

Clerk hosts 'Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day'

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Children of Charlotte County Clerk of Court employees had the opportunity to tour all areas of the Charlotte County Justice Center Thursday for National Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day. The Clerk's Office hosted an all-day program for the kids to learn about the work of clerk staff, judges, bailiffs and jury members.

"Having our Clerk's Office staff actively participate in Bring Your Child to Work Day is incredibly rewarding because it's important for our children to see the great work their parents do day-in and day-out which helps their community," said Clerk

Roger Eaton.

The day kicked off with kids observing first appearance, where recent arrestees are assigned a court date, advised of whether they qualify for a public defender, and have their bond set by a judge. Next was a tour of the Vietnam Wall near the courthouse, followed by the control room and jail cells, meeting a county judge, a brief presentation from Leadership Charlotte, and touring jury management. In the afternoon, they visited the marriage license and passports departments and had a presentation from the Supervisor of Elections.

Parents were also invited to tour each area of the Justice Center

along with their children.

"I'm excited for the day," said Stacey Wear, a staff member at the clerk's Murdock Circle office. "I think it'll show the kids everything we do here and things they're normally not exposed to."

Kids said their favorite part of the day was touring the jail cells and the courtroom, where Judge Peter A. Bell explained the role of the judge and the court process.

Shea Codrington, who works in court administration, said it was neat for her son Ricky to see firsthand the type of work she does, which isn't easy to explain to a child.

"He's been wondering for years, trying to understand what



SUN PHOTO BY ANNE EASKER

Children of employees at the Clerk of Court got a full tour of the Charlotte County Justice Center for Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day.

I do when I go to court," she said.

Clerk Eaton said while the clerk's office has participated in

the national event in the past, this year staff made it more of an experience for the kids to see everything that goes

on at the courthouse. Twenty-four kids attended.

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