Free Lake Erie fishing excursions

The 2007 Kid Captain Program, an initiative of Earth Temple Inc., will set sail from the Inner City Yacht Club on Saturday, June 2, at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m., for 45 minute boat rides on Lake Erie.

Dr. Tony Hodge, Earth Temple founder and director, has been taking inner-city youth on boating experiences for the last seven years. His organization also sponsors Project Ho Ho Ho, which gives children toys, food and clothes during the holiday season, as well as limousine and private airplane rides, for close to 17 years.

Hodge, who flew a plane and piloted a cabin cruiser at 15 years old, believes these kinds of experiences can serve as a deterrent to deviant behaviors.

Children ages 7-17, with parental consent, are welcome to participate in the Kid Captain Program. Life jackets will be provided. Fishing poles were donated by the East Cleveland Department of Recreation. Children are encouraged to bring lunch, a camera, and bait

and fish tackle. People over 16 years old will need a fishing license.

Clevelanders can neet at The Inner City Yacht Club at 10:30 a.m. and, for those in the Columbus area, a van will depart the Hodge Mansion, 1695 Franklin Ave., at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 2. The program is free and open to the public.

For more information call Hodge at (216) 906-9444 or (614) 231-5595.



Dr. Tony Hodges, founder of Earth Temple Inc., has been providing boat experiences for innercity youth for the last seven years through the organization's Kid Captain Program. (Photo courtesy of Earth Temple Inc.)