

MTC summer program opens variety of avenues for young people

Management & Training Corporation (MTC) once again spent the majority of the summer working with fifty-three young adults ages 14 to 21 from throughout Columbia County. MTC works with people and businesses that are looking for success by using innovative education and training programs to produce economic independence and valuable career skills.

The summer began with MTC staff spending a week with the students at the 4-H Camp in Salem. During the week long Natural Resource & Education Camp students participated in various field studies including astronomy, soil science, geology, meteorology, and salmon restoration. The instructors discussed careers in science and other related occupations during the field studies.

During the week students participated in a field trip to Chemekata Community College Planetarium. The students then created a model of the solar system. They used star finders to identify basic constellation groups and understand the phases of the moon and its effects on the ocean tides.

The group also had the opportunity to tour the Capitol where the students learned the legislative process. Later they used this knowledge to discuss and make mock policy decisions about salmon recovery programs.

At the end of the week long camp students were evaluated and they also evaluated the camp. The following are several of their quotes: "I learned to find stars and galaxies and met really nice staff"; "I learned some more about endangered fish and meeting others and learning that sometimes it's

hard to work with others but you have to try"; "I'm going to be more respectful to others and speak my mind and opinions"; "Another fine learning experience, I made the most wonderful friends and learned new things I can use throughout my life and will never forget"; "In this program I have received more emotional support than I have in a long time".

After successfully completing the week long camp, several were chosen to participate in an intensive three-week computer camp. The camp takes the participants from basic Windows 95 functions to completing lessons in Microsoft Word as well as Works 4.5. At the end of the camp the students disassembled and then re-assembled their computers. Upon completion of the class, if the student attended everyday and demonstrated working knowledge of the programs as instructed, the computers and printers were then awarded to the student to take home. James Penley and Tim Ragan co-instructed the classes. "It's amazing how quickly the students pick things up and how they helped each other if one of them got stuck," Ragan said.

The computer camp participants are chosen based on the behavior they exhibit at the week long Nature Resource & Education Camp. "With the benefits of this class and receiving current technology computers, I believe this will help to allow them to not only excel in their school work but also compete in today's workplace," said Penley.

Management & Training Corporation also provided summer school for those students who needed to make up credits throughout Columbia County in a variety of subjects.

Many participants of the weeklong Natural Resource & Education Camp were also chosen to participate in various

work experiences with ten local businesses throughout the county. The young adults learned about forestry management, fire fighting, wetland mitigation, landscaping, customer service, building trails and shelters for the community, childcare, data entry, office procedure, paving, painting, and sign repair.

The businesses included Columbia Pacific Food Bank, Vernonia Public Works, Scappoose Library, Port of St. Helens, Snoopeceland, Clatskanie Public Works, Vernonia Head Start, St. Helens, Library, Columbia County Parks & Recreation, and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The following are quotes from several of the area businesses that provided the work experience: "Commendable traits included a good record of punctuality and a willingness to learn and work with co-workers"; "In just two months she has shown exceptional ability to learn, apply, retain and be

part of the team"; "She has been a real joy to have working with us. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to supplement our work force as well as training her for future employment".

The work experience gave the young adults the opportunity to learn valuable skills they can use in the future and provided the businesses with hard working, dependable employees. Several of the students continued working with the businesses when the work experience was completed.

This year, summer was again a success for those students that participated in Management & Training Corporation's youth program. If you are a student and are interested in participating in the program next summer, speak with your high school counselor. Businesses that are interested in working with the summer youth work experience program are encouraged to contact our office at 503-397-6495.

Out of work? Try these Job Fairs

Two Job Fairs are being held at the Beaverton Employment Department office, 12901 SW Jenkins Road, Suite C., today, Oct. 21, and tomorrow.

A Holiday Job Fair is underway today from 1-4:30 p.m. Applicants should bring their resumés and be prepared for on-the-spot interviews with many employers offering temporary and permanent positions this holiday season. Job opportunities include sales, customer service, cashier, inventory, stocking, and more.

Among participating employers are Meier & Frank, Federal Express, J.C. Penney, Fred Meyer, Sears, Costco, Washington Inventory Service, and Nature's.

A Staffing Services Job Fair will take place tomorrow, Oct. 22, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Job seekers may meet with representatives from 18 local Staffing Services that are offering temporary and permanent job opportunities. Bring your resumé and be prepared for on-the-spot interviews.

Job opportunities include clerical, financial, customer service, technical support, light industrial, and warehouse.

For further information call 644-1229.

Community in the Park slated for Nov. 7

The entire Vernonia community is invited to "Community in the Park", Saturday, Nov. 7, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., in Hawkins Park, to celebrate the progress made...and learn about future plans...for restoration of the Old Scout Cabin Building.

Come and greet the benefactors and community volunteers who have made this project possible.

Warm beverages and cookies will be served. Tours of the facility will be held, and Southwest Airlines tickets raffled.

This event is sponsored by The Friends of the Scout Cabin, and Youth in Action!

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