



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2025

PRESENTER: Theresa Johnson, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Discussion on Teen Programs provided by the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department (TJ)

RECOMMENDATION: Informational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department offers programs and events for individuals aged 6 months to 99 years and older. Within this age range, we strive to provide programs such as Start Smart Sports to teach the fundamentals of gameplay and sportsmanship, as well as fitness classes for adults of all abilities, a theater program for young performers, and the Kerman Youth Commission for teens.

The Kerman Youth Commission is a teen-led commission with a mission focused on volunteerism, service, and effective change in the community. Participants gain leadership skills, help organize teen events, earn community service hours, and have a voice in their community. The Kerman Youth Commission collaborates with the Youth Leadership Institute/Friday Night Live and CalFresh Healthy Living.

Together, we have facilitated youth meetings, Lock-ins, dances, bi-annual Teen Summits, and the end-of-the-year Teen Fiesta. In March 2020, programs like these came to a halt as students transitioned to virtual learning, and Recreation departments across the country adopted a new approach to engaging with participants.

As we returned to normalcy and students returned to school, staff began collaborating with the Youth Leadership Institute to reinvigorate teen programs. Despite efforts, it has been challenging to relaunch programs and grow participation to pre-COVID-19 numbers. Teens are busy with school, sports, extracurricular activities, and jobs. Another competing factor is social media. Through platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, and Instagram, young people can engage in real-time from the comfort of their own homes.

Currently, the Recreation staff is hosting joint meetings between the Kerman Youth Commission and YLI to plan for the upcoming Teen Summit, scheduled for Saturday, April 19, at Kerman High School. On Friday, March 21, a Teen Night was held at the Community Center. This free movie and game night event was planned in collaboration with the Youth Commission members. Planning for future programs and activities continues.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

None