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Media advisory/photo opportunity: Portland's City Council to take science "lessons" from BPA Hydromania Summer Science Camp participants

Yes, they can run the city, but can they master the "science-in-a-bag" experiment?

Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MONDAY, July 15, 1996

PR 52 96

Who: Portland Mayor Vera Katz, Portland City Council members, kids and staff from inner-city Hydromania camps, representatives from the Bonneville Power Administration and the Portland Parks & Recreation Department.

What: Equipped with safety goggles and gloves, the Mayor and City Council will take a lesson from BPA Hydromania Summer Science Camp participants as they conduct a chemical reaction experiment - which is one of the learning tools used in the summer day camp curriculum.

When: Wednesday, July 17, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Where: Portland City Council Chambers, second floor auditorium, The Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave., Portland

Background: BPA's fifth season of Hydromania Summer Science Camps began July 1 and will continue through Aug. 9. The six separate day camp sessions, each two-weeks in duration, are designed to help fourth- through sixth-grade kids discover math and science concepts through personal experiences. The camps feature a combination of instruction and hands-on activities.

As in previous years, the Hydromania program sets out to reach disadvantaged or "at-risk" kids - as well as females and minorities - from North, Northeast and Southeast Portland. These groups are 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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For more information, contact Derrol Johns, BPA, djohns@bpa.gov, 503-230-3050; Joel Haugen, jthaugena@bpa.gov, 503-872-7861; Rod Swerin, Camp Director, 503-880-1425 cellular; or Karen Loper, Portland Parks, 503-823-5118

Facts About the 1996 Hydromania Summer Science Camps

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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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