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Round two of summer camps

By Steve Palisin - spalisin@thesunnews.com

School is out, so summer camps will make the grade for many families with youngsters for the next two months, in sports, art and other outlets of fun and creativity. Since The Sun News first ran a roundup of area summer camps on May 4 in Kicks! news of more camps has been circulated.

Two weeklong programs by Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach – Camp Air Waves and Camp Seven Seas, for children ages 7-11 with asthma and diabetes, respectively – return for a 15th summer, said Julie Kopnicki, community relations supervisor for the hospital.

She said Mark Schecker, MD, allergist and medical director of the camps, started and developed them to fill a void, because children with diabetes and asthma don't have their own camp locally.

For all four days next week, at HealthFinders at Coastal Grand mall in Myrtle Beach, the camps will start each day with an education session about their conditions and symptoms, then the groups interact and share in doing arts and crafts, swimming, games, music and field trips the rest of the day, Kopnicki said.

The coordinators and volunteers also remind the youth of their capabilities for various activities, "to show a lot of things they can do, but probably don't think they're allowed to do," Kopnicki said.

Looking forward to her first year helping coordinate the camps, Kopnicki said officials also have heard from parents with children returning for the 2012 edition, and that the adults have as much fun as the youth taking part.

"It's rewarding for all involved," Kopnicki said.

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