

Endeavour Center seeking camp sponsors

By Hector Trujillo/Santa Maria Times Staff writer

The Endeavour Center at Maple High School on Vandenberg Air Force Base is trying to send 100 disadvantaged youths from the Central Coast to the Summer Endeavour Camp that starts in June.

The center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to science, technology, engineering and math outreach programs for children. Its goal is to raise \$40,000 from individual donors, corporations and foundations interested in helping further the students' education.

"We want to get our kids interested in science so they can be ready for future," said Endeavour Center founder and president Edmund Burke.

In 2006, the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Maria Valley was able to send 15 children to the Endeavour Summer Camp.

"They had a great time while giving them the opportunity to interact with other kids and learn as well," said Bill Libbon, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Maria Valley. "We are hoping to send the kids again sometime in the future."

The Summer Endeavour Camp is open to children age 8 to 14.

"There has been a shortfall in this country when it comes to scientists in recent years," Burke added. "We are trying to get kids interested as early as possible in these fields so we can be competitive once again."

Potential sponsors can choose to send one child, five children or 10 children to the camp, with the cost depending on the length of stay.

Sponsors can also send children to Endeavour's Saturday Science Day Seminars, which go through April.

Last year's trip by the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Maria Valley was made possible by a grant provided by Hancock College.

"This is an experience that the kids will enjoy and won't forget," Burke said.

For more information on the Endeavour Center or sponsorship for the summer camp, call 720-2784 or visit website www.endeavours.org/sec, go to Youth Sponsorship on left bar.

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Endeavour Center summer program seeking sponsors

BY JILL IVIE 12-22-06, Paso Robles Press



The Endeavour Center is launching a drive to raise scholarship money to send disadvantaged and interested youth to

the Center's science and math summer programs.

The Center, which is responsible for the Endeavour Academy at both Paso Robles High School and Templeton High School, has been sponsoring Endeavour Center Space and Science Education programs for Central Coast students for 13 years.

The summer programs, which include Summer Endeavour Camp, Youth Saturday Science Seminars and Youth Day Camp, are available to students aged seven to 14 and groups.

"We try to make it fun and exciting," said Edmund Burke, Endeavour Center Founder.

"Then hopefully they'll start down a pathway and start paying attention to math and science in schools."

The day camps run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday and the Endeavour Camp hosts students from Sunday to Friday.

The camps are centered around hands-on, project-based projects. Each day features a different topic and includes time in the computer lab, a tour of Vandenberg Air Force Base, a rocket building lab, geology projects, telescope research and afternoon field trips. At the conclusion of the week, the students earn their graduation from camp with a ceremony.

In 2007, the Endeavour Center hopes to send 100 Central Coast youth to the day and summer camps. The target goal is to raise \$40,000 to facilitate scholarships for those 100

students. The Center also hopes to have the funds to be able to invite groups like the Boys and Girls Club, 4-H, Boy and Girls Scouts, Civil Air Patrol and Girls, Inc. to their camps.

"We want to open their minds and start them down a path early," Burke said. "The high tech jobs are out there, our kids just aren't taking advantage of it. We want to get disadvantaged youth to camp and let them experience something they may not have had an opportunity to learn before."

Students that attend these Endeavour Center camps and develop an interest in field-related subjects may enroll in Endeavour Academy coursework at Paso Robles or Templeton High Schools. Students that pass at least two of the high school level Endeavour Center classes earn special sign-up credits for Cal Poly.

Burke also hopes to see an increase of females taking more interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). In year's past, Burke cited that there was an average ratio of four to one boys to girls at these STEM-related camps.

"Recent reports from the National Science Foundation, the National Science Board and others warn that the U.S. is in danger of losing its global predominance in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) due to a potential shortfall of American scientists and engineers, and an increase in competition for these professionals from other countries who have made their own commitments to scientific research and development," reads an Endeavour Programs' press release. "Help us encourage youth to discover and pursue these exciting high-tech careers by providing programs that begin motivating them at an early age."

Volunteers can sponsor a youth for any amount from \$35 to send one to a science seminar to \$5750 to send 10 youth to overnight camp. Sponsorship applications and more information about the Endeavour Center

can be found at www.endeavours.org.