



Breaking Bread and Celebrating – secrets to successful partnerships

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Goals of Community Partner Program

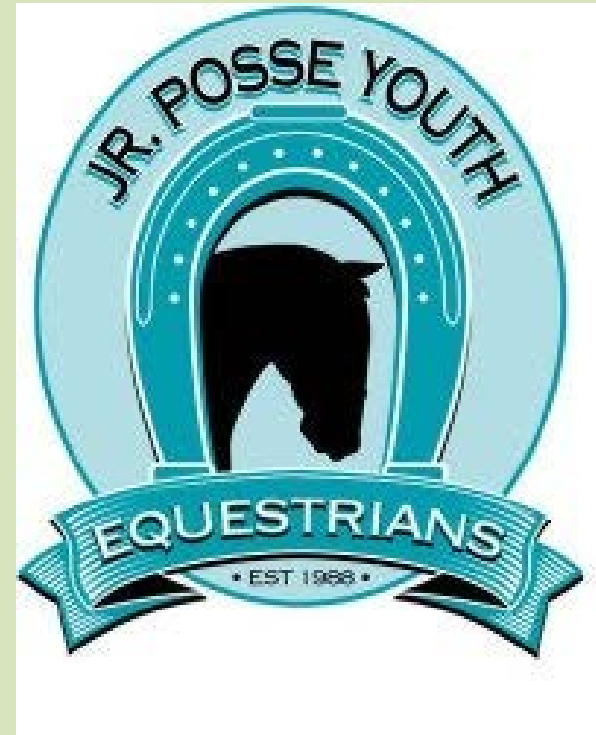
- Develop meaningful, long term relationships with community organizations in targeted communities;
- Serve non traditional park users with traditional park programs that are adapted to the special needs and concerns of the community;
- Support partner programs with resources, expertise and opportunities; and
- Joint creation of follow up programs and opportunities beyond initial programming.

MRCA Junior Ranger Programs

- 12 Sessions
- Skill based
- Community Service Day
- Career Day
- Camping Trip
- Graduation/Swearing in



2 Case Studies



Anahuak Youth Sports



2000+ families

Cypress Park and East Los Angeles

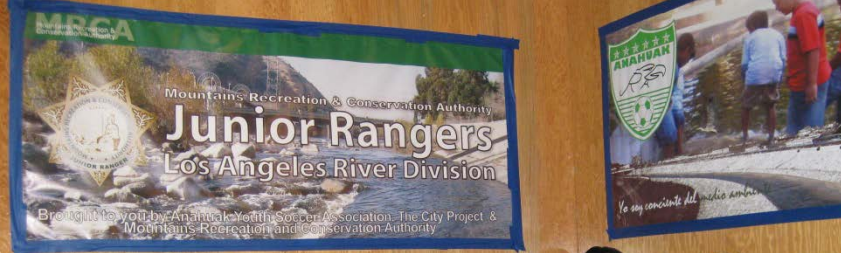
Junior Ranger Programs organized around team structure and leadership

Family days in the mountains and the beach

Camping Skills for families

Community Thanksgiving

Anahuak Jr Rangers





Compton Junior Posse

Keeping kids off the streets and on horses in the most dangerous city in America.



CJP Junior Ranger



Outdoor Leaders

Paid internships

- 16 hours a month
- Leadership role with new Junior Rangers
- Program Development
- Outreach and Recruitment
- Speaking engagements



Benefits to the Partners

- Assistance with capacity building;
- Increased program offerings;
- Organizational esteem and pride;
- In kind support, introductions advocacy; and
- Opportunities for members/participants.



Benefits to the MRCA

- An MRCA representative to the community, from the community;
- Local logistics handled at local level;
- Participant recruitment;
- Educating/troubleshooting on cultural competencies; and
- Advocacy of park issues/programs.



Elements of partnership

- Involvement from the beginning
 - Start with an idea not a program
- Common vision/goal
 - We need x, what do you need?
- Open communication/feedback
- Honesty/Trust
- Consensus/Compromise
- Clear expectations
- Follow through
- Equal responsibility

Important Ingredients

- Food – breaking bread is a universal;
- Celebrations – honor participation, make them feel important;
- Go to their events!; (They are!)
- Flexibility;
- No templates or cookie cutters;
- Use community leaders, formal or informal to represent you;
- Treat them as “part of the family”;
- Little things matter;
- Have fun together;
- Do not have meetings only at your office/park;
- Do not always have your uniform on; and
- Remember a community is not homogenous.

Universal Park traditions



New Partners

- Venice Boys and Girls Club at the Ballona Wetlands
- Para Los Ninos at Vista Hermosa Natural Park
- Mar Vista Gardens Housing Project
- Boys and Girls Club of Oxnard



Community Ambassadors

