VCSU offering three summer camps for students

Valley City State University is offering a series of camps this summer in a wide variety of areas from outdoor recreation to business and information technology.

The Prairie Waters Education & Research Center at VCSU will host two camps in June.

The first is called “Splashin’ Around at Prairie Waters,” which includes activities such as wading in streams, a water hunt to find out what lives in our waters and other outdoor activities.

“We’ll be exploring all kinds of different waters — rivers, streams, ponds and marshes included,” said Dr. Andre Delorme, director of the Prairie Waters Education & Research Center.

Splashin’ Around is for kids entering fifth and sixth grades and takes place June 18-20.

The second camp offered by Prairie Waters is called “Fishin’ Around the Prairie Waters,” which includes activities such as exploring fish habitats and canoeing the Sheyenne River.

Campers will also go on lake explorations on a pontoon and learn to catch fish without fishing rods.

“This is much more than just regular fishing,” Delorme said. “We'll certainly have time just to go out fishing but we'll be doing different things as well, such as taking a tour of the Valley City National Fish Hatchery.”

Fishin’ Around is for kids entering seventh and eighth grades and takes place June 25-27.

Both camps require a $75 registration fee that includes transportation to and from VCSU, lunch, a camp T-shirt and “make-and-take” projects. Examples of make-and-take projects from last year’s camp included models of wetlands and slime, according to Prairie Waters education specialist Joelle Manlove.

VCSU is offering up its third annual Business and Information Technology Career Awareness Camp in conjunction with the Sheyenne Valley Area Career & Technology Center.

According to camp co-director Dr. Kerry Gregoryk, high school students will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience running a business, building computers, designing websites and more.
“We’re excited to offer this camp for the third year here,” Gregoryk said. “We have students who have come back for every year with the camp, that’s how well-received it has been.”

The camp, which takes place June 12-15, is broken up into three separate topics following registration day — information technology, business and careers.

“What we’re trying to do here is break down the stereotype of what an IT person is, which most people think is someone who sits at a computer all day and does computer programming,” Gregoryk said.

She said this camp will give students the chance to see that is not the case, as the bulk of IT careers include working on projects, conducting research and interacting with others.

The biggest shock that our students see is how much these careers require understanding the business side of things,” she said.

In previous years, students at the camp have been able to see that understanding first-hand through a tour of a Microsoft office in the camp’s inaugural year and through a panel of business experts that spoke on campus last year.

“This year we will be touring the John Deere Group in Valley City and visiting with their professionals,” Gregoryk said. “Many think of John Deere and the factory, welding and assembly that takes place, but we want to show them the business side of the company as well.”

The camp requires a $75 registration fee that includes three nights in the dorm, all meals and a souvenir T-shirt.

The registration deadline is June 1 for all three camps.

For more information about the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center camps, call 701-845-7570. For more information about the BAIT camp, call 701-845-7519.

Details on all VCSU camps can also be found at www.vscu.edu.

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