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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



Media Release

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Egg hunt, Community Fun Fair set for March 31

By **Melissa Buckley**
GUIDON staff

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Fort Leonard Wood will be hoppin' with kids March 31 with an Easter Egg Hunt, followed by a Community Fun Fair.

This will be the fourth year Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation has hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on post. This year, the hunt is scheduled at 10 a.m. in Colyer Park.

Warren Britton, a certified program planner for FMWR, said when the weather is nice, about 3,000 kids usually participate.

"We will have two different egg hunting areas; zero to 3 years of age and 4 to 12 years of age. In the zero to 3 years of age we will allow the parents to escort as needed, but will not be allowing strollers into the area. The 4 to 12 years of age will be kids-only zoning," Britton said. "Some eggs will have coins in them that can be exchanged for trinkets."

"Children can take their picture with the Easter Bunny with their private camera. We will have a few games to participate in, too," he added.

Photos with the Easter Bunny will begin at 9 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt is free, and kids need to bring their own basket.

"I would advise everyone to be there early as the egg hunting will start at 10 a.m. sharp and will not last 10 minutes, as it does not take long for 15,000 eggs to be picked up by the Fort Leonard Wood children," Britton said. "It is another great event that allows families to enjoy some quality time together."

The rain date for the Easter Egg Hunt is April 7.

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After the egg hunt, the 18th Annual Community Fun Fair will begin at 11 a.m. at The Child Development Center, Bldg. 615 and School-Age Services, Bldg. 616 on Replacement Avenue.

The fun fair's theme this year is "The Great Adventure." The fair is scheduled to last until 3 p.m. A car seat and bike-helmet inspection station will be set up across Replacement Avenue at Building 470.

"Phyllis Jones from Health Promotions is hosting a Bicycle Rodeo and Car Seat check. The children and youth need to bring their own bike to participate," said Millie Justus, Child, Youth & School Services lead training and curriculum specialist.

"The Community Fun Fair will provide a forum for Fort Leonard Wood and the local civilian agencies to come together for the purpose of promoting Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Fun Fair will promote family wellness, child development issues, parenting skills and child abuse prevention awareness through the distribution of materials and activities conducted in a festive manner," Justus said. "The Great Adventure activities planned consist of: The Amazing Hat Making Shop, a cake walk, free popcorn, balloons and food, Robotic Systems Joint Project Office will be in attendance with their robots, Amazing Baby Room, inflatables, information tables, Kid ID, and much more."

Justus' favorite thing about the fun fair is "The smiles, giggles and delights of children and their families," she said.

All events are open to the public. For more information, visit www.fortleonardwoodmwr.com.

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Reporters interested in covering this event or obtaining media interviews should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573-563-4145, NLT 30 March.

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.