

Think summer: Lemonade Day is coming

New event to teach children how to own and operate a business

MANKATO — A new event is coming to the Greater Mankato region this spring that will teach children how to start, own and operate their own business through the simple and time-honored act of building and running a lemonade stand.

Greater Mankato Lemonade Day will take place June 5.

Between March 15 and April 1, children may register to participate and pick up a backpack filled with the tools, including a comprehensive entrepreneur handbook — materials crafted by Junior Achievement. They are encouraged to participate in the Best Tasting, Best Stand and Best Business contests as well as educational workshops to help them prepare for June 5 when residents can buy lemonade from them.

The Greater Mankato Business Accelerator (a program of Greater Mankato Growth, city of Mankato and the Regional Economic Development Alliance) connects entrepreneurs to resources and is helping to bring the event to the region.

Through this enterprise, children will learn the entrepreneurial skills necessary to be successful in the future and become contributing members of their communities, said a statement from Jill Klinger, new enterprise and emerging business director of the accelerator.

They will learn how to set goals, plan for success, find an investor, select a site, advertise, build a stand, purchase supplies, make a product, run their business, do basic accounting and open a bank account. After paying back their investors, children are encouraged to save a little, spend a little and give a little, donating a portion of their profits to a local charity of their choice.

Visit greatermankato.com/business-lemonadeday.php for event updates and backpack pick-up locations.