



Office of Child
and Youth Success

OCTOBER 2025

THE YOUTH BULLETIN

San Diego, A City Where Children and Youth Thrive

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Office of Child and Youth Success

The Office of Child & Youth Success (OCYS) serves as a navigation and connection point for residents seeking supportive services and programming for youth ages 24 and below.

VISION

All of San Diego's children and youth thrive, are empowered, and feel successful. They are supported by a coordinated network of City and community partners with a shared framework to provide high-impact and equitable programs, services, resources, and opportunities.

LEARN MORE



MISSION

The Office of Child and Youth Success is dedicated to prioritizing San Diego's youngest community by ensuring access to resources, services, and high-quality programs to support positive social, health, and educational outcomes for all children and youth.

CREATORS

**Each of our monthly newsletters are created by the OCYS Interns:
Amy Gianetto, Kwincy Lambert, and Tessa Garrison.**

Stay Connected

The Office of Child and Youth Success newsletters are carefully crafted by the talented Employ & Empower Youth interns! Subscribe and follow us on Instagram to stay current on youth resources and more!

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HERE!](#)**



[NEWSLETTER](#) | [CITY OF SAN DIEGO OFFICIAL WEBSITE](#)

GOODBYE AMY!

[LinkedIn](#)



Shoutout to Tara Ryan, Andrea O'Hara, Brilly Gonzalez, Denise Amavizca, Tessa Garrison, Kwincy Lambert, Tianna Fair, Alisha Supanekar, Rei Kubota, and everyone else for making this experience amazing. – Amy

In her words:

Reflection

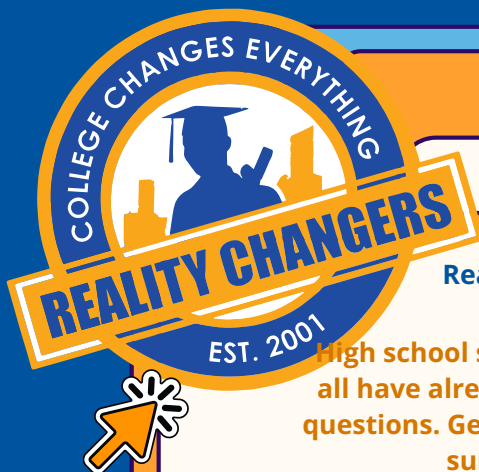
This internship has meant a lot to me. It exposed me to working in local government and a professional office environment. I learned so much from my talented colleagues, both about technical processes like RFPs, procurement, grants, and more – but also about what being a good worker means: practicing professional etiquette, the rules of communicating, and what critical thinking and problem-solving collaboratively really looks like. I'm so grateful to have had this opportunity that will be a stepping stone into my future career. I'm even more grateful to have worked alongside some amazing people who made this experience the best I could have asked for.

Favorite Project

My favorite project was something I just finished: analyzing the results of our Municipal Childcare Benefit Pilot Program satisfaction survey. I love analyzing surveys because you get to learn what people think about something, kind of like an interview but in a more structured format. I also love crunching the numbers and learning what they reveal about trends, and then creating graphs to display the results. It's a mix of hearing people's perspectives and displaying them in a satisfying way.

Future Plans

I'm headed back to Denver, Colorado where I'm from to be with my family, spend time outside, and build a meaningful life both in and outside my work. For my career, I love working with data – summarizing it, analyzing it, visualizing it. I hope to do impact assessments and other types of data analysis to help people in valuable ways, especially vulnerable populations. I don't know the specifics of what that will look like, but I'll follow that vision wherever it takes me. Outside of work I will spend as much time as I can with my family and dog, do activities out in nature, volunteer with horses, explore the city, and try lots of new things.



Reality Changers prepares youth to become first-generation college graduates and agents of change in their communities.

High school seniors, now that school and academics are in full swing, we hope you all have already begun working on your college essays and PIQ's - personal insight questions. Getting an early start on your college essay writing is essential in making sure you submit your college applications in a timely manner.

UC Application (University of California)

- **Where it's used:** All 9 UC undergraduate campuses (UC SC, UCLA, UCSD, e.g.)
- **Deadline:** Submit October 1–November 30 (no extensions/exceptions).
- **Essays:** Personal Insight Questions (PIQs) — 8 prompts, answer four (350 words each.)
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Not required (except some special programs).
- **Activities & Awards:** List up to 20 activities, so choose ones with the most impact.



UC Tips & Tricks

- Start PIQs early; reflect on experiences, don't just list achievements.
- Show depth over breadth -quality of activities matters more than how many.
- Be accurate with grades; UC will verify with your transcript later.
- Use the [UC GPA calculator](#) to understand your GPA the way UC counts it (10th–11th grade “a–g” courses)

CSU Application (California State University)

- **Where it's used:** All 23 CSU campuses (e.g., SDSU, Cal State Fullerton, SFSU).
- **Deadline:** Opens October 1, deadline November 30 (some campuses extend).
- **Essays:** None.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** None.
- **Activities & Awards:** Not required.
- **Admissions Factors:** Primarily GPA (10th–11th grade “a–g” courses). Some campuses are test optional, meaning that SAT/ACT scores are not used.



CSU Tips & Tricks

- Double-check your campus deadlines—some fill up early (e.g., impacted campuses like SDSU or Long Beach).
- No essays = less time-consuming, but accuracy in coursework entry is critical.
- Use [CSU Application Progress](#) or [Cal State Apply tutorials](#) for help with the application portal. [CSU GPA Calculator](#) | [CSU Impacted majors matrix 25-26](#)
- Apply broadly; impacted campuses are highly competitive.

Common Application (Common App)

- **Where it's used:** Over 1,000 colleges nationwide (private and out-of-state schools like Stanford, USC, NYU, Harvard).
- **Deadline:** Varies by school (often November 1 for Early Action/Early Decision, January 1 for Regular Decision).
- **Essays:** Requires 1 main personal essay (650 words max). Some colleges also have supplemental essays.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Most Common App schools require at least 1–2 teacher recommendations + 1 counselor recommendation.
- **Activities & Awards:** Space for 10 activities — you can describe role, impact, and achievements.

Common App Tips & Tricks

- Choose an essay topic that shows your growth, resilience, or unique perspective.
- Manage your recommenders early — ask teachers by September/October.
- Track deadlines carefully; each school can have different ones.
- Use the “Activities” section wisely — highlight leadership, impact, and commitment.
- Check for hidden supplemental essays; some schools add them only after you select your major.

COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAMS 2025-2026



College Bound Webinars

Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm PST

8/27/25 - FSA ID/Financial
Aid for Seniors

9/10/25 - UC PIQs and
College Essay

10/15/25 - College
Applications
(CSU/UC Admissions)

11/5/25 - Financial Aid and
FSA ID FAQs

12/10/25 - All About
Scholarships

1/21/26 - Community College
Admissions

2/4/26 - Understanding
Financial Aid Packages

3/11/26 - So You Got
Accepted...Now What?

4/15/26 - How to Accept
Your Financial Aid

5/13/26 - Financial Aid for
11th Graders

Jumpstart Senior Year

**Conferences open to all high
school seniors and families**

9/06/25

8am-12pm @ Oceanside High

9/20/25

8am-12pm @ SD City College

Future Fest College and Career Fair

2/28/26

9am-12pm @ Grossmont College

1:1 College and Financial Aid Advising Cal-SOAP College Readiness Coaches (CRCs) provide college/financial aid advising and application assistance

Available at select schools in
the following school districts:
GUHSD, OUSD, SDUSD,
and SUHSD.

Cash for College Workshops

**In-person workshops for
FAFSA/CADAA assistance
offered @ multiple locations**

10/18/25 - 9:00am - 12:00pm

11/15/25 - 9:00am - 12:00pm

1/24/26 - 9:00am - 12:00pm

2/21/26 - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Virtual Cash for College Workshops

**Virtual workshops for
FAFSA/CADAA assistance
offered via Zoom platform**

10/29/25 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm

11/19/25 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm

1/28/26 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm

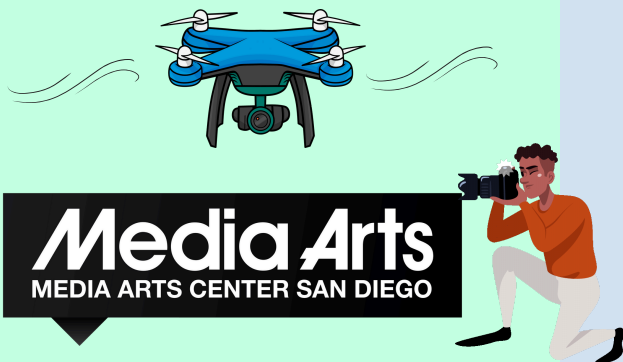
2/25/26 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm

REGISTER FOR EVENTS @

<https://www.calsoapsandiego.org/workshops>

FOLLOW US!

LIKE MINDS THRIVE TOGETHER!



If you're a storyteller, creative, or future filmmaker, this is your place! **Media Arts Center** offers free, hands-on training in video production, editing, sound, and digital storytelling, all while amplifying underrepresented voices and pushing for real social change. From youth camps to paid internships, this is where creativity meets opportunity and your story gets heard.



Want to get into tech but don't know where to start? **San Diego Futures Foundation** hooks you up with free digital skills workshops, low-cost laptops, and even paid IT training, no experience needed. Whether you're trying to land your first job, fix your own computer, or just get ahead in a digital world, this is where you plug in and level up.



THE CENTER
SAN DIEGO
LGBT
COMM
UNITY

Whether you're looking for community, housing support, health services, or just a space where you truly belong, the Center has your back. They offer free, affirming programs for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults, including wellness resources, emergency housing, job support, and leadership opportunities. This is a place where your voice matters, your identity is respected, and you don't have to go it alone.

blac.

Empowering Black and minority youth to lead, earn, and build up their communities. Through leadership development, career placement, and cultural empowerment, BLAC helps rising professionals break barriers and build generational wealth.

OLD TOWN

SD Office of Child and Youth Success

Old Town is known as the Birthplace of California and the City of San Diego. Long ago, the Kumeyaay people lived here in the village of Kosaii, and in 1769 it became home to California's first mission and Presidio. Over time, Old Town grew into a lively community where Mexican Californios, African-American entrepreneurs, Jewish settlers, and Chinese fishing families all left their mark.



Located next to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, the Old Town Transit Center connects buses, trolleys, the Coaster, and Amtrak. Thanks to the [Youth Opportunity Pass](#), riders 18 and under can travel free on MTS and NCTD with a PRONTO card or app.



The Fiesta de Reyes stage provides free musical entertainment every weekend in Old Town!



Today, Old Town is a fun place to explore history with its colorful shops, museums, and cultural celebrations keeping San Diego's story alive for future generations. A couple of local attractions include the [Whaley House](#) (the spookiest home in San Diego), and the [African Diaspora Museum and Research Center](#).



Old Town San Diego State Historic Park



This park is on the ancestral land of the First People, the Kumeyaay. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park offers visitors a glimpse at the converging cultures that transformed San Diego from a Kumeyaay village to a Mexican pueblo to an American Settlement.

Free public walking tours are provided daily at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Museums are open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Old Town Trolley Tours offers a fun experience of San Diego's history. Kids ride free the month of October and free admission is provided for SD residents the first two weeks of January.



Interested in Community Planning?

The Old Town Community Planning Group reserves at least one seat for a youth (typically ages 16-24) who lives in the community. Attend the next regular meeting: (Insert Date) at the Whaley House. These are open to everyone! Attending is the first step to learning the process and making your voice heard.



[Old Town San Diego Scavenger Hunt!](#)



SAN DIEGO

8

PUBLIC LIBRARY



DiscoverU

With **DiscoverU** youth and emerging adults are encouraged to explore their interests and achieve their highest potential. Follow upcoming events to participate in workshops that cover STEAM concepts, college readiness, career preparation, and life skills.



Youth Fine Forgiveness Program

Thanks to the generous support from the Library Foundation SD, library users with fines on their juvenile accounts have the opportunity to regain borrowing privileges. Find out more on the site.



Do Your HW @ the Library

DYH@L offers **free** hw assistance for K-8 students. Including **free** access to learning materials, computers, and other digital resources. Monday - Thursday from 3 - 6 p.m. Visit mysdpl.org/DYHL for more information.



Teen Council

Teen Council meets 1-2x a month and gives teens the opportunity to plan programs and events for the library while gaining leadership skills and learning to work as a team. The first planned event will be a Halloween party on October 30th with games, food, and prizes. Join Teen Council @ the Pauline Foster Teen Space on the 2nd floor of Central Library. Open to ages 13-18 (community service hours offered). Follow the events calendar for upcoming dates.



Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week Coalition is made up of a diverse group of organizations dedicated to the freedom to read. Established in 1982, the Coalition challenges censorship and encourages public institutions such as libraries and schools to celebrate the value of free and open access to information. The SDPL participates annually and will include special programming through Oct 5th - 11th. Check our events calendar to find out how your local branch is celebrating!



One Book One San Diego

In partnership with KPBS, public libraries, service organizations, and educational institutions, the One Book One San Diego literary program brings together a shared reading experience. Each year, one book for adults, teens, kids, and one for Spanish language readers are nominated

by the community, reviewed by the advisory committee. This year's titles include *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride, *Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam* by Thien Pham, and *The Interpreter* by Olivia Abtahi & Monica Arnaldo (Illustrator).



FALL EVENTS

JOIN US FOR OUTDOOR FAMILY FUN,
PARK BEAUTIFICATIONS, MOVIES IN THE
PARK AND FALL FESTIVITIES. YOU WON'T
WANT TO MISS!



SCAN OR CLICK
THE QR CODE TO
CHECK OUT OUR
EVENT CALENDAR
FOR MORE EVENT
DETAILS!

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/event-calendar>

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Every year on November 1st and 2nd, communities in San Diego and around the world celebrate Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. This holiday honors loved ones who have passed away with beautiful traditions such as altars (ofrendas), decorated with photos, candles, flowers, and favorite foods.

Día de los Muertos 2025 Events in San Diego

Sherman Heights Community Center - a weeks-long community festivity that preserves the Day of the Dead tradition, festivities run from mid Oct- Nov. 2nd and are open to the public.

Barrio Logan Cultural District - Mictlán We Rise ; A Return To Humanity, themed, Día de los Muertos celebration on October 26th.


Old Town San Diego State Historic Park - an amazing two-day festival on Saturday, November 1 and Sunday, November 2, 2025.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Filipino American History Month in October commemorates the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States in October 18, 1587. Filipinos arrived aboard on the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza and arrived on Chumash and Obispo lands (Morro Bay, California). The Filipino American National Historical Society introduced October as Filipino American History Month back in 1992. Today, many people in our community celebrate this month by organizing events to raise awareness about the role of Filipino Americans in U.S. history.



San Diego Filipino Cinema is hosting their annual film festival Oct 9th - 12th.

SDCF was founded in 2017, dedicated to highlighting and nurturing Filipino voices and stories. CinEskwela and Cine Libre are two of their programs that aim to initiate storytelling, cinema exposure, appreciation, and education to high school and college-age students to watch films and engage in dialogue with filmmakers. These programs are free for participating students and faculty members to attend.



Visit the House of Philippines to learn more about the culture, located in Balboa Park, open Saturday & Sunday from 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.



Filipino American Law Enforcement Officers Association of SD focuses on promoting cultural awareness, fostering positive relationships, and investing in youth empowerment initiatives to cultivate future leaders. Find out more about their 2025 JD De Guzman Memorial Scholarship here. Deadline to apply Oct 3rd.



Filipinos In San Diego is a book published in 2010 that captures the stories of Filipinos and the Filipino American experience. It was written by Judy Patacsil, Rudy Guevarra, Jr., Felix Tuyay and the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) San Diego Chapter. This book was the source and inspiration of the creation of the Filipinos of South Bay Exhibit (FoSBE).



Libraries across the City are hosting story times and crafts that explore Filipino American History Month!



San Diego is home to various performing arts organizations dedicated to sharing and enriching audiences with Filipino culture expressive arts through dance. PASACAT (the first formally organized Philippine Dance Company in San Diego) and SAMAHAN Filipino-American Performing Arts & Education Center (whom just celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2024), share the purpose to provide Filipino American students the opportunity to gain knowledge and appreciation of their cultural heritage. Check out their sites for upcoming events such as the SAMAFEST 26'.



SAN DIEGO
COLLEGE OF
CONTINUING EDUCATION



SD YOUTH COMMISSION

WHAT IS THE YOUTH COMMISSION?



The Youth Commission serves as an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Anyone between the ages of 14 - 25 years old that lives or goes to school in the City of San Diego.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN?

Youth representation is important and without youth input, how will the people making decisions on behalf of youth know they are making the right decisions.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A YOUTH COMMISSIONER?

- Provide advice to City elected officials
- Amplify youth voices! 
- Engage in empowering youth advocacy.
- Build skills and knowledge on public policy, leadership, and gain valuable learning opportunities.
- Participate in community engagement to make a positive impact on your City.



Apply Today!

For more info. email
OCYS@sandiego.gov



UPCOMING EVENTS



DATE : Saturday, Oct. 4

Navy Seal Museum Grand Opening. Kids 12 & under enter for Free.

Location: 1001 Kettner Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101

Time: 10 :00 AM - 5:00 PM

DATE : Friday, Oct. 3

Movies in the Park: Matilda

Location: North Park Mini Park
3812 29th St, San Diego, CA

Time: Sunset at approximately 6:40 PM

DATE : Sat. Oct. 11

Día de Muertos at Guajome Adobe

Location: Rancho Guajome Adobe
2210 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista, CA 92083

Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

DATE : Sat. Oct. 25

Trunk or Treat at Potrero County Park

Location: Potrero County Park
24800 Potrero Park Drive, Potrero, CA
91963

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

DATE : Friday, Oct. 10

Halloween Harvest Festival

Location: South Clairemont
Recreation Center
3605 Clairemont Drive, San
Diego, CA 92117

Festival Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Movie Showing ("Coco"): 6:30 PM

DATE : Saturday, Oct. 19

Family Fun Fest

Location: Salvation Army
Kroc Center Corner Zone
6845 University Ave, San
Diego, CA 92115

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

DATE : Friday, Oct. 24

Spring Valley Spooktacular

Location: Spring Valley Community
Center
8735 Jamacha Blvd, Spring Valley, CA
91977

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM



THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY (HHSA) INVITES
YOU(TH) TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S...

SCOOP FROM YOU(TH) CHALLENGE:

PIECE OF MIND

Art is a powerful way you can explore your emotions, increase self-esteem, promote emotional resilience, and contribute to your overall wellbeing.

For this reason, the 2025 *Scoop From You(th) Challenge*: "Piece of Mind," invites **San Diego youth and young adults (ages 12-25)** to use art to...

- Share your personal experiences with mental health
- Help reduce stigma around mental health
- Build a supportive network
- Empower yourself and others to seek out support & resources

EXPRESS YOURSELF THROUGH...

Graphic Design, Painting, Illustration, Poetry, Short Story, Dance, Music, Performance, Film, Photography, and/or Animation

EXTENDED Deadline to Submit: November 21, 2025
through LiveWellSD.org/ScoopFromYouth

CHALLENGE INFORMATION:

Visit LiveWellSD.org/ScoopFromYouth to learn more and get started!

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact the *Scoop From You(th)* Team at Engage.BHS@sdcounty.ca.gov

#GetTheScoop #YouthChallengeSD #SFYCPieceOfMind



Sponsored By:





FastTrack Futures

YMCA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



**Free Career Development
Program For Young Adults**

FastTrack Futures reduces employment barriers for young adults by providing free job training, career coaching, and paid internships - along with a \$500 monthly stipend during training*. This no-cost program is open to San Diego County residents ages 18-28.

What We Offer:

- Hands-on training in a career field of your choice
- Interactive workshops to build professional skills
- Paid internship opportunities
- 1:1 guidance and mentorship

* Stipend available for up to 3 months.



Questions? Contact Lyle Batalona at
lbatalona@ymcasd.org

Apply Now! *Eligibility Varies.
Visit ymcasd.org/fasttrackfutures
or scan the QR code to learn more!

San Diego Internship & Apprenticeship Fair

Student Registration

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 | 10am - 1pm | A Patio

Engage with Future Employers

Meet employers offering internships, apprenticeships, and entry-level roles in business, IT, trades, and more.

Open to students from City, Mesa, Miramar, Continuing Education, and other colleges.

Brought to you by:



Treasure
Hacks

SAN DIEGO
CITY COLLEGE
Career Center

Scan the QR Code or visit
tinyurl.com/SDInternshipfair2025
to RSVP



**KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS**

ACLU San Diego and
FOUNDATION Imperial Counties



[ACLU-SDIC.ORG](https://aclu-sdic.org)



**CONOZCA
SUS
DERECHOS**

IF YOU INTERACT WITH ICE AGENTS AT WORK

1. Ask if you are free to leave. If so, you may calmly walk out.
2. You have the right to refuse consent to a search.
3. You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to discuss your immigration status with anyone, such as about where you were born, whether you are a citizen, or how you entered the country.
4. If you have valid immigration documents, you should show them. Never provide fake documents.
5. If you are arrested, say that you wish to remain silent until speaking with a lawyer.
6. You have the right to record your interaction with immigration agents as long as you do not interfere.

IF ICE AGENTS SHOW UP AT YOUR DOOR

1. You do not have to open the door. If you do, stay calm—you have rights.
2. Ask what they are there for (and ask for an interpreter if you need one).
3. If they ask to enter, ask if they have a warrant signed by a judge and if so, ask to see it (through a window or slipped under the door).
4. If they do not have a warrant signed by a judge, you may refuse to let them in. Ask them to leave any information at your door.
5. If they force their way in, do not resist. Tell everyone in the residence to remain silent.
6. If you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent. Do not sign anything until you speak with a lawyer.

SI AGENTES DEL ICE LLEGAN A SU LUGAR DE TRABAJO

1. Pregunte si se pueden marchar. Deseará, váyase tranquilamente.
2. Tiene derecho a no permitir ser registrado. Diga en voz alta que no permite a que registren sus pertenencias.
3. Tiene derecho a permanecer callado. No tiene que compartir su estatus migratorio con nadie, incluyendo dónde nació, si es ciudadano, ni cómo entró el país.
4. Si tiene documentos de inmigración válidos, debería mostrarlos. Nunca presente documentos falsos.
5. Si es arrestado, puede decir que quiere permanecer en silencio hasta que hable con un abogado.
6. Tiene el derecho a grabar su interacción con los agentes de inmigración siempre y cuando no interfiera.

SI AGENTES DEL ICE LLEGAN A SU PUERTA

1. No abra la puerta, pero mantenga la calma. Tiene derechos.
2. Tiene derecho a no permitir ser registrado. Diga en voz alta que no permite a que registren sus pertenencias.
3. Si piden entrar a su casa, pregúnteles si tienen una orden firmada por un juez y si la tienen, dígales que se la muestren (por la ventana o que la pasen por debajo de la puerta).
4. Si ellos no tienen una orden firmada por un juez, puede negarse dejarlos entrar. Pídales que dejen cualquier información en su puerta.
5. Si entran a la fuerza, no se resista. Dígale a todos que estén en la casa que permanezcan en silencio.
6. Si es arrestado, permanezca en silencio y no firme nada hasta que hable con un abogado.

CREATING A PATH TO SUCCESS



**ELEVATE YOUR
CAREER WITH CAPS!**

- ✓ Essential Skills Training
- ✓ Networking Opportunities
- ✓ Internships & Mentorships
- ✓ Leadership



APPLY NOW



**DEADLINE
DECEMBER 31ST, 2025**



The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Foundation invites undergraduate and graduate students to apply for the 2026 CAPS Program.

CAPS is a leadership and professional development program designed to connect students with the CHCC network, empower the next generation of leaders, and strengthen California communities.

 [creatingapathertosuccess](https://www.instagram.com/creatingapathertosuccess)

 CAPS@cahcc.com

