

## **After School Enrichment Program (AEP)**

Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Afterschool Enrichment Program (AEP) is free of charge for youth, ages 6 – 13, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday during the school year. The program offers a wide range of recreational, educational and cultural activities including homework period, fun fitness, arts and entertainment, instructional sports, nature, recycling and creative fun activities for youth participants from schools and neighborhoods in close proximity to community centers.

This program is funded through the General Fund. Partnerships and grant funding enhance program services. Recreation staff is provided with on-going staff training to ensure program compliance, safety, updated recreation trends and program implementation. The program operates under Standards of Care, an Ordinance that is adopted annually by City Council that exempts the program from day care licensing and sets the standards for all program operations. Registration is required and parents are required to attend a program orientation.

### **Current Status:**

The After School Enrichment Program operates at 54 community centers positively impacting the lives of more than 3,000 youth throughout the Houston area. Based upon data collected from the participating sites, 92% of the participants received free/reduce lunch services, and roughly 81% come from very/extremely low income households. 60% of participants are African American and 34% are Hispanic. Less than 9% are Caucasian or Asian. Presently, as many as 21 community partners remain committed through program resources and support in areas of enrichment and environmental education.

### **Participating Locations (54):**

Northeast Division: Clark, Clinton, Denver Harbor, Finnigan, Hobart Taylor, Judson Robinson, Sr., Lakewood, Melrose, Moody, Shady Lane, Swiney, Tidwell, Tuffly

Northwest Division: Candlelight, Carverdale, Freed, Highland, Independence Heights, Judson Robinson, Jr., Kendall Library, Lincoln City, Love, Montie Beach, Proctor Plaza, Stude, Woodland

Southeast Division: Bessie Swindle, Beverly Hills, Charlton, Crestmont, DeZavala, Eastwood, Edgewood, Garden Villas, Hartman, Ingrando, Mason, Meadowcreek, Sagemont, Settegast.

Southwest Division: Alief, Almeda, Burnett Bayland, Cherryhurst, Emancipation, Godwin, Lansdale, Linkwood, Marian, Platou, River Oaks, Sunnyside, Townwood, Windsor Village

**School Partnerships:**

Program Implemented at Community Center (8 schools):

Cherryhurst	Wilson Elementary
DeZavala	DeZavala Elementary
Mason	Briscoe Elementary
Moody	Martin Elementary
Proctor Plaza	Field elementary
	Travis Elementary
Judson Robinson Jr	MacGregor Elementary
Settegast	Rusk Elementary

Program Implemented at the School (6 schools):

Denver Harbor	Pugh Elementary
Proctor Plaza	Field Elementary
Stude	Crockett Elementary
Shady Lane	Coop Elementary
Townwood	Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Childhood Education Center
Tuffly	Dogan Elementary
Windsor Village	Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Childhood Education Center
Woodland	Crockett Elementary

**Other Departments/Partners Involved:**

City of Houston Solid Waste Recycling Program, Public Works' Water Works Education Program, Houston Public Mobile Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Archery Trade Association, Greensheet Education Foundation Program, Prairie View A&M and Texas A&M AgriLife Nutrition Programs, Houston Food Bank, Harris County Precinct 1 Challenger Seven, Duessen and Tom Bass Nature Programs, Houston Audubon Society, Nature Heritage Society, Junior Anglers and Hunters of America, Junior Achievement, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center, Houston Urban Nature Center and Sheldon Lake Educational Center Program as well as National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) OrganWise Nutrition Program.

**Time Line:** The program is offered September through December and January through May.

## **After School Achievement Program (ASAP)**

The After-School Achievement Program (ASAP) is designed to expand after-school opportunities for Houston youth and support the needs of working families. Through ASAP, the City of Houston funds schools and non-profit agencies to provide after-school programming for elementary & middle school age youth serving a minimum of 30 children at each site, Monday-Friday, at least three hours daily, generally between 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Current Status:**

In 2015-2016, ASAP funded 14 sites serving over 592 youth throughout the Houston area, with a daily average attendance of 85%. Based upon data collected from the participating sites 85% of the participants received free/reduce lunch services, and roughly 84% come from very/extremely low income households.

For the current 2016-2017 year, \$285,938 in CDBG was allocated and 10 sites were awarded funding.

### **Participating Locations & School Partnerships (10 sites):**

#### Alief ISD

Horn Elementary School

#### Houston ISD

Cullen Middle School

Edison Middle School

Hobby Elementary School

Pleasantville Elementary School

#### Nonprofit

Academy of Accelerated Learning

Chinese Community Center

Julia C. Hester House

Solutions for Better Living

Wesley Community Center

**Other Departments/Partners Involved:** Housing & Community Development Department

**Time Line:** The program is offered from September through June.

## **Soccer for Success Program**

Houston Parks and Recreation Department and the U.S. Soccer Foundation offers Soccer for Success (SfS) after-school program free of charge at 18 different sites in the greater Houston area. This sports-based youth development program uses soccer as a tool in the national fight against childhood obesity and as a vehicle to connect children to positive adult role models and other positive outcomes.

SfS operates a minimum of three days a week for at least two 12-week seasons in the fall and spring. Each session runs for at least 90 minutes, where there is a minimum child-to-adult ratio of 15:1. SfS is funded by a grant from the U.S. Soccer Foundation and sponsorship by US Family Health Plan. The City of Houston budgets for two full time staff to operate the program.

### **Current Status:**

SfS operates at 11 different schools, 1 Boys & Girls club and 6 parks, positively impacting the lives of more than 1,230 youth throughout the Houston area.

### **Participating Locations / School Partnerships: 1,230 participants**

Benavidez Elementary (30)	Scroggins Elementary (60)
Crespo Elementary (90)	Sherman Elementary (60)
Edgewood Elementary (60)	Boys & Girls Club – Spring Branch (90)
Franklin Elementary (30)	Alief Community Center (60)
Jefferson Elementary (30)	Beverly Hills Park (90)
Johnson Elementary (120)	Burnett Bayland Park (60)
Park Place Elementary (30)	Ingrando Park (90)
Peck Elementary (30)	Milby Park (120)
Southmayd Elementary (30)	Moody Park (150)

### **Other Departments/Partners Involved:**

US Soccer Foundation, Houston Dynamo, Houston Independence School District, and Spring Branch Independence School District

**Time Line:** The program is set for 24 weeks programming (12 weeks in the Fall / 12 weeks in the Spring).

### **Summer Enrichment Program**

The Summer Enrichment Program is a summer day-camp-style enrichment camp that offers a wide range of recreational activities including arts and crafts, sports games, field trips, entertainment, special events, and water fun for ages 6-13. The 10-week program is offered from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday from June through August. The Summer Enrichment Program is offered at community centers across the city. The cost for the program is \$30 a week per child or \$300 for the entire summer session.

### **Opening Doors Teen Workshop**

The Opening Doors Teen Mentor Workshop is designed to develop self-worth and character, prepared for a job interview (complete with a mock interview and suggestions on resume preparation), team building activities, fitness tips, budgeting and service learning projects.

The program is comprised of an 8-week workshop during the summer months at a cost of \$30.00 per week per child (fee exemptions exists for those who qualify), Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm for youth ages 14-17 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center. Appropriately named, Opening Doors Teen Mentor Workshop, teens participate in hands-on service learning projects, field trips, educational workshops, and a team building camping experience at Lake Houston Park. Educational workshops includes entrepreneurs presentations, speakers from Texas Parks and Wildlife, representatives from local universities and a host of HPARD staff that provide real on-the-job experience. During the 8-week workshop, teens are required to commit to 6 service learning projects and 6 education projects.

The Open Door Teen Mentor Workshop's primary focus is to offer a well-rounded chance for young teens to make a difference in their community prepare them for the "knocks" of opportunity. By touching the lives of the teens, we discovered that they can accomplish future goals with the preparation of proper job skill training, development of interviewing skills, resume writing and developing good character.

### **Teen Caravan Adventure Program**

This program offers a variety of fun programs, mentoring opportunities, and peer group special events for teens, 14-18, at community centers during the summer. Year round programs are coordinated through the Teen Program Section. Activities include motivational speakers, essay competitions, talent exhibitions, teen camp experiences, nature activities, cultural programs, special events and college tours.

### **Athletes Seeking Knowledge (ASK) Program**

Athletes Seeking Knowledge (ASK) provides free educational support, resources and tools to middle school and high school students (ages 13-18) to help them excel academically. It is open to Houston area students registered in HPARD's After School and Summer Enrichment Programs and recreational sports programs.

The ASK Education Fund provides scholarships and resources to assist youth in the pursuit of a college, education, trade school program, or to help improve their current academic standings. Since 2001, over \$300,000 in ASK scholarships and education incentives have been awarded to Houston area students.

#### **Current Status:**

In 2015, the ASK Education Fund awarded 21 college scholarship and ASK Citizenship Awards for a total \$39,700 in funding assistance to support youth and teens in their educational pursuits.

### **Operation Gang Together (OGT) D-Tag Tattoo Removal Program**

Operation Gang Together (OGT) D-Tag is an intervention tattoo removal service that allows at-risk youth and young adults (ages 10 to 24) to make positive changes and cease possible gang involvement. D-Tag positively impacts the program participants' transition to adulthood, employability and community service. The D-Tag program has operated with funding from Houston Police Department (HPD) since its inception from Drug Forfeiture Funds.

D-Tag program participants must perform six hours of community service at select community centers before each laser treatment. Approved participants through a registration process can receive up to 8 treatments if needed. Tattoo removals are limited to tattoos that can be viewed in street clothing, primarily tattoos that may adversely affect employability. The program is open to participants from Houston's communities and juvenile based organizations.

Services are performed by license physicians and technicians on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### **Current Status:**

For FY15, 288 participants have been served in the program.

#### **Other Departments/Partners Involved:**

Houston Police Department, City of Houston Mayor's Anti-Gang Office (MAGO), Anti-Aging, Inc. and Harris County Medical Society, Harris County Youth Village

## **Swimming pools**

HPARD operates 37 outdoor swimming pools during the summer and fall pool season (June – Aug). All pools are free and open to all ages; however, children under 8 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Parks department pools are open Tuesday through Sunday, 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. All parks pools will close on Mondays except where noted for holidays.

In addition to regular pool activities, the HPARD offers a variety of classes and activities centered on pool and water safety, as well as adult fitness. This includes H2O Learn to Swim Classes for youth (6-13), SwimWise Classes for all ages, and Water Fitness Classes for adults. All classes are offered free of charge to the public, but registration is on a “first-come, first-served” basis and online registration is required.

- H2OSAFE LEARN TO SWIM classes are offered at three levels and are designed to teach youth ages 6 – 13 basic swim skills, swim strokes, and water safety skills to help them become proficient at swimming. Each session meets Tuesday through Friday for two weeks (30 minute class). Classes are FREE and space is limited on a “first-come, first-served” basis during specified registration periods. Online Registration is required and begins at 8 am on registration date.
- SwimWise is a series of FREE learn to swim classes offered for all ages and skill levels. Classes meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday for 30 minutes every day for two weeks. There are four 2-week sessions offered during the summer, with the exception of the Junior Lifeguard and Parent and Me classes. The Junior Lifeguarding and Parent and Me classes are offered as ONE session during the summer for eight weeks and meet on the days scheduled. Classes are FREE and space is limited on a “first-come, first-served” basis during specified registration periods. Online Registration is required and begins at 8:00 a.m. on registration date.
- Water Fitness classes give you the opportunity to stay active and fit and to socialize with other adults in the cool water. The department offers three levels of water fitness classes consist of general exercise in the shallow end of the pool or more strenuous deep-water activity. All enrollments are filled on a “first come, first served” basis. Classes are limited to a maximum of 20 participants per class at most pool sites. Aqua shoes, a towel, and a plastic bottle of water are recommended.

The department also operates a heated indoor natatorium for citizens with disabilities at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. The 5-lane, 25-yard heated pool is open year round for people with disabilities. The fully accessible pool is equipped with a zero depth entry ramp, hand rails, and three chair lifts. Changing and shower facilities are available adjacent to the pool area. Participants are required to have independent functioning mobility skills or bring an adult attendant to assist.