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For Immediate Release:

**Roller Coasters, Rockets and Riding the Rails
SAFYMCA Offers Unique and Traditional Camp Experiences for Kids**

Monrovia, CA, May 5, 2008 – From Roller Coasters to Riding the Rails, Flight Camp to Surf Camp, the nonprofit Santa Anita Family YMCA has some high adventure thrills in store for kids this summer among its selection of specialty and traditional day and sleep-away camp offerings.

Registration is now open for SAFYMCA Summer Camp programs that begin the week of June 16 and run through the week of Aug. 18. Camp programs provide children with unique opportunities to learn and grow, create and explore and participate in a variety of activities. SAFYMCA Summer camp opportunities are available to everyone, regardless of ability to pay full fee. Financial assistance is available.

Each traditional day camp is age-specific, with camp programs for children Kindergarten to 1st grade; 2nd to 3rd grade; 4th to 5th grade and 'Tween Camp for middle school age youth 6th to 8th grade. Activities revolve around weekly themes and include outdoor games, sports, swimming, crafts, songs, and skits. Field trips or special events round out each week.

For families who would like their children to have a sleep-away camp experience, there's YMCA Camp E.L.K. in the San Bernardino Mountains. With horseback riding, swimming, rock climbing wall, archery, crafts, sports, canoeing and more, Camp E.L.K. offers the perfect summer getaway for kids entering 3rd through 8th grade.

This year, the SAFYMCA also offers a choice of seven specialty camps to appeal to a wide variety of interests.

- Coaster Camp for kids 5th through 8th grade is scheduled for July 21 through July 25. The week includes trips to Magic Mountain, Hurricane Harbor, and Knott's Berry Farm to ride and compare three of Southern California's most exciting

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Page 2 – SAFYMCA Summer Camp

roller coasters. Day campers will also have an opportunity to practice their physics – velocity, drop and speed – using a computer to design their own roller coaster. Member fee is \$350, non-member fee \$375.

- Ride the Rails Camp, Aug. 11-15, offers the opportunity for 2nd through 5th grade age children to explore neighboring communities by riding the Gold, Red, Blue and Green Lines. Member fee is \$195. Non member's fee is \$220.
- Super Sports Camp for 2nd through 8th grade age children offers a combination of quality day camp and sports specific instruction. The program focuses on a different sport each day where kids learn teamwork, sportsmanship, and skill development regardless of ability or experience. Super Sports Camp is available the week of July 7 through July 11 for 2nd through 4th grade kids and July 28 to Aug. 1 for 5th to 8th grade youngsters. Cost of the camp is \$195 for members, \$220 for non members.
- Outdoor Adventure Camp, June 30 to July 3, offers children entering 3rd to 6th grade, the opportunity to learn urban and wilderness survival skills including how to read a map, using a compass. The week is rounded off with an overnight adventure campout at Canyon Park in Monrovia. Member fee is \$195, non-member fee is \$220.
- Science Camp Science Camp, June 23 to June 27 is open to children entering 4th grade to 8th grade. Under the guidance of a certified teacher campers will explore Geologic, Marine, and Environmental sciences as they visit the Science and Technology Museum, local tide pools, and go on a hiking expedition. Member fee is \$195 and \$220 for non members.
- Flight Camp, July 14 to July 18 will offer kids 2nd through 6th grade an opportunity to learn about the physics of flight, build gliders and visit the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Griffith Park Observatory and local airports. The member fee is \$225; non-member fee is \$250.

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- Surf Camp for kids entering 3rd grade to 8th grade is available from Aug. 4 to Aug. 8. Kids will spend five days at sleep away camp in San Diego, enjoying surfing, kayaking and fun in the sun. Evenings will be spent in the traditional camp fashion with camp fires, skits and games. Fee for members is \$395; non members \$415.

Although each camp is unique, all YMCA summer camps provide safe places with caring adults and positive activities. The SAFYMCA camps focus on the development of four core character values: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Extended care hours are available from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for an additional fee of \$20 per session.

The SAFYMCA serves more than 20,000 children each year in a variety of programs. In 2007, nearly 50% of the 2,445 kids participating in SAFYMCA's day camp and after school programs were able to participate because of the Financial Assistance Program.

For more information, call the SAFYMCA at (626) 359-9244, or visit the web site at www.safymca.org.

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