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Parks & Rec and The Daily Times Win State Awards

Parks & Rec is proud to announce one of our Community Partners, The Daily Times, was recently awarded **The Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association Four Star Benefactor Award**. This award recognizes an individual, organization or company that has donated a significant gift to a parks and recreation agency for the purpose of enhancing the quality of life in their community. The gift can be a financial contribution, tangible equipment/property, a product, or in-kind service and must have a minimum value of \$5,000.

For more than 25 years, the Daily Times has been an invaluable corporate partner in assisting the Parks & Rec Staff in the development of informational brochures, seasonal tabloids, news stories and announcements to promote and market our diverse programs and special events to the community. Each year the Daily Times far exceeds the minimum \$5000. value required to qualify for the Benefactor Award.

The financial value for advertising, program tabloids and special event promotional pieces donated to Parks & Rec last year was valued at over \$50,000. With our modest yearly advertising budget, the true value of this support is incalculable. Parks & Rec is very appreciative of the role the Daily Times plays in assisting us with the fulfillment of our mission to the community and we are proud this support has been recognized with this prestigious award.



Pictured Left: Daily Times Staff; Carl Esposito, Evelyn Sandlin & Quentin Anthony review the latest program tabloid with Parks & Rec Staff, Connie Ball & Cookie Crowson.

Recycle Your Live Christmas Tree

Drop off your tree at Sandy Springs Park parking lot or Springbrook Pool parking lot Dec. 26 - Jan.10. PLEASE remove all lights, nails & decorations. The trees will provide fish and wildlife sanctuaries and mulch for our local parks.

Park Pavilion Reservations for 2016 open January 4 online at www.parksrec.com or in person at the Parks & Rec Office. Reservations cannot be taken by phone.

The Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association Four Star Award For Excellence In Special Events Programming was recently awarded to Parks & Rec for the youth athletic program "Inspire 18 Football Camp Featuring Randall Cobb". The award was presented during the Association's annual conference held last month in Kingsport.

The free camp was an opportunity for 250 participants from Blount County to receive quality instruction from an NFL great and also an opportunity to raise funds for two community charity programs. The first charity is one that Randall Cobb supports on a personal level, "Blessings in a Backpack", which partners with America to ensure impoverished elementary school children are fed on the weekends throughout the school year. The second charity, the Parks & Rec "Youth Enrichment Scholarship" program, allows children who are on a free or reduced school lunch program to be able to participate in Parks & Rec. programs at a reduced cost. The camp and support for the charities was made possible through community partnerships and sponsors. The goal of the event was to create a memorable experience for the youth of Blount County by providing instruction in the game of football while encouraging each participant to try their hardest in all aspects of life from education to their participation in sports.

Sponsorships from area businesses included LeConte Radiology, Cherokee Millwright, Breazeale Clinic, West Chevrolet, Abundant Life Family Practice and Champion Fence. National sponsorships included McDonalds and Smithbilt Homes LLC. Also donating in-kind sponsorships were Chick-fil-a, Dick's Sporting Goods, Mike Owens Realty and Greg Cook DDS. The total revenue raised for the camp was \$6,000 and in-kind sponsorships were \$12,000. Shirts for all participants and volunteers as well as other supplies were provided by Eastbay Corporation. USA Football awarded a grant which provided refreshments, equipment and camp booklets for the coaches.

This camp was held at Randall's alma mater, Alcoa High School. "Blessings in a Backpack" donated 300 backpacks for the event stuffed with camp goodies for the all participants. The camp instructors were Alcoa High School football coaches and area youth sports coaches. Over 100 community volunteers assisted in the event. The Blount County Sheriff's Department provided uniformed officers for staff security during the camp and a local physical therapy department provided athletic trainers on-site free of charge. Both charities received \$5,300 each after all expenses were paid.



Pictured Left: Green Bay Packer, Randall Cobb, speaking with "Inspire 18 Football Camp" participants.

The Parks and Recreation Office will be closed December 24-25 for Christmas and January 1 for New Year's . All of us at Parks & Rec would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !



Call us at 983-9244

