

Gastonia Police Department

Protect, Serve, and Enhance the
Quality of Life for All



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GREAT Gastonia Kids Camp Saturday, Aug. 7 Hosted By Gastonia Police & Other Sponsors

Gastonia Police will provide gang and drug resistance training to more than 100 rising fifth graders from West Gastonia during the GREAT Gastonia Kids Camp from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Phillips Center, 2031 Echo Lane, Gastonia.

The "GREAT" acronym stands for Gang Resilient, Exceptional and Terrific kids. The free day camp has many sponsors including the Gastonia Police Foundation (GPF), AAA Carolinas, Gastonia Parks and Recreation Department and Gastonia Sheet Metal. The GPF recently formed to help strengthen the services of the Gastonia Police Department and support endeavors that improve quality of life in the community.

"One of the goals of the GPF is to help fund events that allow police an opportunity to build strong relationships with children," said David "Fergo" Ferguson, GPF board vice president. "This is a pilot camp that hopefully the GPD will be able to roll out to the entire community in years to come. "

West District Sgt. David Morton is heading up the camp along with district coordinators Brian Atkins and Freddie Hurt. "The need to reach out to children is the greatest in our district, which has the city's highest poverty and crime rate," Sgt. Morton said. "The time before children go to middle school is a critical time because they will start becoming more exposed to negative influences. We want this camp to be fun, educational, and promoting of self-esteem and teamwork."

Kids Camp participants will receive gang and drug resistance training, watch K-9 and SWAT demos, learn about fire safety with a smoke house, and participate in a kick ball tournament and tug-a-war. The children will receive a number of giveaways including a book bag filled with school supplies.

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