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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 29, 2020

**CONTACT: Estella Espinosa**

Work: (832) 395-7022

Cell: (832) 465-4782

### **PARKS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM BEGINNING JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> AT 19 HOUSTON COMMUNITY CENTERS**

*Summer Food Service to Continue at 49 Community Centers Across the City*

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department has announced its plan for the Summer Enrichment Program. The program will operate out of 19 City of Houston Community Centers which provide enough space for physical distancing to ensure the safety of youth participants and staff. The decision was made following consultation with health experts focused on safety concerns related to COVID-19. Registration for the Summer Enrichment Camp is available on line at [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org). Please note that the 19 community centers will only be open for Summer Enrichment Program youth and staff. All other programming and facility use will remain closed.

The Summer Enrichment Program will operate from June 1, 2020 – August 7, 2020, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for ages 6-13. Online registration is currently available at [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org) and the cost is \$30 per child per week with waivers available for qualified persons. Programs and activities offered during the department's Summer Enrichment Program have been developed based on Centers for Disease Control, National Recreation and Parks Association, the State of Texas Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Day Youth Camp Operators and Staff, and the City of Houston Administrative Procedure 3-39, Access to City Buildings or Facilities During a Medical Epidemic or Pandemic guidelines.

"We know how important our Summer Enrichment Program is to our families. So, we're happy to be able to offer it again this year, albeit in a somewhat streamlined form," said Steve Wright, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "But these are difficult times we're all facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's forced everyone, including the Parks Department, to change the way we do things. That's why we have to use precaution in our gradual move back to normalcy."

Summer Enrichment Program locations include:

- Candlelight, 1520 Candlelight, 77018
- Denver Harbor, 6402 Market, 77020
- Emancipation, 3018 Emancipation, 77004
- Freed, 6818 Shady Villa, 77055
- Hartman, 9311 E. Avenue P, 77012
- Love, 1000 West 12<sup>th</sup>, 77008

- Marian, 11101 South Gessner, 77071
- Mason, 541 South 75<sup>th</sup>, 77023
- Melrose, 1001 Canino, 77076
- Moody, 3725 Fulton, 77009
- Judson Robinson, Jr., 2020 Hermann Drive, 77004
- Judson Robinson, Sr., 1422 Ledwicke, 77029
- Sagemont, 11507 Hughes, 77089
- Sharpstown, 6600 Harbor Town, 77036
- Stude, 1031 Stude, 77007
- Sunnyside, 3502 Belfort, 77051
- Tidwell, 9720 Spaulding, 77016
- Townwood, 3403 Simsbrook, 77045
- Woodland, 212 Parkview, 77009

The department's Curbside Meal Program for Youth will continue to operate at all 49 parks department community centers. This includes the 19 Summer Enrichment sites as well as the 30 sites that remain closed with meals being offered from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., beginning June 1, 2020 and ending August 7, 2020, Monday through Friday, for ages 18 and under. For a list of all Summer Enrichment Program sites, as well as Curbside Meal Program sites visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 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](http://www.houstonparks.org).*