

**TO:** PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** STEPHANIE DOUGLAS, SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** March 27, 2018

**SUBJECT:** CITY OF PALO ALTO 2018 SUMMER CAMPS PRESENTATION

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff will provide a summary of the 2018 summer camps and programs offered by the Community Services Department. This is an information item and no action will be taken.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Palo Alto (City) Community Services Department's mission is to engage individuals and families in creating a strong and healthy community through parks, recreation, social services, arts, and sciences. Summer Camps play an important role in fulfilling our Department's mission by providing opportunities for youth to engage, learn and play in a variety of ways.

Within the camp setting, children develop a sense of independence as they try new adventures. Summer camps are known for providing a safe environment where children gain self-confidence as they learn new skills and make lasting friendships.

## **DISCUSSION**

The City of Palo Alto Community Services Department offers over 150 different camps in the Summer. In 2017, 3,370 registrations were processed for Summer Camps, with 89% of those registrations being residents of Palo Alto. In addition, the City recorded \$1,102,365.98 in revenue.

All camps, with exception to contracted special interest camps, are staffed using paid City employees (ages 15+) and volunteer CITs (Counselors in Training). Camps provide leadership opportunities for returning staff in positions such as Camp Coordinator, Site and Asst. Site Directors. All in-house staff must attend In-Service training week (June 4-8) and commit to working 6 of the 9 weeks of summer (June 11-August 10). Summer camp employment provides local teens invaluable life skills including social skills, professionalism, leadership, management, and teamwork. In 2017, over 50 teens were hired to work our varying Summer Camps.

*The following camps are offered through the Recreation Division:*

**Camp Palo Alto:** Preschool Camp for ages 3-4 with focus on camp crafts, songs, water-play, visits to the Junior Museum and Zoo and story time at the Children's Library.

**Foothills Camps:** Outdoor recreation camp for ages 5-13 with focus on games, nature hikes, canoeing and arts/crafts.

**Teen Week Out:** Adventure based off-site camp for teens ages 14-17.

**Kidz Love Soccer:** Soccer focused camps for ages 4.5 – 10

**Skyhawks Sports Camps:** Sports focused camps for ages 4-12.

**Combo Sports Camps:** Combination swim, tennis, soccer, & flag football camp for ages 8-12.

**Special Interest Camps:** Variety of vendors who provide a wide range of special interest camps for youth 5+

*The following camps are offered through Children's Theatre:*

**Creative Dramatic Camps:** Children learn how to use their voice, body, natural expressions and imagination to discover the exciting experience of performance.

**Summer Theatre Academy Sessions:** Taught by working theatre professionals and provide campers hands-on learning experiences in all aspects of theatrical production. Each camp will feature a different theatrical production, with final performances at the end of the camp.

**Storyboard to Screen Camps:** Students act as an independent film company as they learn the fundamentals of filmmaking with introductions to screenwriting, directing techniques, production, and cinematography.

**Prince & Princess Camp, Hollywood Stars, Dancing in the Street, Dance Fever, Shape it Up! Camps:** For students of all ages to learn dance techniques while engaging in creative choreography.

*The following camps are offered through the Arts Center:*

**Ceramics, Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Printmaking Camps:** Creative arts camps for varying ages, 6+

**Puppeteering:** Creative approach to puppetry using modeling, lighting and technology.

**Digital Photography:** For varying ages, learn fundamentals of digital photography

**Stop-Motion Animation:** For varying ages, create stop-motion movies using clay animation

*The following camps are offered through Junior Museum and Zoo (JMZ):*

**Bay Camp:** Campers explore the flora, fauna and ecology of the Palo Alto Baylands. Highlights include nature hikes, seine net fishing, canoeing, journaling and lab work.

**Jurassic Camp:** The Jr. Museum's vast geology and fossil collection serves as a backdrop for exploring life long ago and the forces that shape the Earth's ever changing topography.

**Camp Kinetic:** Kids take advantage of the nature and properties of matter and energy to design and build inventive contraptions that roll, buzz, fly, float and spin.

**Camp Oceana:** Kids study authentic biofacts and live ocean animals to learn about life in the ocean. They use real scientific tools to investigate physiological systems of fish and marine invertebrates, and take a tide pool study trip to Pillar Point State Beach.

**Wildlife Camp:** Arastradero Preserve serves as an outdoor classroom for campers to learn about life in an oak woodlands community and the Ohlone Indian who thrived here long ago. Highlights include nature hiking, journaling, and weaving baskets and cloths using natural fibers.

**Science for Preschoolers:** Beginning scientists get a playful introduction to biology, zoology, chemistry, physics, geology and engineering.

**Science for Kinders:** Beginning scientists get a playful introduction to biology, zoology, chemistry, physics, geology and engineering.

**Zoo Camp:** Young children become junior zoo keepers for a week. They investigate the interesting adaptations that help Jr. Museum zoo animals thrive in their natural habitats and learn what it takes to keep them happy at the zoo.