



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 22, 2009
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: What's New in Recreation?

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on recent new programs and inventive program changes created by the Recreation Division.

DISCUSSION:

Challenged by declining revenues and participation, Recreation Division staff continues to enhance programs and develop interesting new opportunities to encourage participation, align with successful trends, and stimulate interest in recreation programs. This presentation will highlight recent changes and additions to afterschool and summer programs that staff has been creating over the last several months.

After School Programs

Elementary Schools – This year, grant objectives required and staff supported, aligning afterschool program curriculum with the ‘regular’ school day, meaning that afterschool activities were created and developed to mirror and support Santa Barbara School Districts’ content standards for each grade level. The purpose of the change was to provide continuity of learning concepts throughout the day, and by applying the concepts in afterschool activities to enhance thorough learning of the concepts. The change was achieved in both the Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP) and Afterschool Opportunities for Kids (A-OK). A variety of special events and new curriculum were featured including:

- “Lights on After School” Family Literacy Night
- Lights, Camera, Action! Art and Talent Show
- “Heart Fit, Heart Felt” running program
- World Games
- Survivor Skills
- “Pen Pal Project”

Junior High Schools – Partners have been an invaluable asset in enhancing the junior high afterschool programs. New program highlights include:

- Police Activities League support of soccer and basketball leagues through additional coaching staff and uniforms
- Club West cross country program
- Bici Centro - Girls Build a Bike

Summer Programs

This summer, the Department will provide many new and innovative programs, while continuing the time tested basic programs that are affordable, and sometimes free. The free Summer Fun Drop-in Program was expanded to a full day in summer 2008 and continues to grow as the need for affordable recreational options for youth grows. This program will be offered at Franklin, McKinley, and Harding Elementary Schools this summer. The Department is also offering over 25 types of camps and sport clinics. Teaching Engineering to Kids with Legos, Camp Millionaire, Bike Adventures, Running Clinic, Cheer Camp, Camp Rad, Camp H2O, Junior Lifeguard Nippers Program, Junior Lifeguard Fitness, and Fun Program, "Free" Spring-Break Lifeguard Academy, Catch Me if You Can – Fishing Clinic, Ultimate Sports Week, and summer-long Baseball, Flag Football, and Soccer leagues for youth were new programs created at the request of parents to provide new and different things to do. This summer seems to be shaping up as the best year for a "staycation" – lots to do right here in beautiful Santa Barbara.

Community Partnerships

The City of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara School Districts have been exemplary leaders in collaborating to provide school-based and community youth development programs. We would like to recognize our many amazing partners who work with us daily to support and invest in youth programming including:

- After School Education and Safety program
- American Red Cross
- Bici Centro
- City of Santa Barbara - Creeks, Libraries, Parks
- Club West
- Diabetes Resource Center
- Creative Wealth International
- Police Activities League

Summer Fun Solutions

On Friday, April 24th from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, Recreation staff will host an open house at the Carrillo Recreation Center to spread the word about the interesting variety of affordable, quality programs we provide. Information tables, mini-demos, and registration will be available. City and downtown employees were targeted to attend,

though the event is open is everyone. Stop by to learn how our programs can help you and your family have a great summer "staycation"!

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