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'Everybody in the POOL'

YMCA offers safety class



YMCA Offers Safety Class

CNHI

CHICKASHA — Dozens of local kids will dive into summer knowing more about swimming and water safety than they did when they began the school year, courtesy of the Chickasha Area YMCA. About 200 kids participated in the Y's 'Everybody in the POOL' program this month, which provides basic swim instruction at no cost to second graders at Grand, Lincoln, Southwest and Friend Elementary Schools.

"Learning to swim is the best thing anyone can do to be safe in and around water," said Johnathan Teal, executive director at the Chickasha Area YMCA. "That's why the Y is committed to offering Everybody in the POOL as an important public service to children in our communities."

The Y established 'Everybody in the POOL' in 2000 as an outreach program to help reduce the disparity among those who learn to swim and those who do not. Research shows drowning rates are statistically higher among minorities. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) claims factors such as access to swimming pools and a combination of social and cultural issues contribute to higher drowning rates among minorities and low-income children.

"We want the kids who participate in Everybody in the POOL to have fun and be able to demonstrate confidence and safety in the water when they complete our program," Teal said.

The second grade classes participating in the Y's program attend four sessions in water safety and basic stroke instruction at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma indoor pool. The Y staff also tailors the program for schools that are unable to commit to four sessions.

For more information about Everybody in the POOL or other programs at the Chickasha Area YMCA, contact Johnathan Teal at (405) 224-2281 or jteal@ymcaokc.org.

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