



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

January 2, 2014

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor
Robert Bentley
President

Tracy T. Roberts
District I

Betty Peters
District II

Stephanie Bell
District III

Yvette M.
Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Ella B. Bell
District V
President Pro Tem

Charles E. Elliott, M.D.
District VI
Vice President

Jeff Newman
District VII

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice *T.R.B.*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: *Be Ready Camp*—Opportunity for Alabama Sixth Graders

I am excited to share with you an opportunity for your sixth grade students to apply their writing skills learned in our rigorous Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards to a real world event. ServeAlabama (the Governor's Office of Faith-Based & Volunteer Service) has announced the eighth annual *Be Ready Camp*. This camp, hosted at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, provides an opportunity for sixth graders across the state to become Youth Preparedness Delegates, receive a commendation from Governor Robert Bentley, and carry the message of preparedness and safety to their schools, communities, and families.

Be Ready Camp is an innovative and unique program that promotes citizen preparedness and participation to sixth graders in Alabama using multiple approaches to learning. It utilizes a modified Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training as its foundation, broadened to include additional lessons. *Be Ready Camp* curriculum includes: emergency preparedness, introduction to survival and first aid, developing an emergency kit, creating a family disaster plan, water survival, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, triage, career exploration, and terrorism awareness. Throughout each lesson the participants have the ability to demonstrate their knowledge with hands-on demonstrations in addition to traditional assessment. The camp concludes with a mock disaster, where the youth perform victim search and rescue alongside professional responders in a realistic setting. The participants are tasked with bringing the message of preparedness and what they have learned to their families and their communities.

Be Ready Camp will be held at the U. S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Tuesday, March 25–Saturday, March 29, 2014. This week coincides with Spring Break for most school districts. There is a \$75 registration for *Be Ready Camp* that includes lodging, meals, and a CERT backpack. It is the responsibility of the participant's parent/guardian to provide transportation to and from Huntsville.

City and County Superintendents of Education
Page 2
January 2, 2014

The selection process for *Be Ready Camp* is open to all Alabama students who entered the sixth grade by September 2013. Applicants must submit a 300-500 word essay answering the question, "What does being part of a safe community mean to me?" Please clearly label all submissions with the student's name, address, telephone number, school, and county. All submissions are due by January 31, 2014, to:

Be Ready Camp
Eight Commerce Street, 10th Floor
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Students who meet the ServeAlabama criteria and are selected to attend will be notified by ServeAlabama by mail.

Attached is the *Be Ready Camp* brochure that may be sent to school administrators and all sixth grade teachers in your district. Questions regarding the camp should be directed to ServeAlabama Disaster Preparedness and Response Director Brooke Mills at 334-954-7456, BeReadyCamp@ServeAlabama.gov, or the Alabama State Department of Education ServeAlabama liaison Karen Porter at 334-242-8154, kporter@alsde.edu, for more information.

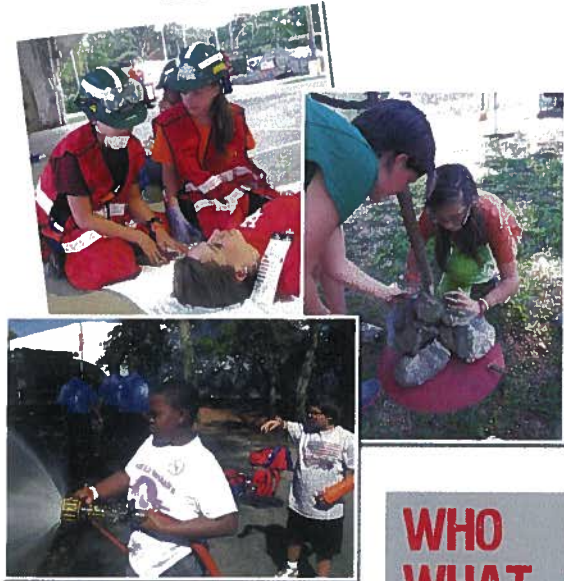
TRB:KP:DK

Attachment

FY14-2027

BE READY CAMP

WWW.READYALABAMA.GOV



Be Ready Camp is an innovative and unique program that promotes citizen preparedness and participation to sixth graders in Alabama using multiple approaches to learning. Be Ready Camp uses instructional techniques that expand traditional classroom instruction with tool kits, hands-on learning, exercises, take-away materials, and the use of technology to a diverse audience of sixth graders. Incorporated in Be Ready Camp are multiple means of assessment that allows diverse learners to demonstrate their knowledge.

Be Ready Camp is a five-day full immersion residential camp located at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Intertwined throughout Be Ready Camp is the involvement of personnel with homeland security responsibilities at the local, state, and national level. The capstone of Be Ready Camp is a full scale mock disaster exercise incorporating the camp participants with first responders and citizens.

WHO Open to all Alabama 6th Graders in the 2013-14 School Year
WHAT The Nation's Premier Youth Disaster Preparedness Camp!
WHEN March 25-29, 2014
WHERE U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama

Building the Next Generation of Alabama's First Responders

What is the Cost of Attending Be Ready Camp?

Registration for Be Ready Camp is \$75, which includes lodging, meals, and a CERT backpack. It is the responsibility of the participant's parent/guardian to provide transportation to and from Huntsville, Alabama.

Who Sponsors Be Ready Camp?

Be Ready Camp is supported by multi-agency coordination at the local, state, and national level with the involvement of Serve Alabama (The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Volunteer Service), the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) partnered with the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and the Madison County Emergency Management Agency.

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center has state of the art facilities and has extensive experience in hosting residential programs such as Space Camp, Space Academy, Aviation Challenge, and X-Camp.



BE READY CAMP

WWW.READYALABAMA.GOV

Who is Eligible to Attend Be Ready Camp?

All Alabama residents who will be in the sixth-grade during the 2013-2014 school year are eligible to attend Be Ready Camp. Included with all applications should be a note from a parent/guardian allowing the student to be eligible to attend Be Ready Camp.

Curriculum

Be Ready Camp utilizes a modified Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training as its foundation and broadened to include additional lessons. Be Ready Camp curriculum includes: emergency preparedness, introduction to survival and first aid, developing an emergency kit, creating a family disaster plan, water survival, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, triage, career exploration, and terrorism awareness. Throughout each lesson, the participants have the ability to demonstrate their knowledge with hands-on demonstrations in addition to traditional assessment. The camp concludes with a mock disaster, where the youth perform victim search and rescue alongside professional responders in a realistic setting. The participants are tasked with bringing the message of preparedness and what they have learned to their families and their communities.

Parents are invited to graduation, held the last morning of the camp, to reflect on the events of the past week and to celebrate the newfound skills of the participants. At this ceremony, each student is recognized individually for their efforts by receiving a commendation by Governor Robert Bentley and are tasked to educate their community on the importance of preparedness.

Selection Process

The selection process for Be Ready Camp is open to all Alabama residents who will be in the sixth grade by September 2013.

Applicants must submit an essay answering the question:

What does being part of a safe community mean to me?

Essay must be 300-500 words in length. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and good paragraph structure apply.

Essay must be typed or neatly written in ink.

Please clearly label all submissions with name, address, telephone number, county and school.

Submissions are due by January 31, 2014 to:

Be Ready Camp
Eight Commerce Street, 10th Floor
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

For more information, contact:

Brooke Mills
Serve Alabama Disaster Preparedness and Response Director
Phone: 334-954-7456
Email: bereadycamp@servealabama.gov

