

Press Release

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Over 450 Sites to Offer Free Lunch & Snacks for Youth No Registration Required – Meals provided weekdays From June 10 through August 23

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) will sponsor the U.S.D.A.'s Summer Food Service Program to provide FREE meals for youth ages 1 to 18 during the summer break. The program serves FREE lunches and snacks Monday through Friday from June 10 through August 23, at 450 sites across Houston.

For many kids, summertime means food, friends and fun. But for youth who count on school meals as a major source of nutrition, the summer months can be stressful. H.P.A.R.D.'s Summer Food Service Program helps meet this need.

Meals served through H.P.A.R.D.'s Summer Food Service Program include: one serving of milk, two or more servings of vegetables and/or fruits, one serving of grain or bread, and one serving of meat or meat alternative. Quantities served comply with federal and state requirements.

Summer Food Service sites include: 53 H.P.A.R.D. Community Centers, churches, apartment complexes, recreation/learning centers, youth organizations, schools and nonprofit agencies that have registered with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to provide FREE meals to area youth. Houston Parks' sites rank first in the number of sites in Texas and second in the nation.

Families can find the nearest Summer Food Service Program site by **calling (713) 676-6832 or 211**. No registration is required for the program and is open to all youth and teens ages 1-18. Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with a healthy snack served from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Summer Food Service Program is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Division. In accordance with federal law and U.S.D.A. policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,832 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.