Announcer:

The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Emily Yeap:

Summer is almost here, and many families are looking for summer programs to engage their children. This year, Missouri State University will offer Camp Claw, a weekly day camp from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through its Foster Recreation Center (FRC).

Designed for kids ages 6-12, the camp will run for eight weeks from June 6th to August 6th. I’m Emily Yeap.

With me today to share more about Camp Claw is Dan LaPalm, camp director and assistant director of recreational sports at the FRC.

Dan LaPalm:

Camp Claw is really just about developing children from 6-12, bringing them onto campus and providing them an experience in a day-camp setting.

 I think it’s really important that we have this for Missouri State and the Springfield community because we are a big part of that community and that public affairs focus that we have here at the university is really important to us. So, really just being able to provide it not only for our students that we have every day, but providing that youth of our Springfield community a different perspective and getting them onto our college campus.

Emily Yeap:

There will be a different theme each week.

Dan LaPalm:

My favorite theme right now is going to be “Bears in Space” and then we also have an Olympic theme, so it differs per week of what we do. And each week we’ve developed a theme that starts off with a opening-type ceremony. So, our Olympics we’re actually having an opening ceremony, and then on Friday, at the end of camp, we're having a closing ceremony out on our patio at the FRC. So, really that theme encompasses the whole week.

Our staff is comprised of Missouri State students. They're freshmen to we have a graduate student coming in and helping us out. We’re roughly going about 15-30 per week, our cap’s at 30, and we can expand that depending on the number if we need to go over. But yeah, right now we’re going to 15-30 campers per week.

Emily Yeap:

Other themes include Buccaneer Week: Pirates, Color Me Happy: Color Wars, Foster Circus: Come One Come All!, Calling All Superheroes!, Secret Agents: Spy and Take a Hike: Adventure.

What types of things will campers be doing?

Dan LaPalm:

Learning arts and crafts, doing some science, technology stuff, but also using our recreational facility. So, we’re going to play on the courts, we’re going to swim in the pool, climb on a rock wall. So, we have a 27-foot climbing wall in our facility, and then also providing some educational experiences in our studio areas, as well as different games and activities and teambuilding opportunities on our courts and then at the recreational fields.

For Buccaneer Week, we’re going to have a treasure hunt that will encompass all of campus, not only the FRC. So, it’ll be a treasure located on our campus at Missouri State and the camp counselors will help navigate the campers throughout campus and getting them to finding that treasure.

Each day the lunch is provided by Event and Dining Services. So, we’ll go over to Blair-Shannon Dining Hall and each lunch, and then they’ll bring snack over to the FRC. So, it’s really a partnership throughout campus.

Emily Yeap:

LaPalm encourages parents to sign up their children.

Dan LaPalm:

For parents, what their kid should expect and what they should expect is just a fun environment and a safe environment for them to go to. Not only will we have camp counselors and myself and our assistant camp director, but also, we have all of our facility staff that will be overseeing them as well and making sure that they have a fun experience.

All these activities that we’re doing have been developed by different people within child development and stuff like that that the children can express themselves as much as possible and really just develop as a whole student.

Emily Yeap:

Each week of camp per camper costs $150 and includes lunch and snack. Registration is online at recportal.missouristate.edu.

Dan LaPalm:

We’re really flexible if you want to register now for all of camp. We have some campers that are doing the whole summer with us, and some are just doing a week at a time or a couple weeks. We do offer before and after-care too. Before care, it starts at 7 a.m., and then goes to 8 o’clock when camp starts. And then, after care, that starts at 5 p.m. and it goes until 6 p.m.

Emily Yeap:

To find out more details, visit missouristate.edu/recreation/camp-claw.htm. I’m Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.

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For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org.