

ECSD NEWS RELEASE

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Escambia County's Water and Youth Safety Day Spring 2018

On May 11, over 450 second grade students from four Escambia County elementary schools will learn about basic water safety skills that could potentially save their life or someone else's.

Water and Youth Safety Pensacola, in collaboration with the Escambia County School District, GPAC, Pensacola Association of Realtors, City of Pensacola Park & Recreation, Arby's, and other organizations, will come together for a day at the pool to work with students regarding basic water safety rules. The students will be taught the importance of "throw don't go," "think so you don't sink," and "be cool, follow the rules." Students will also receive first hand experience performing different water skills.

This important event will be held at the UWF Pool from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 11, and it will include students from Scenic Heights, Ferry Pass, Ensley, and Lipscomb Elementary Schools.

Cassandra Waller, Specialist for the Escambia County School District's Physical Education Department, says, "As we approach our summer season in a water-based community, it is imperative that we provide our youth with the skills they need to be safe around water. Providing a safe event where children can overcome their fear of the water and learn basic skills is monumental in being on the proactive side in drowning prevention."

For those schools not included in the event, the school Physical Education teachers hold a Water Safety Unit within their classes.

This is the 10th year for the program and this was the second year the safety training was held over 2 separate events, one in the fall and one in the spring. In addition to the schools mentioned above, the other schools included in this program have been A.K. Suter, Holm, Montclair, O.J. Semmes, N.B. Cook, Cordova Park, Global Learning Academy, and C.A. Weis.

If anyone is interested in more information they may access the Water and Youth Safety Pensacola Facebook page or contact Cassandra Waller by email at cwaller@ecsd.me or by calling 850-595-0185.

Photo information:

20170915_124450: A second grade Escambia County student learns basic water safety during a Water and Youth Safety Day. Learning to be comfortable in the water is one step toward being able to be rescued should you fall into a pool. Students learn to relax so they can flip over, float on their back and then call for help while they also move themselves toward safety.

DSC_0296: An Escambia County second grade student learns how to float during a Water and Youth Safety Day. Learning to relax and float, instead of panicking, creates time for someone to arrive to help or throw you a flotation device.

20170915_123605: A group of second graders learn about water safety starting with the proper way to wear a flotation vest during a Water and Youth Safety Day. held twice a year for Escambia County students.

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