



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 5, 2023

City of San Diego Lifeguards Host Bridge to the Beach Event

82 FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS WILL SPEND A FUN DAY LEARNING SAFETY AND SURFING WITH LIFEGUARDS

SAN DIEGO – On Wednesday, June 7, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) Lifeguard Division will host the first Bridge to the Beach event since 2019. This program, sponsored by the [Prevent Drowning Foundation of San Diego](#) seeks to give inner-city youth what may be their first experience at the beach.

“Bridge to the Beach is a fun and educational opportunity for kids who may not have visited a beach,” said Lifeguard Chief James Gartland. “Our lifeguards truly enjoy hosting kids and provide a great example of safe conduct at the beach along with fun aquatic activities.”

This is the 14th year that SDFD lifeguards have hosted Bridge to the Beach. The program was suspended in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and re-starts this week with 82 fifth grade students from Hage Elementary. Students will start their day with a safety briefing and then split into groups to learn surfing and stand-up paddleboarding. The activities will take place at the bay and ocean front in the Santa Clara Point area.

Hage Elementary in Mira Mesa has included swimming in the school’s physical education program for 18 years, with swim lessons held at the Ned Baumer Aquatic Center. The students who participate in Bridge to the Beach know how to swim and have basic beach safety knowledge before participating in this program. They also understand the importance of knowing how to swim before entering the ocean or bay.

Funding for Bridge to the Beach comes from the Prevent Drowning Foundation of San Diego, Hage Elementary’s Parent Teacher Association and San Diego City Council funds.

WHAT: Media availability

WHO: Chief James Gartland, San Diego Fire-Rescue, Lifeguard Division
Heather Rabe, Program Manager, San Diego Fire-Rescue, Lifeguard Division
Keith Kaneko, Physical Education Instructor, Hage Elementary

WHEN: Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 10 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Santa Clara Point
1008 Santa Clara Place
San Diego, CA 92109

VISUALS: Fifth graders from Hage Elementary participating in: stand-up paddleboarding, surfing and swimming in the ocean and bay.

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