



During the Pandemic, 'Day Camp' Comes to the Kids

Traditionally, kids go away to camp. This year, thanks to funding in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County, the Boy Scouts of America Sagamore Council was able to bring camp to the kids.

In response to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused most scout-based events to be cancelled, the locally based Sagamore Council created and packaged 16 fun-filled activities into a single "Day Camp in a Box."

Built around a "Day on the Farm" theme, campers had everything they needed to make a bee house, magnetic slime, make and shoot a marshmallow cannon, learn about composting and farming, make their own scarecrow, do an obstacle course, scavenger hunt, and much more. The hands-on activities are supplemented by online video.

According to Ben Blumenberg, Sagamore Council scout executive and CEO, the local council adapted to the "stay-at-home" orders in early 2020 by looking for creative ways to offer a virtual program in place of the usual day camp experience at Jackson Morrow Park in Howard County. "Day Camp in a Box' benefits the kids and their parents as well," Blumenberg said. Drawing on volunteers, local talent and their own creativity, the Sagamore Council has turned "stay-at-home" into "scouting-at-home."

"The best part about the package is campers were able to experience an amazing journey to the farm with their favorite Camp Counselor, their parents, and at their favorite farm, the family home," Blumenberg said.

The experience has paid off. "The response from the kids has been phenomenal, and parents have expressed their appreciation as well that the kids had these activities for the summer," Blumenberg said. "It definitely provided some relief for parents."

Plus, Blumenberg noted that scouts are eager to continue to participate in whatever form it takes. "The number of Cub Scout advancements has remained nearly identical with the numbers from the same period in 2019," he said.

"Day Camp in a Box" was available for any child from kindergarten to 5th grade. Cub Scouts can use the activities to complete rank requirements for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, depending on their current rank requirements.

