

Pro surfer and board shaper Guy Takayama is coming to North Carolina



Preparing a child to meet the challenges of life is a complicated journey. The journey is extraordinarily complex and frequently laden with obstacles for children with special needs. Surf camps by nonprofit Indo Jax Charities serve children facing a variety of life challenges, including visual impairment, autism, cancer, loss of parents, and juvenile diabetes. New on the summer schedule for 2019 is a session for Special Olympians.

"We always start wherever the child is in their life. Every child has a different goal," said Jack Viorel, founder of Indo Jax Surf Charities. "Some children are working on mobility; others might be working on communication. Some are working on fear. We work on whatever the child needs. We don't have a set agenda. When you do that you can always be successful."

Twelve years and more than 5,000 students later, Viorel's unique curriculum has gained international media attention and accolades from both parents and children.

The most powerful thing we do is to help children get out of their comfort zone and succeed," said Viorel. "When I was a school teacher, I always knew surfing could be used to build confidence and self-esteem in children with special needs."

World champion surfer, artist, and surfboard shaper Guy Takayama will join the Indo Jax team for the Visually Impaired and Special Olympics camps in mid-July.

"He has worked with blind children and Special Olympians through his charity in California," said Viorel. "Guy also handcrafted a surfboard to help support our North Carolina camps and had it signed by famous surfers such as David Nuuhiwa and Jericho Poppler." The Takayama board will be auctioned at a charity event later this summer.

No child is turned away from the special needs surf camps due to inability to pay. "Thanks to individuals and organizations like Live Oak Bank, United Healthcare, the Jordan Spieth Foundation, and

Blockade Runner Beach Resort, we can keep up with most of the demand," said Viorel. "The last two years, our Autism camps filled and were closed to new registrations. We're still working to hold more programs to accommodate the needs of these children."

For information contact Jack Viorel, Director Indo Jax Surf Charities, at [Jack@IndoJaxSurfSchool.com](mailto:Jack@IndoJaxSurfSchool.com) or 910-274-3565.

**2019 Surf Camps (Partial Schedule)**

- July 16, 17, 18 Visually Impaired Camp in Memory of Anita Lathan (Wrightsville Beach, NC)
- July 16, 17, 18 Access of Wilmington (Wrightsville Beach, NC)
- July 19 Special Olympics – New Hanover County (Wrightsville Beach, NC)
- July 23, 24, 25 Special Needs Camp (Cayucos, CA)
- July 30, 31, Aug. 1 Juvenile Diabetes Camp (Cayucos, CA)
- August 6, 7, 8 Childhood Cancer Camp in Memory of Donnalee Wilcox (Wrightsville Beach, NC)

**Meet the Newest Vendors for the 2019 Kids Expo!**



The Anson County Kids Expo will be held on Saturday, August 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is the Chamber of Commerce's new event that focuses on the next generation of entrepreneurs and business owners. The event offers kids (grades K-12) an opportunity to create, develop and market a product or service that they are passionate about.

Rocky Moore (pictured at lower left) is 15 years old and attends Anson High School. His business is Nannie's Mints. They are hand-made butter mints that he learned to make from his grandmother using his great grandmother's recipe. He will be making fresh batches at the expo!

Nine year old Gracilee Bricker and six year old Jackson Bricker (pictured above left) both attend Peachland-Polkton Elementary School. Their business is Bricker's Books and Brownies. Gracilee has authored and illustrated her own children's book, and Jackson has been perfecting his baking skills with delicious chocolate brownies.

Strictly for kids only, adults are not allowed to help sell or market the child's product or service. The event is not only a showcase for the children, but an opportunity to understand the elements

of owning one's own business. The kid vendors will learn and use real life skills such as math, communication and creative thinking. Development and marketing of their product or service will have an impact on their sales at the event and offer them some insight into what it takes to own their own business.

Browse, shop and stay for the awards presentation as the Chamber acknowledges Most Original Business Idea, Highest Business Potential and Best Presentation/Creativity in each age group.

Winners will receive prizes, as well as the opportunity to promote their business through the Anson County Chamber.

This event will be held on East Wade Street, between Washington Street and Lee Avenue. If your child will need help with set-up materials such as a tent, table, chairs – please contact the Chamber office. They want every child interested in participating to be afforded this opportunity. Please let them know how they can help so your child can apply!

Applications will be vetted through a committee of Anson County Chamber business members. Approvals will be emailed.

South Piedmont Community College is the Presenting Sponsor. Community sponsorships are available now. For more information contact Shelby Emrich at [semrich@ansoncountychamber.org](mailto:semrich@ansoncountychamber.org) or 704-694-4181.

**Ansonia Spotlight is on Glenn Caulder**

This is a release from The Anson County Arts Council: Glenn Caulder is a resident of Wadesboro and is employed at the Anson Children's Center in Polkton. He is such an asset to the Ansonia Theatre. Glenn brings warmth and wit to his characters that audiences have come to love and enjoy.

Glenn was most recently in the comedy *Dearly Departed*. His first appearance was in *A Christmas Carol* which was the first production in the newly renovated Ansonia Theatre. Other productions he has appeared in include *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, *Blood Brothers*, *On Golden Pond*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Annie* and *Our Town*.

We love having Glenn as part of our Ansonia family, and don't know what we'd do without him!



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