the Salisbury Press attended the event. As in the past the public works employees were invited for lunch as our way of thanking them for all the assistance and hard work.

Allentown Public Library Book Van: This was the third year for this program and the interest continues to increase. The book van visited all four locations this year for five scheduled Fridays to allow children to check out and return books. Joan Kneiss of the Allentown Public Library has reported that 52 children read 58 books, (see Attached).

Staff

Overall this year's staff did a terrific job. I had most of my counselor return so they were all experienced and well trained. I was pleased with the performance of the new staff as they were enthusiastic and competent.

Antonella DiMatteo and Patrick Jacoby returned as Head Counselors. They worked well together and were able to provide more coverage for the four playground sights, .They were a great asset to the safety and supervision of the program. The staff worked well together and put together some great activities for the children. Some highlights were pizza nights, karaoke, water days, tee shirt tie-dying and the evening movie night.

Comments

We had a very successful program this summer. We had approximately 250 registered participants with 17 counselors and 2 Head Counselors. I had a lot of positive feedback from parents about our staff and program.

Our hand radios were converted to the new system and all worked well. While communication with the police was discussed with me and Chief Stiles it remains that the use of radios is not always going to be successful when trying to reach township police. I and the counselors must use our cell phones at times when police are not on the township frequency. The radios are very useful for reaching out to public works when needed.

We have seen some improvement as far as dogs in the park. The first day was problematic as we had two loose labrador retrievers at Devonshire and a delay in reaching the animal control officer and police. The park counselors were finally able to contain the dogs and secure them back in their yard. After that experience the township manager provided the playground staff with flyers to distribute informing violators of the new ordinance. As a result of the new ordinance being publicized the number of dogs in the parks did decline.

In closing, I would like to thank Frank McCullough once again for all the time and energy he continues to give to the Summer Playground Program. The children and counselors look forward to seeing him every day in the parks. He continues to be a huge asset to the program and his volunteerism is to be commended! I also want to acknowledge Dave Bonaskiewich and his crew for all the assistance they give to the counselors and children in the program. We are so appreciative of all they do!

Genny Baillie

Recreation Director