



By Cindy Wostrel  
Staff Reporter

Children can participate in everything from excavating dinosaurs to constructing sandcastles or even testing their lung capacity at the 1989 Flatwater Children's Festival.

Fifteen groups will set up more than 40 activities for children and their "escorted" parents. In addition, Saturday and Sunday the Children's Stage, near 12th and R streets, will be filled with puppets and feature magic, stories and juggling.

A hands-on activity for children will show them how to recycle paper, said Tim Johnson, a member of the Citizens for Environmental Improvement. Volunteers from the group will instruct children on how to dip framed screens into a mixture of shredded, soaked paper and then dry it to create their own piece of sheet paper. Additives, such as cinnamon and blueberry, will color the recycled sheets, he said.

# Child Festival

Children will have "a chance to go to the beach" in the College of Business Administration's east parking lot, according to Gregg Smith, secretary of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

As in the past three years, Reimers-Kaufman Concrete Products has donated four tons of sand to construct the beach, Smith said. The group will display sandcastles designed by architects and let children design their own sandcastles.

Smith said although Reimers-Kaufman will unload the sand, the group needs volunteers to remove sand Sunday night after the fair.

"We could use anyone to haul sand Sunday night," Smith said. "Anybody who hauls the sand away can keep it," he added.

The National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska will demonstrate that "blind people are as capable and competent as other people," said Evelyn Haines, first vice president of the Lincoln Chapter. Children will be given braille name tags, which will allow them to "touch" a part of life as experienced by the blind.

Children also can enjoy a sampling of Mexican life at the Omaha Children's Museum booth, said Leona Barker, Outreach coordinator. Youngsters will grind corn which can be used as bird feed. They will try their hand at papel picado, the Mexican version of paper folding/cutting or paint grocery sacks, simulating the Mexican amate (bark) painting.

Stepping back into the past is the Nebraska State Historical Society's theme. Hand-operated appliances, including crank telephones, a clothes wringer and hand cof-

fee grinder will be available to youngsters wanting to touch and operate them.

The museum's booth also will feature the zoetrope, an optical toy similar to a kaleidoscope, only larger. The toy originated in the mid- to late 19th century.

Among the society's other historical activities will be a hoop-tossing game called grace hoops, formerly used to give girls practice in grace and elegance. Youngsters also can try their "hand" at stilts or barrel hoops, the art of rolling a hoop along with a stick.

SNIFFLES, Inc., a non-profit day care center for sick children, will be coloring handkerchiefs with markers and folding nurses caps, said Jutta Stuart, vice president of SNIFFLES.

Stuart added that parents can register their children at the booth for the day care program. In the event of sickness, their medical records already will be on file. Admission will be quicker if records are on file, Stuart explained.

Both children and adults can try the "lung-power tester" set up by the American Lung Association of Nebraska. Lung power is measured when participants blow into a piece of sanitary rubber tubing, which raises the fluid level of the device. A cartoon character rises to indicate the measurement.

At the YWCA booth, youngsters will toss bean bags for prizes of animal combs, mini-frisbees, mini-notebooks and sunglasses, said Susan Bauersach, public relations director.

Don't be surprised if the air is filled with flying fish in the vicinity of the Camp Fire-Pioneer Council booth. Members will instruct festival-goers in paper fish kite-making.

Sixth and seventh grade Girl Scouts from the Homestead Girl Scout Council and clowns from Lincoln Clown Alley #40 will paint faces. Design choices range from flowers to teddy bears, both free-hand and stencilled.

The Lincoln Literacy Council will assist children in creating their own books. Booklets will be provided for them to draw and write in. Volunteers also will read books to children who request it.

The Lincoln Children's Museum, according to Nancy Hall, program director, wants festival-goers to get "hands-on experience." Staff members will tell youngsters the secret to making their own Silly Putty, and glitter and perfume will add an original touch to the creations. Solar prints also will be made by exposing photographic paper to sunlight and then rinsing the paper in water.

Need a resting spot that will still keep junior's attention? The Lincoln Community Playhouse Children's Theater puppet show performances (performed by the festival-goers themselves) will provide an entertaining resting place for children and adults alike. Those still on the go can participate in creative puppet construction.

The fun begins Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. by the Children's Stage, near 12th and "R" streets. There may be up to a 75-cent charge on various children's fair activities.

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