

# La Porte/Bayshore Sun

## La Porte PD hosts summer DARE camp



SUMMERTIME ADVENTURES - Participants in the La Porte Police Department's Summer DARE Camp gather for a photo with the members of local law enforcement, PHI and La Porte Fire and EMS.

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While many children elect to spend their summer hours on activities limited to pure leisure, a total of 21 young La Porte I.S.D. students joined three La Porte Police Officers in a series of summertime adventures to be envied.

The 2009 Summer D.A.R.E. camp activities were held Monday through Thursday, during the weeks of June 8, 2009 and June 22, 2009.

Events not only included the expected police-related activities, but also provided the students with several unexpected opportunities for summer fun.

Students who had completed the fifth grade in La Porte Schools during the 2008-2009 school year were sent home with D.A.R.E. Summer Camp registration forms during the week of April 13 to April 17, 2009.

Those who completed the forms and took part in the program enjoyed adventures to the NASA/Johnson Space Center, The city of La Porte's Wave Pool and The La Porte Police Department facility, where they received a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility.

What's more, camp participants engaged in rounds of kickball, volleyball and basketball while simultaneously receiving instructional lessons concerning team building, Internet safety and the harms surrounding tobacco usage.

To complete their experience, camp enrollees spent their final day with a hands-on opportunity to observe Police, Fire, PHI (Helicopter), and EMS vehicles.

The primary mission of the La Porte Police D.A.R.E. program is to provide children with the information and skills they need to live drug-and-violence-free lives.

The department fulfills this mission by equipping kids with the tools that will enable them to avoid negative influences and instead, allows them to focus on their strengths and potential; exactly what D.A.R.E. is designed to do.

Additionally, the D.A.R.E. program establishes positive relationships between students and law enforcement.

Every youngster should have the opportunity to grow-up healthy, safe, secure, and equipped with the skills needed to succeed in life. D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a collaborative program in which local law enforcement and local schools join together to educate students about the personal and social consequences of substance abuse and violence.

Officer Yvonne Stanley instructs students in the D.A.R.E. curriculum at the Baker Sixth Grade Campus and after the students graduate, most attend their junior-high years at either La Porte or Lomax Junior High-Schools.

La Porte Police Department School Resource Officers Brian Larkey and Matt Novosad are assigned to each of the campuses and, with Officer Stanley, the officers provided a memorable experience for 21 developing young minds.

Officer Stanley is the coordinator for the La Porte Police D.A.R.E. program and she can be reached at 281-842-3152.