

CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



June 2016 - ISSUE 6

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FROM THE FIELD

Summer Camps Energize Youth Preparedness

From tornadoes to zombies, youth at summer camps across the Nation are learning how to prepare for a wide range of disasters. Several camps have built programs to get kids excited and engaged in resilience efforts.

One such camp is held at Texas State University in San Marcos and organized by the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) in mid-June. This annual [Youth Preparedness Camp](#) groups teams of 8th–12th grade students together to complete a 20-hour basic Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

training, engage in community action planning, and hone skills to lead their schools and communities in discussions about preparing for potential hazards.

In Wisconsin, two camps provide a wide range of skills. Sponsored by [University of Wisconsin-](#)



[Extension 4-H](#), the Zombie Survival Day Camp in mid-June hosts 6th–8th graders. Through simulation games, zombie make-up, scavenger hunts, and other hands-on activities, campers learn about emergency preparedness. At the end of June, campers aged 13–18 in Lodi, WI, attend the five-day “Responding to Emergencies And Disasters with Youth” (READY) camp. READY camp inspires youth to help their schools, neighborhoods, and communities be more resilient by participating in volunteer activities and community service learning projects. Visit the [READY Camp Facebook](#) page to keep up with camp activities.

Wisconsin is not the only state offering zombie-themed camps to get youth thinking about resilience. The west coast’s offerings are plentiful. From the [San Francisco Bay Area](#) to [Portland, OR](#), the organization Trackers Earth offers day camps. In Washington, Wolf College offers a week-long overnight camp called [Wolf Camp](#) that culminates in an Ultimate Zombie Apocalypse Survival Challenge.

To reach fans of The Hunger Games, Oregon’s Wasco County 4-H Youth Development program sponsors a day camp called “Hungrier Games.” During camp, youth work in teams to survive a disaster situation, including hurricanes, snow storms, heat waves, and the ever-popular zombies. Call 541-296-5494 for more information, or [register online](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEMA Seeks Applicants for Region V Youth Preparedness Council



Youth Preparedness Council

Are you a student in grades 8–11 making a difference in your community’s disaster preparedness? Do you want to become a regional advocate for youth disaster preparedness? If so, apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Region V Youth Preparedness Council!](#) The council will consist of representatives from each state within Region V’s area of responsibility: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Applications must be received by June 30, 2016 11:59 p.m. CDT.

Last Call: Apply Now for Youth Disaster Prep Grant Program



In partnership with [Save the Children](#), a global leader in disaster preparation and relief, [Youth Service America](#) (YSA) is supporting youth organizations to help their communities get ready for disasters. Apply for the [We Stand Strong](#) program to access training and project grants that help youth leaders organize disaster preparedness awareness events and service projects on September 11th, National Day of Service and Remembrance.

This year, the program is focused on the following regions: the Mid-Atlantic (DC, MD, VA), the South (OK, TX, AR, LA, MS), California, and the Northeast Tri-State Area (NY, NJ, CT). Applications are due June 10, 2016.

To apply, visit www.ysa.org/grants/organization-grants/westandstrong. Check out www.savethechildren.org/GetReady for information about other preparedness opportunities.

School Leaders to Meet for Annual Conference

Just outside our Nation's capital, this July the [National Association of Elementary School Principals](#) will host its [2016 national conference](#) at the Gaylord National Harbor Hotel. The conference will feature top professionals in the field of youth safety, including FEMA's National Youth Preparedness Lead, Allison Carlock.

Check out the conference page for details on the [programs and speakers](#), and don't forget to [register!](#)



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Service Members to Celebrate 75 Years



In August, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) will celebrate its 75th anniversary during its [2016 National Conference](#) in Nashville, TN. [Pre-conference workshop](#) offerings include a newly redesigned Training Leaders of Cadets course, which equips adult leaders with youth mentoring skills, policy knowledge, and practical tools for implementing the CAP Cadet Program. Additionally, current CAP Cadets are invited to attend Cadet Day on the last day of the conference.

To get the most up-to-date details, join the [Facebook event](#) and use [#CAPNC16](#) to join the conversation.

RESOURCES

Learn to Create Resilient Communities



The Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences recently published the [Extreme Event Webquest](#). The three-part webquest is designed to teach critical-thinking skills and inspire youth from middle school through college to help their neighbors be more resilient. Students use a variety of online resources including videos, games, and reference materials to gather information as they complete a series of activities. The webquest's key messages are based on expert reports of the National Research Council, including [Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative](#).

Teachers can also use the [Extreme Event Game](#) in conjunction with the Extreme Event Webquest. During the game, players learn how important it is to build coalitions and invest in resources to

make their city more resilient. The game lasts about one hour and requires a minimum of 12 participants. Visit [Koshland Science Museum](#) for more information.



Access Safety Resources for Schools



The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance (REMS TA) Center has released an [Emergency Management Virtual Toolkit](#) for state and local education agencies, emergency management agencies, school safety centers, and others who play a key role in school safety and emergency management. The toolkit provides users with an opportunity to populate their own websites with the latest Federal school emergency management training. It also has resources and information for schools based on location.

Visit the REMS TA Center's [Emergency Management Virtual Toolkit registration website](#) to request a copy of the toolkit. You can also search [#PrepareAthonForSchools](#) on Twitter for more helpful tips about using the toolkit.

Help Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The thought of a natural or man-made disaster can be especially stressful for families with children who have disabilities or special health care needs. To assist these families, the [Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center](#) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School developed a curriculum designed to enable successful preparedness planning.



The curriculum includes an [Emergency Readiness Toolkit](#), tip sheets, and useful planning tools, such as a [Family Emergency Plan Template](#) to help participants develop personalized emergency plans. Resources focus on sharing "need to know" information about a child's unique needs with first responders. To check out the resources, click [here](#).

YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL CORNER

Muckleshoot Tribal Nation Practices Resilience

On April 28, Hailey Starr, a Region X member of FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council, hosted a Native Youth Emergency Preparedness Fair during the Muckleshoot Tribal Nation's Culture Night. Starr used the event to share her preparedness knowledge with tribe members. She recruited



Hailey Starr and Teen CERT members raffled off emergency kits and taught basic first aid to members of the Muckleshoot Tribe during Culture Night.

fellow Teen CERT members, along with school staff, to help with the fair. Starr received a \$2,000 donation from the school for the event.

The fair included practicing basic first aid, sampling foods that could be used in an emergency kit, and participating in emergency pack giveaways. Through the fair and planning upcoming events, Starr is making a lasting impact on her tribe's preparedness.

To reach Hailey about her efforts, please contact her Region X mentor, Bryant Harrison, at Bryant.Harrison@fema.dhs.gov.

Palo Alto Students Create Preparedness Posters



In collaboration with the Office of Emergency Services, Emergency Service Volunteers for the City of Palo Alto, and FEMA Region IX, FEMA Youth Preparedness Council member Divakar Saini organized an [Art Poster Contest](#) for Palo Alto students in grades 1-8. Submissions showcased how youth and their families can prepare for disasters and have a plan for responding to potential hazards, such as earthquakes or wildfires.

On National PrepareAthon! Day, April 30, 2016, the City of Palo Alto announced two winners for each grade level. Honored by the mayor, all winners received gift certificates and official certificates of achievement. Additionally, all participants received America's PrepareAthon! certificates. The posters are on display at City Hall and the Palo Alto Art Center.

If you'd like advice for planning a similar initiative, you can reach Saini by contacting his FEMA Region IX mentor, Randy Brawley, at Randy.Brawley@fema.dhs.gov.

[Click here for more information about FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council.](#)

PREPAREDNESS QUIZ

Test Your Preparedness Knowledge

When it comes to children and disasters, Americans can never be too prepared. Take this short quiz to learn how prepared Americans feel.

1) What percent of Americans have a family emergency communication plan that all family members know about?

- A. 26%
- B. 34%
- C. 41%
- D. 50%



2) What percent of Americans aren't familiar with their child's school evacuation and emergency plans?

- A. 10%
- B. 25%
- C. 15%
- D. 35%

3) What percent of Americans don't know the location their children would be evacuated to during a disaster?

- A. 51%
- B. 41%
- C. 31%
- D. 21%

4) Approximately what percentage of Americans are confident in their community's ability to meet the unique needs of children in disasters?

- A. 2%
- B. 32%
- C. 62%
- D. 92%

Answers: 1) D; 2) D; 3) B; and 4) C

Source: "[Children in Disasters: Do Americans Feel Prepared? A National Survey](#)," published by the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Earth Institute, on behalf of the [Resilient Children/Resilient Communities Initiative](#), in partnership with Save the Children with funding from GSK.

CONTACT US

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