

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Free Junior Deputy Academy provides fun, life lessons to local youth**

There is a good chance some of the next generation of Comal County law officers will come from this summer's Junior Deputy Academy.

The Junior Deputy Academy is a free five-day camp catering to local youth between the ages of 9-11.

After having only two Junior Deputy Academies last year, the Comal County Sheriff's Office planned three this summer.

"We received such an overwhelming response from students and parents the first time we did this," said Bob Holder, Comal County Sheriff. "We just didn't think two academies were going to be enough."

From the looks of how the summer's first camp is going at Oak Creek Elementary School in New Braunfels, Holder is being proved correct. A hundred students showed up at the camp, which is running June 7-11.

The final two camps of the summer will be held at Arlon Seay Elementary in Spring Branch (June 21-25) and Canyon Lake High in Fischer (July 12-16). Limited space is available at both camp locations.

"I think it's great that students this age are exposed to officers who show them how much they care about their well being," said Rick Cardenas, Comal



County Sergeant. "I really believe the things they learn here will help them with the challenges they will face during their lives as teens."

Throughout the five-day camp, where students meet from 8 a.m.-noon, campers will be exposed to lessons on Internet safety, what it feels like to drive when you're decision making is impaired by alcohol or drugs, gun safety, safety around electrical equipment, and Operation Life Saver will expose the children to life saving tips.

In addition, the local AirLIFE air-ambulance helicopter will land at each camp, and the New Braunfels Police Department K-9 unit, New Braunfels Fire and EMS Departments, and a Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden will all pay a visit to children attending the Junior Deputy Academy.

"We're learning how to be safe," said Freiheit Elementary student Madison Morgan. "The officers are nice, and they're here to answer our questions. So far, the most important things I've learned is to never give out your name or personal information on the Internet, and to never get into a car with someone who's been drinking or isn't acting right."

Tim Kolbe, Comal County Corporal, said the officers running the camp try and take a calculated approach when interacting with the students.

"We're a fun camp, and we want the students to have a good time when they're here," Kolbe said. "But we're also a camp that is teaching them lifelong lessons."

Church Hill Middle student Nick Moppin said he has already gained more knowledge than he expected to at the Junior Deputy Academy.

"I've learned a lot at the camp," Moppin said. "Even at our age, it's never too early to learn some of the things they are teaching us. I would really recommend this camp to anyone who's thinking about attending."

Students attending the free camp will receive a T-shirt, as well as a certificate on the final day of camp during a graduation ceremony.

Children wanting to attend either of the final two camps this summer can visit [co.comal.tx.us](http://co.comal.tx.us) and click on the "Junior Deputy Sheriff's Academy Information" link.

IN PHOTOS: Goodwin Frazier Elementary student Daniel Campos tries to navigate his way through a course filled with driving cones wearing goggles that simulate impaired vision. Deputy Herman Medina, the school resource officer at Canyon High, is ready to assist if needed during this "Impaired Driving Cart" drill.

Freiheit Elementary student Madison Morgan makes the catch, but it certainly wasn't easy, as the goggles she's wearing simulate a driver with a blood alcohol content of 0.12, which is well over the legal limit of 0.08.

Comal County D.A.R.E. Officer Ron Lanigan addresses an attentive group at the Junior Deputy Academy at Oak Creek Elementary.

