

By ROBERT PIERCE • Daily Leader Dinosaurs became extinct about 65 million years ago, but this Wednesday at Meade Lake, local and area youth will learn about the ancient creatures.

The K-State Research and Extension offices in Liberal and Meade are sponsoring a day camp for children starting the second through fourth grades.

This is an annual event for the Extension, with a different theme every year, and this year's theme is a "Dino-Mite Day Camp."

"We try to change up the theme every year to have something a little different," said Seward County Extension Agent Mike Hanson. "We base our craft off the theme. We're going to be crafting dinosaur things."

The camp will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, and some of the activities include canoeing, nature hikes, crafts and a cookout lunch.

"It's a four-hour thing, so we try to get about 45 minutes to an hour of canoeing in and do the hike," Hanson said. "It's very inexpensive – \$7 for four hours. The kids really enjoy it."

Seward County youth will meet at 8:45 a.m. Wednesday at the Extension office at 1081 Stadium Road and will arrive back in Liberal at 3 p.m.

Children from Meade County will likewise be involved in the day camp, according to Hanson.

"These young kids can meet somebody from out of town and different counties, maybe develop some friendships along the way," he said.

Youth from the Kismet, Plains, Meade, Fowler and Liberal school systems will attend the day camp.

"There will be adult supervision on the canoeing," Hanson said.

Hanson said about 50 people participated in last year's day camp at Arkalon Park. The camps are rotated between that site and Meade Lake, and the agent said he is hoping for similar numbers for this year.

"We don't have quite as many go over from Seward County to Meade Lake as what we do Arkalon," he said. "I don't know why because we provide transportation."

Counselors are also being sought for the day camp. Those interested in being counselors must have completed the sixth grade. Participation and registration forms must be filled out for each child before they are able to go.

Contact the extension office for more details at 624-5604, or e-mail sw@ksre.ksu.edu.

“You can also go to www.seward.ksu.edu, and print both forms to fill out and bring to the office,” Hanson said.