

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Next week there will be 313 children sporting purple t-shirts, carrying purple lunch bags and drinking out of white and purple water bottles roaming around Chase County Schools (CCS), Champion, Swinging Bridge Ranch and Open Country Adventures.

They'll be attending a camp—a very special camp. It's time for SCORE (Science Camps Offer Rewarding Experiences), a hands-on science camp for elementary students.

SCORE is sponsored by Chase County Schools Education Foundation, the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, Imperial Community Foundation, Chase County Keno Fund, H.B. Heruermann Foundation and an anonymous donor.

Students completing grades 1-6 will learn about life, earth and physical science through this year's "Tri-Science."

There are 120 students in grades 1-2, 108 in grades 3-4 and 85 in grades 5-6. They come from South Dakota, Colorado, Kansas and Texas, as well as from Nebraska.

The grade 1-2 camp will be held June 10-12. Students will join in activities such as fruitball solar system, fossil dig and excavation, fishing session, cloud formation and identification, furs, conservation and more.

The grade 3-4 camp will be held June 12-14. Students will explore kayaking, making a compass, space science, robotics, soil and water, tree bark casting, volcanoes and more.

The grade 5-6 camp will be held June 11-13. Sessions include prairie bird ecology, game birds, a hunting dog demonstration, edible and non-edible plants, river exploration and more.

Parents are asked to have the students at CCS no later than 7:45 a.m., so as to allow the buses to leave for the camp sites by 8 a.m.

Lakey reminded students to wear hats and tennis shoes, and to bring their lunches, water bottles, sun screen and bug spray.

"I tell them the number one rule is to have fun," she added.

There are up to 200 volunteers who help make SCORE possible. They guide children, provide meals, drive carpools and provide housing for visiting scientists.