



### Shelby County Office of Preparedness

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For Immediate Release:

## Mid South Weather Camp



**Photo Caption:** Left, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness handed out coloring and activity books, preparedness brochures, hazard maps, Citizen Corps pencils, can holders, and metal whistles to the children. They brought a disaster kit and portable toilet to show the children. Left to right: Reserve Ned Savage, Officer Eugene Jones, Channel 13's Joey Sulipeck, Chief Meteorologist, and Officer Shannon Towery. Right: Bridges representatives, Katie Prestigiavomo, left, and Drew Smith, right, demonstrate how to water your lawn with cut off plastic soda bottles placed in the soil and the importance of changing your air filters every three months.

Hundreds of very excited children and their parents eagerly attended WHBQ Fox 13's annual Mid South Weather Camp at AgriCenter International on Saturday, August 3, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The children were invited to meet Fox 13's meteorologists and reporters. Then they learned how to present the weather forecast in front of a green screen. Some children were shy in front of a TV camera for the first time, while others were a natural and may become a TV personality in the near future!

Next, they visited the Shelby County Office of Preparedness booth and picked up a bag full of FEMA coloring and activity books, Citizen Corps pencils, and metal whistles. Children and their parents learned how to safely shut off utilities – practicing on the life-size water, gas, and electric props.

Firehouse Subs gave all the children a plastic red fire helmet to wear and some delicious cookies.

Bridges representatives showed the children how to conserve water by using a plastic soda bottle cut in half and placed in the soil. They also explained the importance of changing your home's air filter every 3 months.

The National Weather Service in Memphis explained how to create a small "tornado" in a glass bottle and handed out cloud charts, Owlie SKYWARN's Weather books, and other weather brochures.

Although it was raining at times, many of children ventured outside to participate in the "balloon race."

Near the FedEx booth, children tried their hand at flying a large styrofoam plane over an indoor runway.

Several other Mid South agencies were on hand to give fun safety demonstrations and give away water bottles, gift bags, wooden airplanes, key chains, and brochures. They included: AgriCenter International, the Shelby County Health Department, the Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps, and Storm Water Matters.



**Photo Captions:** Left: Storm Water Matters Representative, Adrienne Jackson. Right: The Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps staff and volunteers were on hand to talk about disaster preparedness. Bottom left: Roosevelt Holmes tries on a fire helmet at the Office of Preparedness booth. Bottom right: The Shelby County's Health Department's Larry Smith, left, Fox 13's Brian Basham, and Mike Holdstein, right, explain how air quality is important to our health.



End of Release