CARNIVAL ANTICIPATES RECORD 'CAMP CARNIVAL' PARTICIPATION; EXPECTS 650,000 CHILDREN TO SAIL ON 'FUN SHIPS' IN 2010

MIAMI – The number of children vacationing this year aboard Carnival Cruise Lines' "Fun Ships" is expected to reach 650,000 – a six-fold increase from just 12 years ago.

"At Carnival, we take 'fun' very seriously and the 'Fun Ships'' numerous kid-friendly amenities, enthusiastic youth counselors and spacious state-of-the-art facilities provide the ultimate family vacation," said Gerry Cahill, Carnival president and CEO.

Carnival, which carries more kids than any other cruise line, offers the cruise industry's top-rated children's program, "Camp Carnival." In addition to a full schedule of fun, morning-til-night activities, the program features such amenities as expansive indoor play areas – some as large as 5,500 square feet -- stocked with a wide variety of games and toys.

Arts and crafts centers, including spin and sand-art machines, "activity walls," indoor climbing mazes and computer labs are also featured on several vessels. The line has also added a number of new activities, including programs emphasizing reading, art, music, geography, and physical fitness.

Additionally, outdoor play areas with mini basketball hoops, jungle gyms and other playground equipment, as well as game rooms offering the latest video and arcade games, are available fleetwide.

Kids who like to have "fun in the sun" also enjoy acres of deck space for Carnival's outdoor games and activities such as ping-pong, volleyball and shuffleboard, along with multiple swimming options, including children's wading pools and main Lido deck pools offering cascading water slides.

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And when it comes to dining, young cruisers get the full "Fun Ship" treatment, with expanded children's menus offering a variety of kids' favorites, as well as a "daily junior special" promising something new and different each day. The new menus are included on the back page of a fun coloring/activity book featuring word finds, mazes, tic-tac-toe, crossword puzzles, connect the dots and other games. Crayons are also provided.

In addition to updated children's menus in the main dining rooms, Carnival's poolside restaurants also house a 24-hour pizzeria, a grille area serving hamburgers and hot dogs and a complimentary soft ice cream and frozen yogurt station.

Also offered is Carnival's "unlimited soda program," good for unlimited soft drink purchases throughout the cruise for guests under age 18. The cards, which are purchased once on board, range in price from $13.75 on three-day voyages to $36.75 for eight-day voyages.

Carnival also features some of the largest staterooms in contemporary cruising with a wide range of accommodation categories, including extra-roomy 230-square-foot family staterooms on the line's "Destiny-" and "Conquest-class" ships. Many staterooms are inter-connecting, ideal for large families or family gatherings.

"Camp Carnival" activities are held from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. under the watchful eyes of the ship's youth staff, who also conduct babysitting services from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m., as well as from 8 a.m. to noon for children under 2 on port days. The cost for babysitting is $6 per hour for the first child and $4 per hour for each additional child in the same family.

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