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Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Grand Teton National Park

Department of Agriculture
U.S. Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest

Teton Interagency Fire Management

Teton County Parks & Recreation Students Participate in Fire Programs



Spring break in Teton County means more than just a two-week hiatus from school. It triggers the kick-off for the Teton County Parks & Recreation's *Kid's Club Spring Break Program*. For ten days, the program offers a variety of both indoor and outdoor activities for children participating in the sessions. "The goal of the program," explained Recreation Supervisor Mike Estes, "is to combine fun activities and field outings with opportunities to learn about the community."

This year's line-up included a trip to Grand Teton National Park's fire cache to learn about the training that is part of wildland fire season preparation. The participants spent much of the morning learning about safe fire management field practices and protective clothing. They had a chance to try on gear, deploy fire shelters, and lift a 45-pound pack used in physical fitness testing. The students then rode bicycles up the inner park road, a section of roadway closed to motorized vehicles through May 1. Along the route, they viewed new growth from the 1985 Beaver Creek Fire and listened to a roadside geology lesson led by a park naturalist. Later in the week, the same group had an opportunity to visit the Hawkins & Powers helibase, sit in a helicopter, see the equipment used for bucket drops, and talk about prescribed fire.

The Parks & Recreation Department also schedules monthly afternoon programs that coincide with Teton County School District early release days. Last month, the Jackson/Teton County Fire Department hosted a field trip to their Adams Canyon facility. There, the students ran through a series of structural fire exercises and discussed fire prevention.

"These are the kinds of programs we love to offer," summarized Estes. In all, eighty-one students took part in the two Parks & Recreation programs.

