

Local children and teens can get free meals during the summer

Children 18 years old and younger can receive free breakfast and lunch during the summer months through the Alachua County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services department.

The Summer Meals Program, funded by the federal government, is open to any child regardless of family income. The meals are served at local schools and a few other locations such as the City of Gainesville's Summer Heat Wave program at the MLK Recreational Center or the Boys and Girls Clubs, and a new Mobile Food Truck program which will bring meals to three locations in the South West Advocacy Group (SWAG) area, including Hidden Oaks, Majestic Oaks and the SWAG Family Resource Center. Children do not have to be enrolled at those schools or programs to get the meals. They also don't have to receive free and reduced price meals during the regular school year to take advantage of the program.



The Summer Meals Program provides nutritionally balanced meals to all children during summer vacation when school breakfasts and lunches are not available. All children 18 years old and younger are eligible, and families can take advantage of the program at any of the 60 local sites.

"Families can take their children to the site that's most convenient for them," said Maria Eunice, director of the district's Food and Nutrition Services department. "They just show up during the serving times and enjoy a nutritious meal, with no registration required."

Most sites will be up and running on June 5th. The rest will start up June 6th. The dates and times that meals will be served will vary from site to site. Those details are available on the Food and Nutrition Department website at www.acpsfood.com and on Alachua County Public Schools' main website at www.sbac.edu under Summer Meals Program in the middle of the page.

Parents needing more information about the Summer Meals Program can visit the website www.acpsfood.com or call (352) 955-7539.

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