



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



**Media Relations Information for 07/10/2018**

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## LPPD D.A.R.E. camps in full swing



City of La Porte Police Officers and campers at the Lomax Rodeo Arena

School may be out for many children during the summer months, but learning should never stop. The La Porte Police Department (LPPD) embraces this philosophy by providing various educational opportunities for area youths each summer. One of the particular programs currently underway is the summer series of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Camps. These camps are for five to nine year olds and children going into the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

LPPD and the City of La Porte hosted three summer camps including a 40 hour camp for five to nine year olds. The emphasis on this camp was safety, with equal parts of fun. Topics for safety included: The Annual Bicycle Rodeo Skills Course; Pedestrian Cross Walk; Stranger Danger; Internet Safety; Learning our addresses and parent's cell phone numbers; Water Safety; and Anti-Bullying. With many children being home alone during the summer break, the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety course was offered, where students learn what to do if they find a gun. To balance our safety with fun, trips are taken to the City of La Porte's Wave Pool at Little Cedar Bayou, and the Lomax Rodeo Grounds for a Bicycle Rodeo as pictured above.

In addition to Safety Camps, Officers also put on camps for incoming 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, where students learn about the harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco, Anti-bullying, and Ways to say No to Peer Pressure. Most importantly, the students undertake a course on decision making where they are challenged to think through the consequences of their choices. The end goal is to see the students make choices that bring about the best outcome. Fun is also emphasized during the DARE camps, with campers

participating in different field trips each day. Our trips included skating, bowling, City of La Porte's Wave Pool at Little Cedar Bayou and the Johnson Space Center, Houston.

These camps are made possible through the untiring efforts and enthusiasm of the LPPD D.A.R.E. Officer Yvonne Stanley and the LPPD School Resource Officers (SRO), Brian Larkey, Kenny Martin, Christopher Paige, Matthew Parsons, Kevin Winebrenner. These officers are part of the Support Services Division and are led by the newly selected SRO Supervisor, Sergeant Matthew Novosad.

LPPD and the City of La Porte are committed to safety education for our children. If you have any questions about these camps, or desire to learn more about other D.A.R.E. related outreach courses, please email LPPD Officer Yvonne Stanley at [stanley@laportetx.gov](mailto:stanley@laportetx.gov) or call 281-830-5208.