

COMMUNITY



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Members of the Fannie A. Parker Youth Clubs try out archery with the help of coaches and students in the homeschool Wildlife Hunter Safety Program team Saturday at Camp Cale in Perquimans County.

Program offers adventure to youths

Fannie A. Parker youth groups visit Camp Cale

STAFF, SUBMITTED REPORTS

CAMP CALE — Some Chowan County residents stepped outside their comfort zone Saturday, trying some outdoor activities for the first time at Camp Cale, a Baptist Church-sponsored camp in Perquimans County.

The Dream Hunt and Fishing Program, based in Elizabeth City, and Camp Cale hosted the group made up of members of the Fannie A. Parker youth clubs, as well as their parents, mentors and supporters.

Each kid who attended was accompanied by a parent or mentor from Chowan County.

The fishing was very poor, but the kids didn't stop trying. Edenton Police Chief Henry King attempted to help some of the children as he stayed during the morning.

The group of 40 people broke off into different groups, one went fishing while another did archery. For most, it was their first time trying the sport. After a few practice shoots, there were several good shooters. Tyler Wood, a NC Wildlife Resource Commission game warden for Chowan County, was at the archery range with coaches and members of the local homeschool Wildlife Hunter Safety Program.

After taking turns at the archery range, the participants went on to try kayaking and canoeing.

After lunch, they all had a turn at wall and rope climbing and some team-building events.

The day ended early with threatening weather.

The Dream Hunting and Fishing Program was founded by Terry Boyce. It started about 19 years ago as a way to take critically ill children out on hunting and fishing adventures.

Four years ago, the program started working with Camp Cale to host events for nine North Carolina counties. This Saturday was the first time a Chowan County group participated in the program.

During a truck ride to the archery range, Boyce said he was told he has terminal cancer 29 years ago. The doctors told him to get his affairs in order.

Out of the eight other patients he was in treatment with, he was the only one to survive.

"I figured God put me on the earth for a reason, so I started this program," he said.

According to the federal government, his national nonprofit serves as many kids as Make-A-Wish does in a year, Boyce said.

"I have the greatest job in the world, and I only get paid with a smile," he remarked.

Stella Brothers, director of the Fannie A. Parker youth clubs, said she heard of the program through her cousin Ernest Goodwin, who is a state trooper and volunteer at Camp Cale. She contacted the camp, which got in touch with the Dream Hunting and Fishing program.

Later this week, a few of the kids will try another new thing as four Fannie A. Parker Youth Club members travel by plane to Florida to compete in the regional competition.

Boyce said it costs about \$18 per kid to hold the Camp Cale activities. The cost includes all the events listed above, plus two snacks, lunch and a T-shirt.

To sponsor a kid or kids for a day at Camp Cale through the Dream Hunt & Fishing Program, email Boyce at terry.w.boyce@roadrunner.com, call him at 252-339-0102 or mail checks to Dream Hunt & Fishing Program, 809 Westwood Drive, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.



PHOTO COURTESY TERRY BOYCE

Fannie A. Parker Youth Club members and their family members and supporters pose for a group shot at Camp Cale. Terry Boyce (left), founder of the Dream Hunting and Fishing Program, sponsored the event.



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Edenton Police Chief Henry King helps a child fish Saturday at Camp Cale.



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Stella Brothers, director of the Fannie A. Parker youth clubs, tries out archery.



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Youths canoe in the Perquimans River by Camp Cale.



PHOTO COURTESY TERRY BOYCE

Youths tests out the ropes course at Camp Cale.



PHOTO COURTESY TERRY BOYCE

Camp counselors (right) help children with the climbing wall.