



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

John Wicker, Director

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June 8, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ANNOUNCES 2017 FREE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM**

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture, the California Department of Education and the Department of Public Health, will provide approximately 225,000 free snacks and lunches this summer to children at 50 county parks in 20 school districts, county libraries, churches and the YWCA.

The 2017 free Summer Food Service Program will kick-off on Monday, June 12, 2017, and concludes Friday, August 4, 2017. Lunch and snacks will be served between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Exact times vary depending on location.

Created to help reduce the growing percentage of young people in the United States challenged by obesity or lack of consistent access to wholesome meals, the program aims to provide a healthy alternative for children when school is out for the summer.

Monday through Friday during each week of the program, children 18 years of age and under are invited to receive a nutritious lunch and snack that include vegetables, fruits, seeds and healthy dairy products like milk, string cheese and yogurt.

In order for participating parks to qualify for the program, they must service areas within the geographical boundaries of elementary, middle or high school attendance areas with at least 50 percent of their students being eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

"Healthy eating is essential to healthy recreation, so we are very proud to take the lead on this program," said Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation Director John Wicker. "It is always wonderful to welcome young people to our parks, and we hope they will come for a healthy lunch and snack and stay for all of the great programs, facilities and other amenities that our parks offer in their communities."