Mattawa Virtual Day Camps Keep Kids Busy During Pandemic This Summer

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The Mattawa Recorder

Although regular summer day camps can not be held this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Mattawa is still keeping kids busy with something new and fun. Mattawa Virtual Day Camps are now being held online on the Mattawa and Area Children and Youth Program Facebook page.

Jess Knowlton, Mattawa Wellness and Program Manager with the Town of Mattawa, came up with the idea to start hosting the virtual day camps. "I have been doing virtual fitness classes and still wanted to do something for the kids this summer," Jess explained. "I have heard of other business taking their services online and with some discussion with my co-workers we decided it would be a good idea!"

Jess hosts the videos along with her summer student staff member Madison Anderson, who is helping Jess work on the projects and videos. The videos are filmed using a Mac Book Pro at the Mike Rodden Arena & Community Centre.

There is no cost to view the videos and everyone is welcome to watch and participate, not just kids, although most of the activities featured in the videos are aimed for an audience between 4 and 13 years old.

The virtual day camps are held every Monday and there are three videos posted throughout the day featuring different activities. These videos can be watched live or at a later time. The videos will remain posted on the Facebook page and will not be deleted for those who wish to look back through the videos and watch later.

There are three different activities that will be featured every Monday, and each in their own video and time slot.

At 11:00 a.m. is the "Cooking with Jess and Madison." You can watch Jess and Madison as they prepare their ingredients and cook an easy and delicious lunch.

Craft Corner is at 1:30 p.m. Join Jess and Madison as they show you how to make a cool craft from supplies that you probably have laying around at home.

Boredom Busters Activities is at 3:00 p.m. Jess and Madison will show you how to play a fun easy game at home that is sure to keep you boredom at bay.

During the live videos and after, Jess welcomes all to participate by commenting during the live video feed or on the post later.

"We love when people comment and post pictures of what they are doing!" Jess said. "We aren't able to answer during live videos but will respond later!"

A full video schedule, including lists of all ingredients needed for cooking or supplies needed for crafts and games, will be posted before the weekend so that kids and their families can be prepared by Monday.

If you would like any information about the virtual day camps or have any questions you can contact Jess by calling 705-358-5746, or by email at jessica.knowlton@mattawa.ca.

"Madison and I are excited to be able to offer activities to children who are officially on summer break," Jess explained. "We hope that these little videos help parents keep their children busy over the summer! If anyone has any suggestions, or wants to see something specific, please let us know!"

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