

NEWS RELEASE

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“TEEN PROGRAMS AND COLLABORATIONS GROWING IN MENLO PARK”

Menlo Park, CA – A 2002 study by RAND concludes that the availability of productive activities and adult supervision during the after school hours of 3 – 6 p.m. remain critical to the health and safety of youth.

These hours remain a crucial period of time during the day for youth when they are most at risk for violence involving them, either as victims or perpetrators. We also know that supervising youth is an increasingly difficult job for many working parents, who are often unavailable until dinnertime. Fortunately, the Menlo Park Community Services Department – Teen Services Division, is providing fun and constructive options and alternatives for Menlo Park teens through after school programs.

The Teen Division offers a variety of programs throughout the year. Dirk Alvarado, Recreation Supervisor for the Menlo Park Community Services Department said, “Our programs create safe locations where teens can go to after school and do homework and have a little fun. Over the past 4 years our collaborations have steadily increased which have allowed us to pool resources with others and to be cost effective in providing teens with more services.”

The Teen division provides many different and unique programs all year long, such as the “Girls Only Program” for young women that focus on issues around school pressures and dating from a young woman’s perspective. The program also offers other teens with special one-day travel programs and a temporary skate park.

Alvarado also said, “We are always looking for interesting opportunities for our teens. This is why we have established partnerships with Hillview School, the Boys and Girls Club, other non-profits, and other City departments. During the summer, teens helped compile information for a transportation study about a Menlo Park neighborhood. Recently, Teen Services also assisted the Police department on a grant proposal for a new diversion program for first time non-violent offenders”.

If you are interested in finding out more about teen programs in Menlo Park, or would like to offer some suggestions or resources, contact the Community Services Departments Teen Services Division at 650-330-2245 or by email at teens@menlopark.org