

Parks & Recreation Promotes Youth Development

Contact: Leslie Fritz
 Director of Education
 916/665-2777
 leslie@cprs.org

Definition of Youth Development

Youth Development is a framework that addresses human needs for the healthy growth of young people, including competencies (knowledge, skills, behaviors, values) necessary for adult success.
 —CPRS Youth Development Committee

California is home to nearly 6.5 million school-age children and youth.¹ Classroom time accounts for less than one-half of their day. What are they doing with the rest of the time?

California’s local park and recreation agencies are involved in **youth development**; these programs are offered as afterschool programs, day camps, youth sports or drama classes. Youth development begins with the goal of growth and development and engages youth in positive learning activities in a supportive environment led by trained and caring adults.

Park & Recreation Youth Development Policy Statements

Park & recreation commissions, advisory councils or youth commissions adopt these policy statements:

- We endorse the youth development model as a framework that addresses human needs in the healthy development of young people.
- We believe the development of meaningful, achievable and measurable youth outcomes is critical to establishing the foundation for the transition to youth development.
- We use our key assets (programs, services and facilities) to support the healthy development of young people.
- We adopt an “outcome management” model when establishing youth development programs. Measurable outcomes of youth development include behaviors, skills, knowledge, perceptions and values that address youth competencies in the areas of health/physical; personal/social/ cognitive/creative; vocational; and citizenship.

Park and recreation professionals develop collaboratives² to provide youth development opportunities. For instance:

- Alliance for Excellence formed in Sacramento County, a venture between three local park and recreation districts, a school district and the YMCA.
- Valley Youth Project, in Riverside County, is a collaborative effort between a local park and recreation district, the county and community organizations.
- Curfew Pass Program is a cooperative effort between a local park and recreation district and the local police department.

Mission Statement of CPRS’ Youth Development Committee

To promote the involvement of park and recreation agencies in fostering and evaluating youth development.



CPRS Supports a Statewide Youth Development Committee

Park and recreation professionals recognize that a majority of youth are making the right choices every day. The CPRS Statewide Committee members that help you empower youth to create positive relationships with concerned adults who provide guidance.

Park & Recreation Youth Development Committee Members

Virginia Chavez, Chair,
Community Services Supervisor
City of Mission Viejo
Office: (949) 470-3072
Fax: (949) 581-0795
E-mail: Vchavez@mission-viejo.com

Kaisa Miller, Academy Co-Chair
City of West Sacramento
Office: (916) 617-4640
Fax: (916) 372-5329
E-mail: kaisam@cityofwestsacramento.org

Marilyn McGinnis, Manager
County of Sacramento
Oak Park Health Center
Office: (916) 875-2999
Fax: (916) 875-2921
E-Mail: mcginnism@saccounty.net

Tony Sanchez
Leadership Concepts, Inc.
www.leadershipconceptsinc.org
E-mail: dentertainer247@hotmail.com

Leslie Fritz, Director of Education
Staff Liaison
California Park & Recreation Society
Office (916) 665-2777
Fax: (916) 665-9149
E-mail: leslie@cprs.org

Advisor:
Mark Deven, Assistant City Manager, City of Concord
Office: (925) 671-3461
Fax: (925) 671-3449
E-mail: markd@ci.concord.ca.us

References

1. Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent, California Department of Education.
3. Various articles, *California Parks and Recreation*, California Park & Recreation Society, Vol 53, No 1, Winter 1997.