

SPRD hosting soccer program for young kids

Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) will host soccer classes and programs for kids beginning at age 18 months this summer.

Through partnership with Cascade Indoor Sports, SPRD has added "SoccerTots" programs to their summer schedule. SoccerTots is a motor-skill development program for kids ages 18 months to six years which uses a series of fun games that encourage kids to develop motor skills and physical fitness. The objectives for each game are non-competitive and fun. Kids can expect to play games like "kick the ball at the space alien" or "jump to the lily pads like a frog."

Eight-week classes begin in Sisters in June for children 18-35 months as "Soccer Teddies." The youngest participants get on the field at Sisters Elementary School with their parents. They use a variety of props, songs and games to engage toddlers in activities. Simple motor skills are stressed throughout this class.

Cascade Indoor Sports and SPRD are also offering Soccer Cubs (3- to 4-year-olds) and Soccer Bears (5- to 6-year olds) throughout the summer. Each camp is held once a week, for eight weeks, at the Sisters Elementary School fields with a focus on fundamental skills. Registration for Soccer

Tots is \$85 and open through Wednesday, June 17.

"We are always excited when we have a new partner organization to work with," said Kelly Crowther, program coordinator at SPRD. "I think it is a great opportunity to introduce some of our youngest residents to sports and recreation programs with this series of classes. It's going to be a fun-filled summer with SPRD programs and Soccer Tots is just the beginning of what we have to offer."

A spring class is also currently offered for young soccer players. Tiny Tikes Soccer (for children aged 2 to 5) takes place at the elementary school fields. Volunteer coaches help to introduce children to soccer with beginner drills and get them outside this spring. Local resident Jillian Jeppsen is coaching this group.

"I just love working with young kids and getting them outside to play," said Jeppsen. "We have fun games and drills planned and I know we will have a great time!"

Online registration for Tiny Tikes Soccer is closed, but you may call SPRD at 541-549-2091 to check availability.

For more information on youth soccer programs, summer activities and camps or to register your child visit www.SistersRecreation.com or call 541-549-2091.

LACROSSE: Tourney is an economic shot in the arm for Sisters

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of SPRD's sporting events, offered a 15 percent discount off lodging. Local eateries are benefitting as well. According to SPRD, they have received calls from Subway and other restaurants in town to prepare themselves for the projected volume of people coming into town. Rio will have a food vending tent available at the SALI tournament along with Huckleberry Smoothies, Sweet Annie's, and Gimme Some Sugar. Other vendors include Hot Tees providing customized shirts on site and LAX Shack, who specializes in customizing lacrosse sticks.

SALI is coordinated in large part by SPRD with Outlaws Lacrosse parents providing volunteer manpower during the event. Initial planning and registrations began in January, with the tournament filling up by mid-February. Securing accommodations for teams, attracting vendors to the



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The Outlaws will host lacrosse teams from across the region in the SALI tournament.

tournament, scheduling the tournament, managing the tournament website, and running the day-of operation for the tournament are handled by SPRD.

SPRD Executive Director Liam Hughes said, "Our team here at SPRD has put a lot of work into bringing the Sisters community a top-notch sporting event. Also, the Outlaws Lacrosse parents are integral to this event, providing support in innumerable ways from score-keeping to crowd management. It'll be

a really great event. Stop by on Saturday and Sunday to check out the action."

Championship games for each bracket are held on Sunday with many of those games being held in Reed Stadium. JV finals begin at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and the varsity championship game begins at 3 p.m. All games will be held on the Sisters Middle School and Sisters High School fields.

For information about the event, visit www.salilax.com or call 541-549-2091.

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