



Collier County Government



Public Services Division
Parks and Recreation Department
15000 Livingston Road
Naples, FL 34109

Public Information Coordinator
Camden Smith
(239) 252-5326
www.collierparks.com

June 18, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE CHILDREN THAN EVER EAT FREE THIS SUMMER

(Naples, FL) – During the first week of the free Kids Cafeteria Summer Food Program, the Collier County School District and Collier County Parks and Recreation Department have served 28,767 meals to area children.

Meals are served at 44 locations throughout Collier County in order to maximize outreach efforts. Based on the first week's customer count, 58 percent more children are attending the free meal program compared to last year, in part due to economic conditions. Thirty of the 44 meal sites accept walk-ins for both breakfast and lunch. The three busiest meal locations in the Naples area are Manatee Elementary, Parkside Elementary and Golden Gate Community Center. The total number of breakfasts served during the first week was 12,361 and the total number of lunches served was 16,406.

"We are thrilled so many parents are bringing their children to our open sites to take advantage of this program so that their children receive nutritious hot meals, which is a critical part of the development of children," said Collier County Parks and Recreation Director Barry Williams.

There are 30 meal sites that allow for children to simply show up and walk-in for a meal including the following park and school sites: Golden Gate Community Center at 4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Immokalee Community Park at 321 North 1st St.; Sugden Regional Park located at 4284 Avalon Drive; Veterans Community Park at 1895 Veterans Park Drive.; Calusa Park Elementary at 4600 Santa Barbara Blvd.; Golden Gate Elementary School at 4911 20th Place SW; Golden Gate High School at 2925 Titan Way; Golden Gate Terrace Elementary at 2711 44th Terrace SW; Manatee Elementary at 1880 Manatee Rd.; Naples Park Elementary at 685 111th Ave N.; Parkside Elementary at 5322 Texas Ave.; and Poinciana Elementary at 2825 Airport Rd. For a complete list of open sites, please visit www.collierparks.com. Breakfast and lunch are served at various times, please check with the location of your interest.

"We learned this past school year that many students were coming to school hungry on Mondays. We were concerned about what would happen with them during the summer, when not in school. I'm very pleased to see the early success of the Kids' Cafeteria program. We are feeding kids who might otherwise go hungry," said Collier County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Dennis L. Thompson.

For more information about summer meals for children, you may contact the Collier County School District or Parks and Recreation.

-End-