



# SANTA BARBARA POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

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## 2013-2014 PAL REPORT

The mission of PAL is provide opportunities for all youth to reach their full potential. Working closely with the police department and other community agencies, PAL is able to identify youth at risk of social or economic disadvantage, youth in need of academic support, and youth at risk of negative behavior or gang influence and redirect them to a safe surrounding at the Twelve 35 Teen Center.

By fostering a positive relationship with law enforcement and offering PAL programming *at no cost to the families*, youth can engage in our core program areas:

- Mentoring Provided by Police Officers
- Focus on Character, Teambuilding, and Leadership
- Academic Achievement for every PAL member
- Afterschool & Summer Educational & Enrichment Opportunities
- Career and College Entrance Preparation
- Community Service

### TWELVE 35 Teen Center

The Santa Barbara Police Activities league currently serves over 550 youth, 77% primarily Hispanic. We serve, on average, 30 middle and high school students per day, Monday through Friday between 2:30 and 6pm.

After school programs:

- **Tutoring** provided by Cal Soap tutors and computer lab accessibility for homework completion. We also monitor students homework, grades, communicate with teachers and parents, provide bi-lingual homework support, provide referrals where needed.
- **Specialized activities** including Art Classes in collaboration with the SB Museum of Art at their Ridley Tree-education center. Students explore the arts through mediums such as paint, sculpture and ceramics during 8-week sessions. Classes in dance provided by Everybody Dance Now, Body Combat provided by 911 Crossfit, Guitar Classes, Girls Running Club, Arts & Crafts, and more are offered on a quarterly basis.
- **Leadership Training** provided through the Youth Leadership Council where 14 teens meet bi-weekly to learn and practice leadership skills and community service including:
  - Big Pal Little Pal Spring Break Camp where teens plan, budget, and implement a program for kids ages 6-11 in need of one-on-one mentoring during spring break
  - Cops and Kids new Leadership Conference serving 35 youth, held at Camp Whittier this year to engage kids in teambuilding and leadership practice. Topics including college entrance and scholarship education, personal money management, and lessons learned from community leaders.
  - Volunteer at the Teen Center and for Special Events



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## **Community Impact:**

### Sports Alliance:

Last Fall PAL ended its sports programming offered on Jr. High campuses after the Santa Barbara School District changed its policy towards non-profit programs offered at school sites.

Since that time PAL has conducted a Sports Alliance with the United Boys and Girls Club, Boys and Girls Club of Santa Barbara, Girls Inc. Carpinteria, and Carpinteria School District. PAL organized an after school soccer and basketball league serving 150 Jr. High students.

### Campership Alliance:

The Campership Alliance is a collaborative effort between 12 other non-profits to provide 300 underserved children with summer camp scholarships. PAL also provides transportation to and from camps for youths living in Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria areas.

The Alliance is an effective way for non-profits to work together, share their resources, centralize registration, and ensure that all participants qualify based on socio-economic need. Camps run from mid-June through late August and include science camps, sports camps, nature camps, and one week residential camps. Families are given the opportunity to choose one week of camp for their child based on availability. The goal of the Alliance is to make campership opportunities available to families with limited resources, provide educational enrichment for children over the summer, and provide for the safety and supervision of children where needed.

### Family Outreach:

Every year PAL hosts a Holiday Dinner for families in need, who are recommended by the AOK Program, school advocates, and community police officers. The evening is complete with Santa Claus distributing gifts to all children in attendance.

A new initiative in the planning stages includes a family outreach and counseling program offered as a collaboration between SafeLaunch, Action Family Counseling, and PAL. Our intention is to provide free bilingual counseling for families and teens, once a week in the evening. Held at the teen center, the program will provide counseling and referral on any issue including drug and alcohol prevention.

Written and submitted by Sara Spataro, PAL Executive Director  
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