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### Nonprofit offers 'summer shade' to youth

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Now that summer is here, [Broward County](#) parents looking for ways to keep their children have the added option of Branches Pompano Outreach Ministry Center's "Summer Shade" program, which offers youngsters the chance to participate in creative writing groups, science classes and book clubs.

The nonprofit Ministry Center, which caters to families in low-income neighborhoods, includes daily classes, lunches and field trips into the \$25 summer program.

"We try to keep everything no-cost or low-cost, so it's a nominal fee," said Erin Karner, site coordinator for the Ministry Center.

The Summer Shade is open to children in grades 4 through 12 and registration is available until June 16. The camp begins on June 21 and will run five days a week for six weeks, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The summer camp activities also includes film and book discussion groups, a variety of science activities, creative writing groups, sports and even cooking classes. A Wednesday night family church service is also optional.

While the program is faith-based, children from all spiritual and religious backgrounds are welcome, Karner said.

The Ministry Center also offers a special nine-week high school level Culinary Prep Course this summer taught by experienced chefs which will prepare students jobs in the restaurant field. There is a cost for the class, however, some scholarships will be available for students with financial hardships, according to Karner.

"Basically it's like cooking school in a shortened period of time," she said. "It's to give them some specific skills and give them a little step up in the job market if they want to get a part-time job."

Branches Pompano Outreach Ministry Center opened its doors in 2008 as an afterschool program for middle school students. Starting in 2011, afterschool assistance will expand to include high school as well. Most students in the summer programs come from Pompano Beach Middle, and a handful from Deerfield Beach Middle. Registration for both programs is open until June 16.

For information and registration call 954-784-0077, ext. 1.

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