

City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department
Program Proposal

YOUTH JOBS: CONNECTING YOUTH WITH OPPORTUNITIES

Overview

The Strategy Planning Committee on Youth Violence has identified as a priority the need to provide increased opportunities for “at risk” youth to be successfully employed. Placing as many youth as possible into job opportunities over the summer months will help deter involvement with negative behaviors which may lead to youth violence.

Various youth job training programs exist in the community, offered through public schools, as well as public, private and non-profit organizations. Within the business community, there is increased awareness of the need and support for providing opportunities for youth to gain employment locally as part of the solution to reducing gang violence. The City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department, through its Community Centers and Community Services programs, has been providing youth job training and placement services for over 30 years.

To insure the greatest success with connecting youth with job training programs over the next several months, Parks and Recreation proposes to take a lead role in coordinating between agencies with job training programs, youth service providers and potential employers.

Proposed Scope of Work:

- Develop an inventory of local agencies offering youth job training and placement programs, identifying unique components of each program, and contacts.
- Establish a communication network with appropriate staff within each participating agency.
- Identify and outreach to the community, programs and agencies working or interacting with “at risk” youth. Provide information on local youth job training programs, and assist with referring youth to appropriate job programs.
- Work with local businesses, companies and agencies to cultivate job and internship opportunities which can be referred to the various youth job training and placement programs.
- Link youth to job opportunities and services by making appropriate referrals to job providers or services.
- Create an identity for the Youth Jobs service, and promote public awareness.
- Develop a web-based resource which agencies and the community can access for information on programs and referrals.