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SUMMIT METRO PARKS RANGERS HOST LOCAL CHILDREN IN “SHOP WITH A COP” EVENT

The Summit Metro Parks ranger department joined more than 20 Summit County law enforcement agencies in Saturday’s “Shop with a Cop” activities for local children in need. Law enforcement officers raised funds to help approximately 200 children ages 5 to 12 select toys, necessities and gifts for their families with donated gift cards. The program is designed to build relationships between community members and local law enforcement organizations.

“We look forward to participating in this event every year,” said Summit Metro Parks Ranger Mike Phillips. “It’s such a wonderful opportunity to connect with local kids and help spread some holiday joy.”

Summit Metro Parks rangers hosted nine children this year, an all-time high for the department. After gathering at the park district’s Summit Lake Nature Center, the group traveled to Stow-Munroe Falls High School for breakfast before taking a “lights and sirens” ride to a local Target store.

The Summit Metro Parks ranger department has participated for more than 10 years in the annual “Shop with a Cop” event managed by the Ohio Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association (OPBA). The event complements the park district’s other efforts to build relationships with Summit County youth, including its Ranger Explorer career development program for men and women ages 16 to 20. At 15 members, the

Summit Metro Parks Explorer post is the largest law enforcement Exploring program in Summit County.

Editor's note: Photos attached.

Photo 1 - Summit Metro Parks rangers (left to right) Zach Steele, Mike Phillips and Bart Randolph met nine "Shop with a Cop" event participants at the Summit Lake Nature Center on Saturday morning.

Photo 2 – Summit Metro Parks rangers (left to right) Bart Randolph, Zach Steele and Mike Phillips hosted nine children in Saturday's "Shop with a Cop" event at Target.

Photo 3 – Summit Metro Parks rangers transported nine sponsored children to Saturday's "Shop with a Cop" event.

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Summit Metro Parks manages more than 14,000 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 150 miles of trails, with 22.4 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 5 million visits. Visit us online at summitmetroparks.org.



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