

Santa Barbara Police Activities League

Twelve35 Teen Center FY2012 Annual Report Police Activities League

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The Twelve35 Teen Center offers structured classes in the arts, technology and personal enrichment to extend the learning day within heavily cut public schools. Santa Barbara Police Activities League (SBPAL) has comprised a schedule of programs for the winter, spring, and summer to be implemented at the Teen Center. Programs include music editing with Note for Notes, Hip-Hop Dance and Salsa, Computer Animation, Photography, and a Knitting Club. It is our goal to offer programs year-round at the Teen Center and increase programming over the summer months. The Teen Center averages 30 to 40 students per day. SBPAL believes that the "extra programs" that have been cut from schools are not extra at all. They are crucial parts of a child's education and should be available to all students regardless of their socioeconomic status.

The Teen Center is centrally located in downtown Santa Barbara and provides a safe and positive environment for students after school, and longer hours during the summer. Two staff members supervise the Teen Center and oversee programming. In addition, a new Community School has been designated by the County to be implemented at the Teen Center, which will be open during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Working with County educators, the Community School is a learning opportunity for struggling high school students to gain academic credits that will allow them to merge back into the traditional public school system. By working closely with the County Education Department and the Police Department, we hope to reduce the high school dropout rate while bridging the gap between the community and police officers.

A new program has recently been put into effect at the Teen Center called "Give Me Five." In conjunction with Santa Barbara City College, workshops and services are provided at the center to assist high school students with college and career opportunities. Programs and workshops range from applying for scholarships, assistance with financial aid applications, and career guidance. Ten to 15 workshops are available throughout the year, and after five have been completed, students receive book grant money for college or other incentives.

Summit High School

Working with County educators, Summit High School is a learning opportunity for struggling high school students to gain academic credits that will allow them to merge back into the traditional public school system.

The Center will be open to meet the needs of students that want to complete missing or gain additional high school credits. Led by County Education Administrator Fred Razo, the Teen Center was chosen to facilitate those needs. Under direct supervision, students will have the ability to take online classes in small groups that will provide an environment free from negative societal pressures. Bearing in mind the idea that every student learns in different ways, this setting will encourage a positive learning atmosphere away from peer pressure or a gang mentality. Another objective is to introduce these students to other supportive services such as the Explorer Program and Youth Leadership Council that are part of the after-school programs that SBPAL offers.

Summit High School is a drug-free academic program that promotes “healthy living and healthy minds” through academic achievement and the promotion of positive social activities and personal responsibility. As a high school, Summit will provide students with independent study courses with staff support. Under the guidance of school staff, students will develop a clear set of academic goals for each semester that they are enrolled. We will assist students in the development of an individualized learning plan that is self-paced and fits their academic needs; a credentialed academic counselor (PPS) is available to assist students and parents as needed. Appointment times, as well as lab hours, will be scheduled for each student individually. In addition to the academic program, Summit staff will coordinate with support agencies to assist students with healthy choices, employment, counseling and support, dual enrollment with Santa Barbara City College, and other positive social activities.