



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Houston Parks and Recreation Department Sponsors Free Summer Lunches & Snacks

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor the USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to provide FREE meals for youth ages 1 – 18. The SFSP operates on weekdays from June 1 through August 13. The department has sponsored the program for more than 25 years, providing meals for youth during the summer when school lunch programs are closed.

No registration is required for the program. Children only need to show up to receive a nutritious lunch. Meals will be consumed on site, and summer enrichment activities will also be provided. Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with a healthy snack following from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"The Summer Food Service program is an integral part of our department's summer services," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

"We are proud to say that more than 425 sites will be participating this year across the city. This means we will be able to provide more young people with FREE nutritious meals and that makes us very happy."

All 57 HPARD Community Centers serve as Summer Food Service Program sites. In addition, community-based organizations such as churches, apartment complexes, learning centers, schools and non-profit groups have registered with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to provide FREE meals to area youth.

Citizens hoping to find the nearest Summer Food Service Site can call (713) 676-6832 or 211 and specify a zip code. In 2009, 1,250,000 meals were served at 430 sites in Houston and Harris County. The Summer Food Service Program is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Division. In accordance with federal law and USDA policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

For information on the Summer Food Service Program or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.