

Career Exploration Camp gives kids a peek into their futures

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Photos by Joe Teposte/Yuma Sun

Middle schoolers learn about the law at this year's Career Exploration Camp.

Photo by Joe Teposte/Yuma Sun

The Annual Career Exploration Camp isn't what you'd expect from a camping trip, although some of the classes started off with kids standing in a circle describing themselves.

Each year, the Southwest Technical Education District of Yuma teams up with the Arizona Business and Education Coalition, Elevate Southwest and the University of Arizona to introduce middle schoolers to their possible future.

Students are invited to attend eight different classes which range from animation to the law.

The 4-day event this year is being held June 2-5, giving students the opportunity to get a firsthand look at Career Technical Education classes that will be offered in high school.

ABEC Director Rusty Tyndall, who has been hosting the event for the past three years, noted that the feedback from students, parents and the instructors has been positive.

"It's a fun time. They just got out of school a week ago, and here they are signing up to do something academically, when they could be enjoying their summer vacation. We're just happy to be able to serve them," Tyndall said.

STEDY's core mission is to educate students as early as possible about CTE options before they reach high school.

Kohen Rico, an eighth grader at Gila Vista Junior High, is interested in a future in sports medicine.

"Our class right now is doing sports medicine, and I'm really interested. We're learning about CPR and learning how to tape. I know how to wrap, but want to learn more about it," Rico said.

Kohen's sister, Kyleigh, said she's learned a lot since the camp started. "I'm really interested in sports medicine and hairstyling," she explained.

During this year's camp, students rotated between eight different trades, agriculture, engineering, biomedicine, cyber security, animation, cosmetology, sports medicine and the law.