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Media advisory: Portland's "Hydromania" summer science camps kick off July 1

Bonneville Power Administration

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Camp participants will learn more about science and math through fun activities that range from launching water rockets to exploring Mt. Hood

Who: Fourth- through sixth-graders from North, Northeast and Southeast Portland will be guided and instructed by representatives from Bonneville Power Administration and the Portland Parks & Recreation Department, educators and countless volunteers.

What: BPA's fifth season of Hydromania Summer Science Camps begins July 1 and will continue through Aug. 9. The six separate day camp sessions, each two-weeks in duration, are designed to help kids discover math and science concepts through personal experiences. The camps feature a combination of instruction and hands-on activities. Kick-off week activity times and locations for the first two sessions are listed below:

Water Rocket Launching Mt. Hood Exploration Tide Pooling

When: July 2; 1p.m. - 3 p.m July 3; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. July 5; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: The water rocket event will take place at two local school sites. These sites also will be the starting and finishing points for the off-site excursions to Mt. Hood and the tide pooling at Cape Mears, near Tillamook. Camp "A" will meet at MLK Elementary, 4906 N.E. 6th Ave., Portland. Camp "B" will meet at Woodlawn Elementary, 7200 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland.

Significance: As in previous years, the Hydromania program sets out to reach disadvantaged or "at-risk" kids as well as females and minorities — groups currently under-represented in math- and science-related fields.

Off-site Hydromania activities come courtesy of private donors, the largest of which are The Experimental Aircraft Association and Northwest Rafters.

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Facts About the 1996 Hydromania Summer Science Camps

For more information, contact Derrol Johns, BPA, (503) 230-3050

- The Bonneville Power Administration, in conjunction with the Portland Parks & Recreation Department, is hosting the fifth consecutive Hydromania Summer Science Camp season between July 1, 1996 and Aug. 9, 1996.
- Hydromania aims to help kids discover math and science concepts through real experiences. The program focuses on disadvantaged and “at-risk” youth, including females and minorities, in North, Northeast and Southeast Portland. In addition to individual and group instruction, the kids participate in hands-on activities and field trips.
- About 30-35 kids are enrolled in each of the six sessions of free, two-week day camps. Through the unique design of the camps, the staff of certified teachers and college and high school students work in a team environment to explore new approaches to science education. This, in turn, creates a “spin-off” benefit by helping staff members enhance their teaching methods — which is especially helpful for those teachers returning to the classroom.
- Aside from learning about math and science concepts, Hydromania participants learn about important regional issues, such as water issues related to energy and the environment and Native American perspectives on the region’s physical geography.
- Some of the field trip activities for the 1996 summer season include airplane flights, rafting trips, tide pool exploration, excursions to Mt. Hood, and a trail construction project. These activities would not have been possible without the donation of goods and services from public and private sponsors.
- Hydromania fever is spreading fast. It took just two months to reach the maximum camp enrollment of 210 kids — the shortest Hydromania enrollment period ever. Unfortunately, an estimated 100 participants had to be turned away.
- Including this year’s camp sessions, more than 1,050 kids have participated in Hydromania since the program began in 1990.

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For more information, contact Derrol Johns, BPA, djohns@bpa.gov, 503-230-3050; Joan McNamara, jhmcnamara@bpa.gov, 503-230-3709, Rod Swerin, Camp Director, 503-880-1425 cellular; or Karen Loper, Portland Parks, 503-823-5118
