

SUPPORTERS & HELPERS OF ART, RECREATION AND PARKS (SHARP)

It Starts with Prevention Recreation-as-Prevention Facts and Stats

- The U.S. spent \$10 billion on juvenile justice in 2001. The majority of funds are spent to confine a small percentage of juvenile offenders, rather than PREVENTIVE efforts for a broad segment of youth. **The average cost of incarceration of a youth offender for one year is \$40,000 whereas the cost of prevention for a youth participant for one year is generally less than \$1,500.**

That's a potential **SAVINGS to the taxpayer** of \$28,500 per jailed youth.

- Although arrest rates for youth aged 15-17 dropped 39% between 1994 and 1999, juvenile-committed crimes are still a concern for law enforcement agencies across America. In 1999, law enforcement officers arrested approximately 2.5 million youth. Violent crimes accounted for approximately 4% of these arrests (U.S. Department of Justice).
- The peak hours for youth-committed crimes are between 2:00-8:00 p.m. on week days. During this time, youth are often unsupervised.
- "Disconnected youth" account for a large percentage of those who commit crimes. These youth lack attachment to caring adults and lack of involvement in school and pro-social activities in their communities. After-school programs provide youth with a means to build and maintain important connections (Mendel, 2000).
- The relationship between recreation, disease prevention and health promotion is substantiated by findings which recognize that light to moderate activity, typical of many recreation activities, can help prevent and manage many chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease, cancer and high blood pressure (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); recreation activities foster an active, healthy lifestyle, which helps prevent obesity.

An investment in prevention assists our entire community. Your help is needed!

Santa Cruz County benefits from its excellent recreation and park services. The non-profit agency of Supporters and Helpers of Art, Recreation and Parks (SHARP) helps to further many of these services by linking community donors and the Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Department. These benefits are only available through your support. Remember, active and involved teens and youth become active and involved adults.

Donations can be mailed to SHARP, 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. For information, please contact Clark Beattie, Recreation Superintendent, at 454-7910.

Youth Programs - Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is offered on a limited first-come, first-served basis for summer 2008 classes, camps, pre-school programs, and swim lessons.

1. Please fill out the registration form on page 5 and attach a brief statement outlining your need for financial assistance. **This must be done prior to April 18 for consideration for summer 2008 programs.**
2. Submit all information with a 50% co-payment for each class, camp, and/or lesson selected for each participant. Limit ONE scholarship per participant.
3. If your application is approved, you will receive a registration confirmation receipt in the mail.
4. If funding is unavailable, or if the requested activity is full, you will be notified by telephone.