



SANTA BARBARA POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

The Santa Barbara Police Activities league currently serves over 1,200 youth each year. One of the most ubiquitous issues facing our community is reaching out at a grassroots level to connect families at a disadvantage to services that can assist them. The Santa Barbara Police Activities League solves this problem by bringing together a coalition of groups and provides free activities and services for the youth of our community. Instead of focusing on one neighborhood or center, PAL encompasses all Santa Barbara County residents and removes barriers, unlocking doors for the future.

TWELVE 35 Teen Center

The PAL Teen Center currently serves over 40 kids a day. At the Center we offer tutoring from Cal-SOAP in the computer lab, daily healthy snacks, dance classes, and even a young women's empowerment group that meets weekly. The PAL Youth Leadership Council meets every Thursday afternoon at the Center. Currently Summit High School operates during the day from 8-2 and then the Center turns into the PAL Teen Center from 2:30-6:30. Below are examples of activities and classes PAL has offered over the past year.

- Trips to LA Galaxy Soccer Games
 - Teen Dances
 - Art Collaboration with Santa Barbara Museum of Art
 - Knitting for victims of domestic violence & cancer patients
 - Teen made Thanksgiving Dinner for Little Pal's, families and law enforcement
 - Help Portrait Day
 - Holiday Parade
 - Toy Drive & Gift wrapping for Holiday Dinner
 - Beach soccer game
 - Video game and pool tournaments
 - Domestic Violence workshops
 - Community Clean-ups
 - Fitness classes
 - Theatre Arts with Arts for Humanity!
 - Guitar Lessons
 - Music Studio
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- Big Pal Little Pal Spring Break camp March 25-29: SBPAL held its annual Big Pal Little Pal spring break camp during the week of March 25th. The camp consisted of 14 PAL Youth Leadership high school students and 14 elementary students. All of the grade school students are referred by Family Service Agencies from local Title One Schools. The camp is a weeklong mentoring program that provides underserved youth a chance to have fun and experience new activities.



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- Campership Alliance: Sign-ups for Campership Alliance took place on May 4th and 5th. The Campership Alliance is a collaborative effort between 12 other non-profits to provide over 450 underserved children with summer camp scholarships and transportation for youths living in Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria areas. The Alliance is an effective way to ensure that all participants qualify based on socio-economic need, and that camp scholarships are distributed to youth living below the poverty level. Camps run from mid-June through late August and include science camps, sports camps, nature camps, and one week residential camps. SBPAL hires two campership coordinators to facilitate data entry, tracking of programs, registration, scheduling camps with alliance partners, and daily monitoring of transportation. Last summer 463 camp scholarships were given out to youth between the ages of 5 to 18 in Santa Barbara County and this year we anticipate the same number. The goal of the Alliance is to make campership opportunities available to families with limited resources that otherwise could not afford to send their children to camp. Moreover, SBPAL provides transportation to and from camps at no cost to ensure that working families can participate.

Computer Lab

The Teen Center Computer Lab is directly aligned with the Santa Barbara Police Activities mission and goal of reducing gang involvement and increasing the academic performance of students. The Chief of Police and the department see firsthand how PAL programs provide a structured environment separated from negative societal pressures created by gangs. In addition, the Santa Barbara Police Department budgets for officers to be part of PAL programs to ensure the effectiveness of the programs and maintain the high accountability of dedicated mentors. By assisting the youth of our community directly through technology and expanding access to computers and online access enables them to go on and be productive members of their community.

The kids we serve at the Center:

This is an excerpt from a student that attends Summit High at the Teen Center. His name is Edgar and through the many obstacles including being locked up, attending various schools, and time at Los Prietos he managed to graduate high school last month. I met him at the Teen Center with his young three year old son and saw with my own eyes this amazing father and well-spoken young man. This is an excerpt from his graduating essay:

“In the 9th grade, I got into trouble and quickly found myself in juvenile hall. From there, I was transferred to the Villa Esperanza where I did fairly well and earned some credit. When I completed my program at the Villa, I transferred back to El Puente School in Santa Barbara. I didn’t do well there and eventually



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was sent back to juvenile hall. From there I ended up at Los Prietos Boys Camp. I did not realize at the time, but being sent to camp was a turning point in my life. I learned many things during my stay; including how much to value my education. Eventually I hit rock bottom nearing my 18th birthday. I considered dropping out when I was told about Summit High School. I decided to give graduation one final attempt and I enrolled myself. The teacher, Mark Leufkens, worked with me and kept me motivated to keep going. I did really well with the independent studies and learned a lot about the history and government of the United States. **Finally I finished! I would like to thank Mark, his superiors and anybody else who funds Summit High School. I hope I serve as an example that Summit High School is a successful program."**

Attached is a picture of my new buddy, Anthony. When he came to the center a month ago, all he could talk about was that his dad was in prison and his mom would leave him at the park alone to buy drugs. Since Anthony has been at the Teen Center all he talks about are the positive things in his life. Now, Anthony is doing better in school and gets help with his homework every day at the Teen Center. Thanks to PAL, the Teen Center Staff and family, Anthony is happy and in a safe environment after school. He now has friends and mentors to help and guide him. PAL opens the doors for kids like Anthony and embraces them when all the doors have been closed in the past.



Written and submitted by Laurie Parker, PAL Executive Director
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