MOM'S THE WORD

Pasadena has a solution for value-priced summer camp

Oh, Mom indulged the nerd in me every summer. While my sisters preferred taking it easy, I had the most fun checking out which classes I could take in the months before school started again.

One year, it was speed reading, the next, programming using BASIC language. And then there was summer vacation of the tennis love (because I picked up zero tennis skills) and theater camp. I wasn’t very good in any of them (even the speed reading, because I just wanted to cozy up to a book). But I had fun exploring new things. Thank you, Mom, for signing me up for all of them.

Lisa J. Cavelier, chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena, has been doing her homework since taking on her role in November. She is working with other local Pasadena-area groups to form a coalition of summer providers, letting parents know that there are affordable summer camps and programs out there.

“In our case here at the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena, it costs only $20 per week (plus a $100 enrollment fee, which you get back if you are a year-round family) for eight weeks of not only fun activities like swimming, open gyms and games, but also high-yield activities that help slow summer slide, like reading, math, science and more,” Cavelier said.

“We are one club with two locations and take in more than 600 kids each summer.”

The Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena opened its first-time ever online registration system this month. Cavelier believes the new system will alleviate long lines of parents waiting to fill out paperwork, and will lessen time spent for both families and staff.

Cost of the summer session for children 6-12 years old is $20 per week for eight weeks, plus a $100 enrollment fee which will be credited back in the fall if a child attends club programs year-round. Teens are always free. All registration materials are also now available in English and Spanish.

“We are listening to our families, and adapting our ways,” Cavelier said. “It’s time to make our registration system more efficient for families and staff. We are excited the portal is now open, and are making plans for a full and wonderful summer session.”

Summer session programs will include lots of physical activity, sports, and games, in addition to addressing “summer slide” with activities focusing on reading, writing, math, and science. Open swim is also a popular club activity on hot summer days, and a variety of field trips are in the works.

The club operates two locations: 2020 N. Fair Oaks Ave. and 3230 E. Del Mar Blvd., both in Pasadena.

To register, visit bgc.pasadena.org/registration or call 626-449-9100.

Anissa V. Rivera writes “Mom’s the Word.”