



**CITY OF MONROVIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: October 8, 2019

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-5

TITLE: 2019 Family Hike and Campout Evaluation

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Services Commission with an evaluation of the Family Hike and Campouts for 2019

BACKGROUND: In March 2016, the Community Service team attended the California Park and Recreation Societies' annual Conference in Long Beach, California. During the Conference, staff attended a workshop and learned about Family Hike and Campout programs offered in various cities. Shortly after attending Conference, staff developed a Family Hike and Campout program, highlighting Canyon Park's amenities and providing our community with an opportunity to learn more about camping and explore in a safe and welcoming environment.

Fireman's Flat was identified as the best suited space for the program with room for 20, 10x10 spaces per campsite. Each 10x10 space fits four people comfortably. In the summer of 2016, staff scheduled four Family Hike and Campout programs, one per month from June to September. Each campout began on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and ended on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. Participants were introduced to the basics and fundamentals of camping and hiking. Staff assisted with pitching tents, providing night and day hikes, organized art activities, provided a BBQ dinner, partnered with the Library for Storytime and, partnered with the Fire Department for breakfast.

In 2017, in response to the popularity of the program, eight campouts were hosted. The first campout in June was canceled due to no registration. When speaking to participants, the first weekend fell right after Monrovia High School's graduation and families were not available to attend. Participant's numbers dipped again that year the weekend before school started in August; participants did not sign up because they were preparing their households for the start of a new school year.

ANALYSIS: This year, six weekends were hosted: June 13-14, July 13-14, July 27-28, August 24-25, September 7-8, and September 28-19. Offering six campouts met the need of the community while ensuring the scheduled campouts did not conflict with school starting or ending. The registration fee was \$50, and included the following activities.

Arts, Crafts and Games: Throughout the campout families participated in creating a family flag for their campsite, created nature coloring pages, made friendship bracelets and designed their own binoculars. Families could also play corn hole, ladder ball, and ring toss.

Food: Staff provided a barbeque dinner on Saturday night, serving hot dogs and hamburgers and a variety of snacks. The next morning, a sausage and pancake breakfast was provided for the guests. Participants with dietary restrictions were also accommodated.

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Hikes: On Saturday, a Park Naturalist led an interpretive night hike where participants were challenged to use their sensory skills on Canyon Park’s Waterfall trail. Sunday morning, after breakfast, a Park Naturalist led a morning hike to Canyon Park’s waterfall.

Additional Activities and Amenities: Park Naturalist led a Nature Center tour highlighting Canyon Park’s wildlife and history. On Saturday evening, after dinner, Monrovia Library Staff provide a Campfire Storytime while participants cooked S’mores. After story time, the Sidewalk Astronomers provide telescopes for the participants to use.

Participation for the Family Hike and Campout event are identified below:

FAMILY HIKE AND CAMPOUT ATTENDANCE			
	2017	2018	2019
Total Events	4	8	6
Total Participation	225	385	365
Total Families Registered	75	129	113
Residents	44	64	59
Non-Residents	31	65	55
Waitlist	77	32	45

Note: Each year, staff contacts those participants on waitlist to notify them of the upcoming dates and when registration will open.

FISCAL IMPACT: The revenue and expenditures related to the Family Hike and Campout program are as follows.

Campout Revenue	2018 Actuals	2019 Projected Revenue	2019 Actuals
	\$5,700.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,800.00
Total Revenue	\$5,700.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,800.00

Campout Expenditures	2018 Actuals	2019 Projected Budget	2019 Actuals
Food	\$2,476.70	\$1,854.00	\$ 1,767.80
Maintenance Supplies	\$892.72	\$669.54	\$ 733.56
Activities	\$735.60	\$490.00	\$168.76
Total Program Expenditures	\$4,105.02	\$3,004.57	\$2,670.12

Program Budget Totals	2018 Totals	2019 Projected	2019 Actuals
Revenue Collected	\$5,700.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,800.00
Expenditure	\$4,105.02	\$3,004.57	\$2,670.12
Net Proceeds	\$1,594.98	\$2,995.43	\$3,129.88

Each year, participant feedback continues to be exceptional. Many of the participants are young families looking for unique experiences and opportunities to connect with their family in a natural setting. Many of the participants have continued to visit Canyon Park on a regular basis following their campout experience and enjoy hiking the trails and visiting the Nature Center.

The following testimonials were provided by participants.

This is our first time camping and never realized how easy it can be. This encourages us to one-day camp on our own!

We appreciate all the work that goes into this event, Monrovia is truly special...we appreciate the City offering events like this!

My kid was shy when we first arrived, but by the end of the campout she made a lot of new friends!

Having time together away from the screen has been good for our family!

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends the Community Services Commission move to receive and file, CC-5 2019 Family Hike and Campout Evaluation.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED: If Community Services Commission concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to: Receive and file CC-5 2019 Family Hike and Campout Evaluation.

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