

~ *News Release* ~



Moorhead Police Department

David G. Ebinger
Chief of Police

July 15th, 2009
8:00 a.m.

Police Summer Youth Program

The Moorhead Police Summer Youth Program aimed at children 8-12 year old proves to be more successful every year. The first Moorhead Police Summer Youth Program started 29 years ago as an opportunity for children in the community to participate in fun activities they wouldn't have otherwise been able to. Moorhead Police Officers chaperoned and interacted with 15 youths in 1980 and immediately recognized the benefits and opportunities to reach many more.

This year's attendance is now at full capacity with 200 highly enthusiastic children. This voluntary program funded through the Minnesota Youth Intervention Program Association (YIPA) by Department of Public Safety continues to be full of recreation and allows for teaching opportunities blended in with the fun. Once a week police officers and various other volunteers interact with the children over a noon lunch. This provides an excellent opportunity to talk about the consequences of bad decisions such as shoplifting, smoking, or not eating healthy. Educational components range from various safety talks to a K9 demonstration. These personal interactions help develop strong relationships and help support positive decision making.

Each day ranges from 4-6 hour of fun activities. Some of this year's events are skating, bowling, picnics, thunder road, and swimming! The program is held every Wednesday for 8 straight weeks in the Summer and targets all youth in the community.

Public Information Officer
Lt. Tory Jacobson
Office 218-299-5117
Tory.jacobson@ci.moorhead.mn.us

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Today's activities will begin at 12:00 p.m. at the Moorhead Armory. After a presentation on anti-smoking, everyone will be bussed over to Skateland for food and fun! Moorhead Police Officer Brian Dahl is the coordinator for this program and is prepared to assist media with any questions or interviews about the success of this program.

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