



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** June 24, 2020

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Summer Camps and Recreation Programs

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission receive a presentation on youth summer camps and recreation programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) this summer.

**DISCUSSION:**

Camps and recreation programs play an important role in the summer by bringing youth together to have fun, gain self-confidence, and learn new skills in a safe environment. While direction regarding measures to stem the spread of COVID-19 changes daily, Recreation Division staff has been working hard to plan and coordinate safe, fun, and enriching opportunities for youth this summer.

Department camps will look different this year, with reduced capacity, creation of smaller socially distanced groups, and relocation in some cases to limit the need for transportation. Beginning in early May, Recreation staff began developing guidance for summer programming in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff researched industry standards released by American Camp Association and YMCA of the USA, participated in webinars and roundtable discussions, and reviewed guidelines from other youth-serving agencies for the safe operation of summer camps and programs.

Unfortunately, offering the SummerFun program was not logistically possible due to the 200 plus participants and the need to provide the required social distancing protocols and ensure staff and participant safety. Similarly, in May the American Red Cross recommended against offering group swimming lessons and directed agencies to explore a different model whereby the instructor teaches from the deck while parents assist their child with the swim skills. Following an internal program review by aquatic staff, the popular swim lesson program at Ortega Park pool will not be offered due to lower staffing levels and fewer participants in a session to account for the parent. The Department is planning to offer these programs in summer 2021, and is anxiously awaiting subsequent phased re-opening stages that may allow for the Oak Park wading pool to open this summer under a hybrid operational plan.

Staff did develop a list of in-person and virtual camps, including local favorites Nature Camp, Skate Camp, Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguards, and a host of other popular options and programs, that could safely operate under the guidelines. On June 3, the Department issued a press release outlining a plan to start summer camps and programs on June 22 that was contingent on Santa Barbara County entering Phase 3, and approval in the form of a Health Officer Order.

This presentation will provide an overview of the camp programs the Department will be offering during the eight weeks of summer break.

**ATTACHMENT:** COVID-19 Supplemental Camp Information for Families

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rich Hanna, Recreation Manager

**APPROVED BY:** Jill Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director