

Energy Days invigorate students

Approximately 1,000 5th graders take part in event over 3-day span

Nearly 1,000 area students made their way into the Bartlesville Community Center earlier this week for the 2009 Energy Days event.

Spanning three days – from Tuesday through Thursday – Energy Days taught fifth graders about a wide array of energy sources, including the ways in which they are cultivated, harnessed and utilized.

Over a two-hour period, the students visited 10 different exhibit stations which offered them hands-on insight. The exhibitions included the Petroleum Scavenger Hunt; Science of the Underground; Tools of the Trade; Oil Meets Water; Petroleum IQ; Petroleum Mix and Match; Rock Lab; Good Vibrations; Alternate Energy; and Hot Spots. The stations were manned by volunteers who offered details about each of them.

“The kids were very well behaved and really seemed to enjoy themselves,” said Becky Hoover, the director of Energy Days, which is now in its 12th year. “The feedback we receive about the event is always positive.

“The students always have smiles on their faces whenever they leave.”

Approximately 250 volunteers – many of them from ConocoPhillips – assisted during the event. Energy Days was in session on each of the three days from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from noon to 2 p.m. Fifth grade students from all seven elementary schools within the Bartlesville Public School District – Hoover, Jane Phillips, Oak Park,



A volunteer works with students on Tuesday during the opening day of the 2009 Energy Days event at the Bartlesville Community Center. Energy Days spanned three days - from Tuesday through Thursday - in all.

Ranch Heights, Richard Kane, Wayside and Woodrow Wilson – took part in Energy Days as did students from area school districts such as Dewey, Nowata, Barnsdall, Skiatook, Copan, Bowring, Osage Hills, Oklahoma Union and Sedan (Kan.). Youngsters from some private schools were invited to attend as well.

ConocoPhillips serves as the primary sponsor of Energy Days. Other sponsors include the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Zachry Construction Corporation and the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board.

The Energy Days organizing committee is comprised of Edna Osborn, Judy Yang-Logan, Sharon Wade, Amy Rude, David Tobola, Eric Kennedy and Hoover.

“We gave a great group of peo-

ple who work on this event,” says Hoover, who spent 16 years working within the Bartlesville Public School District as a teacher and a science specialist. “But we really could use more volunteers.”

Hoover has directed the Energy Days event since its debut in 1997 as part of the Oklahoma Energy Centennial in Bartlesville. The program proved so popular that Hoover decided to fashion it into an annual event. The only year since then that hasn’t featured an Energy Days event was 2004, during which Hoover was recovering from back surgery.

“I think Energy Days is a very good event,” says Hoover. “We do everything from reviewing how you find oil to what the new energies will be.

“We need our young people to be educated in these areas.”