



Power Panther Keeps Cool as Summer Heats Up

Power Panther traveled more than 22,000 miles in June promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors to children and their caregivers in 13 States.

Deputy Under Secretary Kate Coler and Power Panther visited Langley Park McCormick Elementary school in **Maryland** to host the FNS National Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) celebration. They were joined by Regional Administrator Yvette Jackson and basketball star Jerrod Mustaf. Coler spoke to a crowd of children and parents in the school's cafeteria and introduced the new Power Panther. After lunch, the students participated in physical activities and took photos with Mustaf and Power Panther. The event was covered by News Channel 8, the Prince George's *Sentinel*, Telemundo, CTV Channel 76, and Univision.

FNS Administrator Roberto Salazar and Power Panther visited **Wisconsin** to attend the League of United Latin American Citizens National Conference. Power Panther helped teach the importance of healthy eating and physical activity.

Power Panther visited an **Alaska** WIC office to promote their healthy behaviors initiative *Playtime...so good for me!* He greeted and played ball with children.

Power Panther joined MARO's SFSP chief Alan Crane at the Berryhill Boys & Girls Club summer feeding event in **Pennsylvania**. Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education, Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, also participated. SFSP provided breakfast and lunch at the Boys & Girls Club. The Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association sponsored children's games and activities as part of the Action for Healthy Kids ReCharge! Initiative. The event was covered by two local TV stations, WHP-TV 21 (CBS) and WHTM 27 (ABC), and *The Harrisburg Patriot*.

While in **Pennsylvania**, Power Panther joined his friend Swoop (Philadelphia Eagles mascot) at a SFSP kick-off event in Philadelphia. The pair gave high-fives to children at the Sayre-Morris Recreation Center as they helped teach the importance of eating smart and playing hard. Power Panther also attended South Philadelphia Community Center's Get Fit, Stay Fit health fair where he taught preschoolers about healthy lifestyle behaviors.

Power Panther and Office of Analysis, Nutrition, and Evaluation Director Alberta Frost visited Tuscan Elementary School in **New Jersey** to highlight the school's nutrition efforts.



Power Posse. Power Panther poses with new friends in the McCormick Elementary School cafeteria.



Power Up North. Power Panther takes a break from playing ball with children at an Anchorage, Alaska WIC clinic.





In **Washington, D.C.**, Power Panther attended the SFSP kick-off to help teach children and caretakers about the importance of good nutrition and physical activity.

Power Panther headed west to **California** to visit with families of Valerio Elementary School students. He attended Valerio's Nutrition Health Science Fair and distributed fruit and vegetable coloring pages to 350 students.

In **Oklahoma**, Power Panther visited Chickasaw National children participating in the SFSP Nutrition Club.

During a visit to **West Virginia**, Power Panther promoted healthy eating and physical activity to 300 day care directors and 40 day care children at the State's annual Child and Adult Care Food Program Conference.

Power Panther joined 300 attendees at the **Illinois** School Nutrition Association Conference. He participated in the "I Love a Parade" walk from the hotel to the Civic Center, and the exhibit hall grand opening celebration.

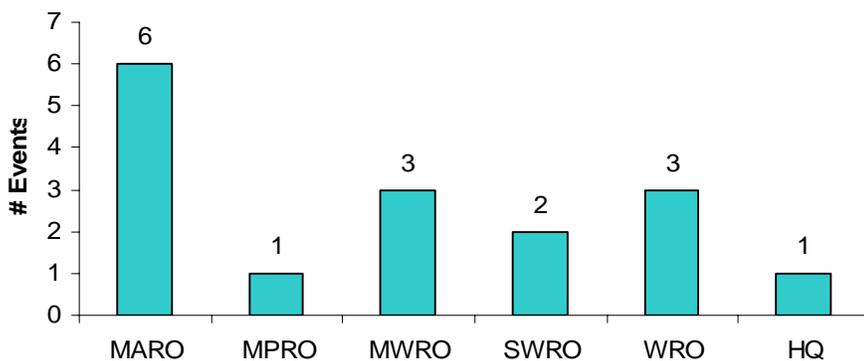
In **Virginia**, Power Panther visited with approximately 125 children at a Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp to help teach them the importance of eating smart and playing hard.



Where Eagles Fly. Power Panther and Swoop give high-fives to children at Philadelphia's Sayre-Morris Recreation Center.



**Eat Smart. Play Hard. Power Panther Events
June 2006**



Note: Power Panther event data are based on invoices from International Mascot Corporation. Please notify Health Hopwood of any discrepancies at heather.hopwood@fns.usda.gov.

