

Mission Corps day camp – kids with a mission

Inner city children enjoy summer activities.

by Jennifer Byrd –

On a summer day in San Francisco's Mission District, boys and girls from the Mission Corps' day camp program were enjoying the jungle gyms and swimming pool. It was the second-to-last day of camp, and preparations were being made for the last day party.

"We are putting together a slide show of the summer, which will include pictures of the kids involved in different projects," said Mercedes De Jesus, the day camp director.

The creative projects included the children putting together a collage using images to depict who they thought they were, and drawing a story. Children also went on field trips, visiting various locations in the Bay Area, including Six Flags Discovery Kingdom and hiking at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco.

This year the Mission day camp boasted more than 60 children. "It was a great program," said Lieutenant Maria Ruiz of the Mission Corps. "We had a large group, and the children had so much fun."

A nonscientific poll among the camp attendees proved that Six Flags was the favorite trip. "The red ride, vertical velocity was my favorite," said Anthony, 12. "I also liked making new friends."

And the kids got up early to have all this fun. To allow for the working family's schedule, camp began at 7:30 a.m. and concluded at 5:00 p.m.

"I get up at 5 a.m. to come to camp," said Amily, 9.

It puts getting up for work in perspective!

