

Summer science fun offered at WISTEC

By Martin Fisher
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Willamette Science and Technology Center is offering a series of short classes for children ages 5 to 12, beginning June 28 and running through Aug. 20.

Classes are offered in three age categories, 5-6, 7-9 and 10-12. And while the 5-6-year-old camp is already full, most of the other classes, which will present various scientific concepts at easy to understand levels, remain open.

From July 5-9, 7-9-year-olds can take Terrific Trees, where they will learn about trees, their differences and their uses. Students will adopt a tree and make edible leaves.

From July 12-16, they can study Nature's Power, learning about what causes severe weather such as lightning, hurricanes and tornadoes. They'll also experiment with volcanoes and create an earthquake.

Students will learn about local flora and fauna from July 19-23, in the In Our Neighborhood: Local Plants and Animals class. Students will keep a nature diary as they explore Alton Baker Park and the grounds surrounding WISTEC.

Young astronauts can take a Journey Through the Solar System, Aug. 9-13. Students will discover what it would be like to live on Mars, as well as exploring other planets, the sun and the moon. The class will finish with a star party at WISTEC.

Another set of classes is offered for 10-12-year-olds. From June 28 through July 2, students can learn Why Things Work by studying machines and their components.

Students will learn how bones and skeletons mirror the environment in Skullduggery, from July 5-9. Students will assemble a mammal skull for their personal collection.

From July 19-23, students can blast off with Basic Rocketry, where they will learn how and why rockets fly. They will build and launch model rockets using compressed air, expanding gasses and chemical fuels.

Students can follow up with Advanced Rocketry, from July 26-30. They will build a Hawkeye rocket and learn how to calculate its launched altitude and velocity. They'll also design their own rockets. Both the beginning and advanced rocketry classes require an additional \$5 fee for the purchase of model rockets and engines.

From Aug. 9-13, students can splash through Ponds and Wetlands, exploring the ecological controversies that surround our use of area wetlands.

All classes cost \$35 for WISTEC members, \$50 for non-members. For more information, contact WISTEC at 484-9027.

Kool-Aid targeted for boycott

By Ed Carson
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon State Public Interest Research Group announced Wednesday that it is launching a boycott against Kool-Aid KoolBursts for utilizing wasteful packaging.

"Consumers are outraged at the excessive, wasteful packaging of Kool-Aid KoolBursts," said Lauri Aunan of OSPIRG.

Kool-Aid KoolBursts are pre-mixed Kool-Aid in plastic bottles that are sold in six-packs in a cardboard box and covered with shrink-wrapped plastic.

According to OSPIRG, KoolBursts cost between five to 10 times more than Kool-Aid packets, provide one-third less drink, and create 50 times more waste.

"It's a big consumer ripoff that gouges their pocketbooks and creates more waste," Aunan said.

OSPIRG chose to target KoolBursts because it believes the packaging is especially detrimental to the environment.

"This was the most egregious example of wasteful packaging we could find," said Maureen Kirk, OSPIRG campaign director.

In October 1992, national environmental groups gave KoolBursts a WasteMaker Award for wasteful packaging.

OSPIRG is joining a boycott begun in March by the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. Boycott organizers hope to reach 100,000 people by the end of the summer and is urging them to boycott KoolBursts and express their concerns to Philip Morris Companies, producer of KoolBursts, via Phillip Morris's toll-



Photo by Hideki Tomooka
Lauri Aunan of the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group holds up a packet of Kool-Aid and new Kool-Aid KoolBursts to demonstrate the difference in packaging. OSPIRG claims the KoolBursts packaging is wasteful and will harm the environment.

free number or OSPIRG's postcard write-in campaign.

Organizers are demanding that Philip Morris remove KoolBursts in their present packaging from store shelves, change its overall approach to packaging, and stop spending money to defeat environmental legislation.

According to OSPIRG, Philip Morris is the world's largest seller of packed goods and was the largest corporate contributor

against the Oregon Recycling Initiative in 1990, contributing \$66,000.

OSPIRG representative Steve Gardner said another reason he is opposed to KoolBursts is because it is "aimed at children." OSPIRG's own fact sheet states that "Kool-Aid has been a favorite kids' drink for years."

The boycott is the current focus of OSPIRG's PlasticsWatch Campaign.

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