



Press Release

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Annual Youth Summer Soccer Camp

The Aztecas Youth Soccer Academy and Santa Cruz County Probation Department are hosting their annual youth summer soccer camps during the weeks of July 12 – July 16, at Pajaro Park, and July 19 – July 23, at Pinto Lake County Park.

The camp is a great opportunity for youth between the ages of 6-14 to learn soccer skills and make new friends. Camp hours are 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with lunch served at the completion of each day. All campers receive a t-shirt, soccer ball, water bottle and backpack for participation. There is a \$20 registration fee based on ability to pay for all campers between 6-14 years old.

Soccer camp participants practice and play soccer under the guidance of Aztecas camp trainers who are top-level, competitive players on Aztecas Youth Soccer Academy's indoor and outdoor soccer teams. Campers are also taught about healthy lifestyles, sportsmanship, and teamwork during fun, intensive practices and games. The camp is led by Camp Director and Santa Cruz County Probation Officer Gina Castañeda and other expert coaches, trainers, and adult mentors.

The Freedom Lions Club sponsors Aztecas summer camps each year. Lions Club volunteers help with sign-ups, registrations, setting up the camp, snack and lunch, donating over 90 hours of volunteer time each week. At the end of each weekly camp, they hold a barbecue for all the camp youth and their families.

For more information regarding the Summer Soccer Camps or the Aztecas Youth Soccer Academy, please visit www.aztecasyouthsocceracademy.org or call 831-763-8121.

Who are the Aztecas?

Santa Cruz County Probation's Aztecas Youth Soccer Academy is a mentorship program that reclaims the lives of youth who struggle with gangs, violence, poverty, and drugs in Santa Cruz County. The program is rooted in soccer and community to support youth and provide opportunities for success. Aztecas coordinates youth activities and provides academic support and tutoring assistance. The Aztecas program is utilized as a prevention, intervention and/or diversion program and has served the Juvenile Courts, Juvenile Probation, Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Program participation is free for teen youth all year round. Aztecas represents services and partnerships that provide prevention and intervention services to deter or reduce recidivism rates and provide engagement services to increase community and educational supports and success for youth.