

# SUMMER CAMPS 2012 /#1

## Camp Fair in Moraga Touts Variety of Summer Activities

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Roy's Magic Camp

Some vendors set up a hoop and brought a few balls, and that was enough for kids to start running around and having fun on the large grassy field of the Hacienda. "That's what kids do best," said Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School teacher Jerry Gruen who presented information about the Moraga Sports Camp, "just having fun!"

But not all of the kids were interested in sports. "My daughter wants to do magic," said Dupart. "That's why we came here so the kids could see who the people are and we as parents can get an idea of what the interaction will be."

Roy's Magic Camp had come to the fair prepared to give potential young clients a taste of what the camp would be like, showing them tricks, getting

them to play and guess. Roy Porfido (Roy the Magician) got them involved and wanting more. "We teach them how to present themselves, puppetry, story telling, juggling and also magic," Porfido explained.

Next to the magician, the Jewelry Making vendor was showing off the natural beads and the tools the children will use during the camp to create bracelets, necklaces, earrings and other decorative objects. "We get mostly girls for this camp," she said, "but every year we get one or two boys as well."

One of the camps that has done well over the past years, and is expanding, is Camp Kinder Cool for incoming kindergarteners, said Ingram. "And this year two teachers are adding a Oneder Cool camp for

kids entering first grade." These camps are in the academics category and speak to local parents' determination to give their kids the best chance possible to succeed.

"Oneder Cool is for the transition from kindergarten to first grade. We focus on reading skills and phonics and making sure that they'll have that solid base to start first grade," said Rheem Elementary teacher Cathy Kathan. "But there will also be a lot of bubbles and Play-Doh, as well as outside, in the garden, and water play, while making sure that they learn to read." The camp will be held at Rheem but is open to any incoming first grader from any school district.

By the end of the fair, Recreation and Facilities Coordinator Kimberly Nelson was quite happy with the number of people who had signed up for classes. "We offered a 10 percent discount for people who signed up today," she said.

"This is a big help for the camp organizers," said Ingram. "One of the reasons for this offering (the 10 percent discount) was to get people to commit early so the instructors have some level of comfort." Ingram remembers instances when camps had only three kids signed up a week and half before the start date and had to be canceled.

"Parents who wanted to sign up three days before camp started were disappointed that it was no longer offered," he said.

At this time, there is still space in all the camps. You can register online at [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us).

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## East Bay Camp Fair Comes to Lafayette

Submitted by Donna Eames

Representatives from more than 20 area summer camps will be available to answer questions and hand out materials regarding their camps to families with children ages 3 to 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 in the fellowship hall at the Lafayette United Methodist Church as part of the 2012 East Bay Summer Camp and Activity Fair.

Participating camps will include those offering various sports, music, nature, art, horses and riding, canoeing, fishing, academics, therapeutic, computers, digital design, photography, leadership training and more.

The one-day event will be sponsored by Chapter OE, Concord, of PEO International. PEO International is a philanthropic, educational organization in which the advancement of women is promoted through education. Proceeds from the Fair will help establish a scholarship fund for women at Diablo Valley College located in Concord, California. Information about PEO is further explained at [www.peointernational.org](http://www.peointernational.org).

To learn more about the Fair, find details and contact information at [www.ebsaf.com](http://www.ebsaf.com).

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