

CLEAR-Ed. will host 2021 Summer Leadership Camp at Palmetto State Park

CLEAR-Ed. will host 3rd – 8th grade day campers at their Leadership in Action camp this summer at Palmetto State Park, June 21 - 25. The local organization offers a number of other initiatives to support youth education including community literacy events like Literacy Is For Everyone Book Giveaways, educational resources for families, as well as an innovative, personalized learning center and academy.

“Our theme for camps this year is ‘Leaders A.C.T.’ We’re excited for young leaders to explore their own Agency, Courage and Tenacity as they lead change in their communities,” says George Helfenstine, CLEAR-Ed. Director of Leadership Initiatives. “We’ve been fortunate to draw from the research and expertise of leaders and educators around the country to curate these opportunities for young leaders in Central Texas. From cutting-edge research at the Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford University, to the cross-national

community impact experience of SmartRoots Global... what we’ve created here is really something special that you won’t get anywhere else.”

Camp activities and experiences are crafted by master educators and utilize best practices of outdoor education to facilitate safe, fun, and meaningful learning opportunities. Combining teamwork, outdoor experiences, and design thinking, young leaders will walk away with an actionable plan to impact their community, and a personalized plan to continue their own leadership development. Participants will work alongside community leaders, while reflecting on their personal leadership practice. By the end of camp teams of young leaders will present their project plan with the top projects receiving year-long mentorship and seed funding to help get their project started.

Designed by a team with over 35 years of experience teaching and leading schools from elemen-

tary through higher education, these leadership and outdoor learning opportunities are deeply rooted in hands-on experiential learning with a focus on developing the whole child through design thinking. CLEAR Ed. Operation Officer, Ginny Janak says, “This is going to be a great experience for young leaders to build resiliency, work together, and have fun.”

Research has long espoused the importance of leadership development for students of all ages and backgrounds. “Leadership ability is often cited as an essential quality for success, and as with any valuable commodity, it is highly desired and sought after” (Northouse, 2013; Rost & Barker, 2000). During the 5-day Leadership in Action camp, young leaders will develop their identity and confidence as leaders within their community. By taking ownership of their own learning and leading collaborative groups in problem solving activities, campers develop

their critical thinking and self-confidence. Specific leadership opportunities are fostered in a manner that brings out the best in everyone. These skills-based activities develop decision making at the highest levels.

After 5 days discovering who they are as a leader, outdoor learning, and lots of fun; participants will end with a motivating experience with Luling native, Marques Roberts. Marques Roberts is an author, motivational speaker, and former Healthcare Professional that disrupts fractured thinking to reframe your perspective and empower you to challenge yourselves to live beyond the limits you have accepted as your truth. Marques believes limits should be encountered and recreated not taught and reinforced.

Originally from Luling, Texas, Marques developed the hunger and determination to seek more from life at an early age. As a decorated student-athlete, Marques has been able to see

his dedication and leadership qualities manifest as he received various accolades including Team Captain and Offensive MVP of the 2004-2005 at Baylor University Football Team, Change Management lead for one of the largest Healthcare Systems in the country, and being selected as a Distinguished Alumni for Luling High School.

Although Marques has experienced a great deal of success none of it came without the cost of overcoming internal roadblocks established through external sources. The tools to overcome that he discovered on his personal journey through life is what Marques has dedicated his life to sharing. CLEAR Ed. is humbled to have Marques join this summer’s Leadership in Action Camp to share how he continues to break through the roadblocks in his life.

For more information or to register for camp email info@CLEAR-Ed.org or contact Ginny Janak at 512-963-8344.