

For Immediate Release

Camp Summit Students Clean Up Neighborhood Playground

LaPorte, Indiana (June 10, 2010) – Recently a work crew comprised of staff and four students from Camp Summit Boot Camp, Indiana Department of Correction, Youth Services Division, conducted cleaning of the community playground located by the Bethany Lutheran Church, near Boston Middle School, in LaPorte .

Camp Summit is a male juvenile facility located between Michigan City and LaPorte and is Indiana's only military-style boot camp. With a capacity of 90 beds and an average age of 16.7, this six-month program is designed for juvenile males from throughout Indiana who have been adjudicated as delinquent by Indiana courts. Camp Summit's program consists of a good balance of military components such as drill and ceremony, physical training, team building, an accredited school, plus various programs designed to give the juveniles an opportunity to improve their lives.

The students, who all volunteered, are part of a Community Service Program that partners the LaPorte City Police Department with Camp Summit to provide the public with assistance in removing graffiti from property that has been vandalized in the city.



“The community service projects that we do year-long are an integral part of our intent to create awareness in our students of the harmful consequences that their actions have had on their victims. The projects are designed to require them to take action to make amends to the victim, community, and, whenever possible, involve victims directly in the justice process”, Facility Superintendent Cecil K. Davis, said.

Another important part in our effort to facilitate understanding and promote change in our students is having the students participate in the Community Victim Impact Panel. This panel which is sponsored through the LaPorte Superior Court 4 allows our students to come to the court house to hear victims speak about their experiences of being victimized by crime. After attending, the students write essays and have group discussions on what they learned from hearing victims speak about their feelings associated with their being a victim of crime. The students also discuss how their particular crime impacted their victims and or the community,” according to Davis.

The Community Service Director at Camp Summit, John Cosich , who supervised the students during this project, stated the if the public is interested in receiving assistance in removing graffiti, they can contact Captain Julie Smith at the LaPorte City Police Department, 219 362-9446 ext.202 or John Cosich at 219 - 326-1188, ext.227 @ Camp Summit. Property owners must provide the materials to clean the graffiti. Mr. Cosich also stated that local businesses may donate materials to assist the program as well.

Photographs show Camp Summit students cleaning graffiti off playground equipment in LaPorte.

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Media Contact:

Superintendent Cecil K. Davis

Camp Summit Boot Camp

(219) 326-1188

cdavis@idoc.in.gov