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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Surfs Up! Spring Break Camp for Children with Autism is Back

-- City of Miami Beach Parks & Recreation and UM-CARD Partner for 9th Annual Surf Camp --

Miami Beach, FL – Miami Beach Parks and Recreation is teaming up with the University of Miami – Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-NSU CARD) to host the ninth annual spring break surf camp for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) on Sunday, March 20 through Friday, March 25.

Participating children will spend the week focusing on swimming skills, basic oceanography, meteorology, open water surfing and most importantly, their own abilities. The educational component of camp will be held at South Pointe Park, 1 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, and the actual surfing component will be held on the beach adjacent to the park.

“We are excited to be offering this camp again for the ninth year,” said John Rebar, director of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation. “It will provide a unique and wonderful experience that could for some be a once in a lifetime experience.”

“Being actively involved with this camp, I can attest that surfing increases participant’s self-esteem and is a great opportunity for children to interact with one another,” stated Cindy Casanova, assistant director of Miami Beach Parks & Recreation. “The camp will also provide the kids a way to build physical fitness while having fun.”

Twelve campers, from 8-12 years of age, will participate in this year’s CARD Surf Camp, free of charge; funding is provided by donor support to CARD. Sponsors of this year’s surf camp include: Miami Beach Kids First, Whole Foods, Jugofresh, the Autism Society of Florida – Miami, the University of Miami crowd funding campaign supporters. For more information on CARD, please call 1-800-9-AUTISM (x1) or visit www.umcard.org.

For information on other programs for children and adults with special needs offered by the City of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Department, please contact 305.673.7730.

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