

Town of Islesboro Summer Recreation Program Summary, 2013

Swim Program - Town of Islesboro and Waldo Y collaboration:

Seventeen students attended our swim lesson and water safety program over at the Waldo Y. The lessons spanned five weeks this summer which had the benefit of more practice time and visible individual improvements with water skills, stroke technique, distance of swims, and confidence in the water. Pool time included five hours of lessons and five hours of free swim over the course. Families contributed for the cost of lessons and \$10 towards transportation, while the Town of Islesboro Summer REC budget covered program design and administration, bus and driver fees, chaperone and first aid provisions.

Weekly swim and safety on-island, float to beach and back. At least a few swimmers came most weeks and quite a few showed up several weeks. A water safety lesson and practice of the water safety skill of the day on the float were attended also by swimmers and sunbathers who were on the float. This warm water summer saw an increase of swimming activity at the float.

Youth Basketball for rising 4th-8th graders was very well attended (16-30 players per week) and took place on Saturday mornings starting June 29th. Great participation for an important youth age group and many thanks go to Coaches Jack Schlottman and Patty Crawford who kept it active, fun, and friendly. The program included basketball fundamentals and skill building, developmental focus groups, and the intention for friendship and team building. REC program purchased balls and handled sign ups, first aid and safety.

Tennis lessons were offered on an individual basis or family tennis with gear was available. Gear was frequently loaned and introductory games for learning tennis were taught. Child sized racquets and low pressure balls continue to be effective learning tools. People of all ages and abilities enjoy the lower pressure balls which slow the bounce for instructional and practice purposes. Come give it a try; you'll be surprised how well you can hit the ball! Look for adult and teen clinics next summer.

Two **soccer camps** were offered in 2013. **KSL Islesboro Soccer Camp** was again offered by Town of Islesboro and Katherine Lee. KSL Islesboro Camp provided youth developmental soccer and a jump start to the season for middle and high school players. Katherine led an excellent pre-season soccer technique and fitness opportunity. This summer the younger age group was more popular than middle/high school camp. For 2014, we will collaborate with ICS Coach and team to provide a pre-season camp for our ICS Soccer team and visiting players and to attract teens for pre-season training. KSL Islesboro Camp offers

PTUSA Soccer Camp was offered again, yet attendance was not strong. This camp does not seem to be taking off in the way that Playsoccer did, despite the excellent coaching. Suggestions or ideas for this program are welcome.

Softball (with Fred & Gil) had variable attendance, but had several weeks that were BIG hits! One week required two fields - free pitch and t-ball ~ 25-30 people. Thank you very much to our pitchers and enthusiastic ball players, Gil Rivera and Fred Rollins! They bring a lot of commitment, enthusiasm, and fun to the field on Sundays!

Children's circuit fitness, including nerf cross-bow fitness for focus and playground games with Katherine and Kara saw irregular attendance, but kids did come every week. **Playground games** had the children who attended vote for their favorite games and the top three were played that week. These programs were offered Tues and Thursday afternoons. Please let me know if there is a better time to offer outdoor fitness and playground games for your children. Thank you for your input!

Bicycle Day/Various distance rides was revived yet needs to be better advertised next summer. Helmets were sized and adjusted. Bicycle tires were pumped up. The most popular activity was a painted mini-road with lanes and stop signs for practicing riding on the right side, stopping and starting. Several children improved their riding skills by practicing all afternoon. A training bicycle was left under the tent, and it was used by children to learn to ride all summer long. This idea of learning to ride at Maddie Dodge Field will be expanded. It is an excellent location for safe bicycling for children.

The maintenance of the Maddie Dodge Field equipment, field and grounds included contracted playground repairs (safety additions and replacement parts); painted sheds; mowed grass and culverts and wide around the field; new benches for children and adults; and discussion and planning for future maintenance of the tennis courts and backboard.

Let us know best times, days of the week, and suggestions for recreational activities that will provide the best opportunities for you and your family and friends. We have received a request for art again. Let us know which arts and crafts your children will most enjoy for 2014! Dream Catchers and Star Gazers will return! I hope to see you on the court, field, or under the arts & crafts tent!

Respectfully submitted,
Kara Masters Siekman

Playground - safety and minor repairs improvements / update; weather sealer maintenance for 2014