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## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth for Justice Summer Academy Concludes

SAN RAFAEL, CA (August 24, 2018) – The 5<sup>th</sup> annual [Youth for Justice Summer Academy](#) has ended. The two-week program was proudly sponsored by:

- [San Rafael Alcohol and Drug Coalition](#)
- [Juvenile Probation Department of Marin County](#)
- [Youth for Justice](#)
- [Alcohol Justice](#)

*“The Marin County Probation Department was happy to support Alcohol Justice’s summer program for youth,”* stated Kevin Lynch, Director, Juvenile Services Division, *“Our Department does not want to be limited to simply telling young people all of the things they cannot do; we think it is equally, if not more, important to provide them with opportunities that are positive, healthy and educational and serve as alternatives to delinquency. The annual Youth for Justice summer program is one way for us to ensure youth are involved in activities that deepen their bonds with the community and show them a path towards a successful adulthood.”*

According to Maite Duran, Community Organizer for Alcohol Justice, Drug Free Communities Project Coordinator, and Founder of Youth for Justice, *“The limited space in this year’s program filled up really quickly with Canal Neighborhood kids. We had eighteen participants, mostly young girls, which was just delightful.”*

Academy activities this year included:

- Two sessions with [TeamWorks Art](#), one to create a group project, the other an individual project to take home. They learned how art is invaluable and can be an introspective activity where youth can find their passion.
- A day-long visit to [Muir Woods](#) in collaboration with the [National Park Service](#) where Rangers guided the group as they enjoyed learning about ancient ecosystems, and environmental threats.
- Biking at [China Camp State Park](#) in collaboration with [Trips for Kids](#).
- A day at the pool at [McNears Beach](#), in collaboration with the [Marin County Parks Department](#).
- At Alcohol Justice the group learned the principles of organizing to help maintain a healthy environment in their community.
- As in years past the group enjoyed time in the community garden, caring for plants and connecting to the power of healing themselves and their community. They revamped the herbal garden created two years ago, building on the work of former cohorts, and developed new ideas to improve the project.
- In a fascinating 3-part series with Maya Instructor: [Ernesto Olmos Hernández](#) the group learned scientific ancestral knowledge of their indigenous cultures, and their philosophy for body, mind and spiritual wellbeing.

*“We are happy to be able to offer the Youth for Justice summer program to enable participants to enjoy their summer, make new friends, visit beautiful places and help the community,”* added Maite. *“It’s both gratifying and humbling to be so well supported by all of our partners, participants, and their parents, in this worthwhile annual activity.”*







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