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MEDIA ADVISORY
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Rainbow Days Hosts Outdoor Adventure Camp for Dallas-Area Homeless Children

DALLAS – In July, Rainbow Days' Family Connection team was thrilled to host **two weeks of Outdoor Adventure Camp** for a combined total of **68 unduplicated homeless children** living in seven partnering shelters and three local motels.



At Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian, Rainbow Days took **extensive safety precautions** – including masks, hand sanitizer, regular surface cleaning, social distancing and small groups – to ensure that all children could safely enjoy this special summertime experience alongside their group leaders.

For children experiencing homelessness, COVID-19 has been particularly difficult due to shelter lockdowns, feelings of isolation and the lack of fun, safe and enriching summer activities. Because of this, Rainbow Days and its Family Connection team were incredibly grateful to be able to give Outdoor Adventure Camp participants the **physical space to decompress and experience new things** alongside **positive adult role models**.

At Outdoor Adventure Camp, campers were grouped by age and gender into small groups led by Rainbow Days' staff and contracted group leaders. Each day of camp, the children got the chance to try a variety of exciting **outdoor recreation activities** provided by Camp Hoblitzelle, including **horseback riding**, zip lining, fishing, **longhorn feeding** and **swimming**.

Further, Rainbow Days' 2020 Outdoor Adventure Camp **expanded campers' educational horizons** through hands-on **STEM classes** as well as visual and performing **arts programming**. Instructors from **Mad Science of Dallas & Fort Worth** taught live virtual lessons on geology and physics, which were accompanied by interactive science experiments led by Rainbow Days' group leaders. **Creepy Critters** introduced children to wildlife and conservation through hands-on experiences with frogs, lizards, snakes and insects. Arts classes at Outdoor Adventure Camp included **music, visual arts and dance** taught by instructors from the **Artist Outreach** as well as local independent artists.



Rainbow Days would like to recognize the many supporters who made these camps possible through their generous financial gifts, including the following funders: **Chi Omega Christmas Market, Lowe Foundation, Center for Disaster Philanthropy** and **TEGNA Foundation**. Additionally, Rainbow Days is grateful for the **In-N-Out Burger Foundation**, which provided the **In-N-Out Cookout Truck** as a special treat for campers on the last day of camp. Finally, special thanks go to the **Intrinsic Foundation**, which provided breakfast and snacks for the children each day of camp.



ABOUT FAMILY CONNECTION: Outdoor Adventure Camp is a program of **Family Connection**, Rainbow Days' award-winning collaborative model that

exists to meet the critical needs of children ages 4-12 who are experiencing homelessness. Each year, Family Connection positively impacts approximately 1,000 homeless children through support groups, summer camps, family outings and tangible goods. Through these effective services and local **partnerships with nearly 30 Dallas-area shelters and homeless-serving sites**, Rainbow Days brings hope, coping skills and resilience to these children to help them overcome life's challenges.

ABOUT RAINBOW DAYS: Rainbow Days is a **Dallas-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit** organization. Founded in **1982**, Rainbow Days has a mission to **help children and youth in adversity build coping skills and resilience to create positive futures**. Through support groups, camps, mentored events and tangible items, Rainbow Days makes meaningful connections with more than **9,000 at-risk and homeless children and youth** in the Dallas area annually. For more information, please visit www.rainbowdays.org or call (214) 887-0726.



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