



Office of Child  
and Youth Success



January 2026

# 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 OCYS interns and staff  
Kwincy Lambert and Brilly Gonzalez**

# 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!

**SUBSCRIBE**  
**HERE!** 

**FOLLOW US**  
**HERE!** 

**NEWSLETTER | CITY OF SAN DIEGO OFFICIAL WEBSITE**



Office of Child  
and Youth Success

# FAREWELL KWINCY!



## Reflection

I am beyond grateful for my experience with the Office of Child and Youth Success. This internship has had a major impact on both the trajectory of my college journey and my overall life. Serving as a Management Intern for OCYS has been the perfect blend of my skill set and passions. I've had the opportunity to apply everything I've been learning in my marketing courses, while also being rooted in my purpose of serving youth and making real impact in my community.

Throughout this experience, I've deepened my understanding of how local governments function from top to bottom. My knowledge of the public sector has grown tenfold, and I now have a greater appreciation for the behind-the-scenes work that drives city programs, partnerships, and policies. Being part of the City of San Diego's youth efforts has also inspired me to become a more engaged and active citizen, aware of the many ways we can use our voices and talents to create change.

This chapter will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you to the OCYS team and everyone who poured into me along the way.

## Favorite Project

One of my favorite projects during this internship was managing the OCYS social media page and capturing content to share. I truly enjoyed helping shape the brand identity of OCYS and experimenting with different ways to connect with youth online. Understanding what types of posts and strategies actually resonated with young people was key to our mission because if youth can't find or access the resources available to them, we're missing the mark.

I also loved getting out into the community; attending local events, meeting San Diego residents, and building connections with small businesses. It reminded me that meaningful impact happens both online and on the ground.

## Future Plans

This fall, I proudly graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Marketing, specializing in professional sales and sales management. I'm excited to begin my next chapter, having secured a full-time position as a Sales and Ownership Zone Manager.

The role will take me to Minneapolis, Minnesota, which will be a major change after spending my entire life in California. Still, I'm ready for the new environment and all the growth that change brings. No matter where I live, I plan to stay civically engaged. I have a passion for learning what different cities have to offer and finding meaningful ways to contribute to the communities I'm part of.

# INTERNSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

## UC San Diego

**UC San Diego LGBT Resource Center** is offering an internship to undergrad students interested in youth leadership and community development. **The application deadline to apply is on 01/20/26 11:59 p.m**



**SD Mesa College SEEDS Scholars Program** offers paid internship opportunities to students as part of their Mesa Impactship Program. Develop your skills in the fields of food, agriculture, and natural resources.



Urban Corps provides paid job training, support services and a second chance to earn a high school diploma while offering a variety of professional services to the San Diego community. Corps members gain job skills through urban forestry, construction, recycling and other community projects.

## San Diego **Workforce** Partnership

**SD Work Force Partnership** creates partnerships and offers services for job seekers, businesses, and students to succeed. Explore their site to learn more.



YOU WILL  
**BE FOUND**  
SCHOLARSHIP

**San Diego Junior Theatre** is dedicated to providing equal opportunity and access to its theater program for students between the ages of 5-17. Apply today for their yearlong scholarship. **Deadline to apply is 03/16/2026**



# START THE NEW YEAR STRONG: CREATING SMART GOALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS

**JANUARY 2025**

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

A new year is the perfect time to reset, refocus, and plan for your future. High school is a time full of growth, choices, and opportunities and setting goals can help you stay on track academically, personally, and as you start thinking about college and careers. One of the best ways to do this is by using SMART goals. Let's start the new year off right with setting intentional goals for a fresh new start.

## WHAT ARE SMART GOALS?

SMART goals help turn big ideas into clear, achievable plans.

### SMART Goals

- Specific – Clearly say what you want to accomplish
- Measurable – Know how you'll track your progress
- Achievable – Set goals that are realistic for you
- Relevant – Make sure the goal matters to your future
- Time-Bound – Give yourself a deadline

### Academic Goals: Setting Yourself Up for Success

- Academic goals help you stay focused and prepared. These might include:
  - Improving grades
  - Building better study habits
  - Passing important exams
  - Staying organized
  - Starting early using a planner, setting weekly study times
  - Asking teachers for help can make a big difference.

### Career and College Goals: Thinking Ahead

- High school is the time to explore your interests and future options. Career and college SMART goals might include researching careers, attending college workshops, preparing for entrance exams, or joining clubs that match your interests.
- Connect with your counselor to help establish SMART goals.

### Personal Goals: Growing Beyond the Classroom

- Personal goals help you build confidence, balance, and healthy habits. These goals might focus on time management, mental wellness, staying active, or building positive relationships.
- For Example: Limiting screen time during Homework time.

### Turning Goals into Action

- Write your goals down and check in with yourself often. Share them with a teacher, counselor, coach, or trusted adult who can help support you. Remember, it's okay to adjust your goals as you grow progress matters more than perfection.

### Your Future Starts Now

- Starting the year with clear goals helps you take control of your future.
- SMART goals give you a plan, keep you motivated, and help you see how small steps lead to big achievements.
- This year, challenge yourself to set goals that reflect who you are and who you want to become.

## FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES:

- Ford Salute to Education Scholarship | Deadline: February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Dell Scholars Program | February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- PFLAG of SD County Scholarship | March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- SD Foundation: Common Application Scholarship | March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

## College Spotlight



College of Charleston South  
Carolina

- Political Science (BA)
- Sociology (BS)



# CAREER SPOTLIGHT

CALLING ALL INSPIRING SOCIAL SCIENTISTS



- According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook 2025
- Quick Facts: Political Scientists and Sociologist

2024 Median Pay (Per Year) (Per Hour)	Political Scientists \$139,380 per yr.   \$67.01 per hr. Sociologists \$101,690 per yr.   \$48.89 per hr.
Typical Entry-Level Political Scientists Sociologists	Master's Degree
Work Experience in Occupation	None   None   None
On-the-job Training	None   None   None
Number of Jobs, 2024	6,500   3,400
Job Outlook, 2024-34	-3% (Decline) 4% (As fast as average)
Employment Change, 2024-34	-200   100



**SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE & JOURNALING (BA)**



**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY**

**SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**SOCIOLOGY (BA)**

# DR. MLK JR. DAY PARADE

## JANUARY 18TH



### 44th Annual Parade

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the parade celebrates his vision and legacy as a prominent figure during our civil rights movement. Learn more about the civil rights movement and its key figures [here](#).



Hosted by the [San Diego Alpha Foundation](#), a nonprofit dedicated to providing mentorship and scholarship opportunities to youth in San Diego.



### What time does the parade start?

The parade starts at 8:30 am and wraps up by 4:00 pm.

### How to get to the Parade

The parade will be packed, try to get there early enough to secure a spot with the best view. Consider riding with MTS, youth under 18 years old ride for free with the Pronto App. Bus routes and trolley lines Blue and Green will stop nearby ( the closest stop will be at the County Center/Little Italy station stop).

Learn more about the Youth  
Opportunity Pass Program



### Can't make it to the parade?

Join the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Dr. MLK Jr. Day Community Celebration and Sportsfest hosted by our City Park and Rec. department.

Date: 1/24/26

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: MLK Jr. Rec. Center

6401 Skyline Dr San Diego, CA 92114



**KEARNY MESA**

 Office of Child  
and Youth Success

Also known as the Convoy Pan Asian Cultural and Business Innovation District. Kearny Mesa is made up of hundreds of diverse businesses owned and representative of different Asian cultures.

The newly installed structure represents the community embedded within Kearny Mesa. Click on the image to learn more about the significance of each letter.



Kearny Mesa is a neighborhood within District 6, represented by **Council President Pro Tem Kent Lee (he/him)**. Follow his newsletter for updates regarding your communities in D6 [here](#).



**Angela Ortner (she/her)**

An intern for Council President Pro Tem Kent Lee, and serves as a Youth Commissioner representative for District 6. Angela will be meeting with fellow commissioners in late January. Learn more about how you can make a grand impact on your community like Angela!

The City of  
**SAN DIEGO**



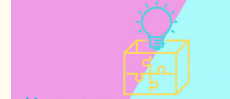
Kearny Mesa offers a variety of delicious restaurants and desserts to choose from, check out the cuisines in the neighborhood.



**The Asian Business Association (ABASD)** and the **Convoy District Partnership (CDP)** are both focused on building and strengthening the underserved Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities through education and leadership. The organizations dedicate resources to ensuring that small businesses have the tools necessary to remain successful in Kearny Mesa.



**BOX CREATIONS**  
A UTILITY BOX MURAL PROGRAM



Call for Artists

### Community Street Art

In collaboration, the Asian Business Association, the Convoy District Partnership, and SDGE created the Box Creations project. The program aimed to spread messages of hope and unity, all painted by local artists. Next time you are in Convoy, take a closer look at the utility boxes.

Kearny Mesa also features this mural of former Padres star Yu Darvish. Go see it in person, painted by muralist Signe Ditona.



# 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.



For more info. email: [OCYS@sandiego.gov](mailto:OCYS@sandiego.gov)



**Apply Today!**



# Discover



## FREE PROGRAMS AT THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Discover U is an initiative for youth ages 8-25 to explore their STEAM interests, prepare for the future, and achieve career goals.



### LIFE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

- Teen Driving Safety
- Responsibility and Wellness Planning
- Cooking for Teens

### COLLEGE & CAREER PREP

- UC Application Process
- Financial Aid Information
- Interview Skills
- Business Management

### STEAM

- Cultural STEAM programs
- Computer Programming
- Automobile Design



[mysdpl.org/discoveru](https://mysdpl.org/discoveru)

These programs are funded in full or in part by Carnegie Corporation of New York's national Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy Program.



Public  
Library



This information and program content can be made available in alternative formats upon request. For disability-related modifications or accommodations, please email Richard Cooper [RACooper@sandiego.gov](mailto:RACooper@sandiego.gov). For language access needs such as translation services please email Ady Huertas [Ahuert@sandiego.gov](mailto:Ahuert@sandiego.gov).

# EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

WINTER READING CHALLENGE 2026

We invite readers of all ages to explore the hidden worlds within art, where each image whispers a tale and every page opens a doorway to imagination. Through reading and creative activities, participants are encouraged to uncover the quiet magic that lives behind art.

- Program runs January 1st – January 31<sup>st</sup>. Sign up online at [sandiego.gov/WinterReading](https://sandiego.gov/WinterReading) or in-person at any SDPL location
- Read a combination of 5 books, hours or Every Picture Tells a Story activities to claim your prizes.

## FINISHER PRIZES\*

- **Achievement Ribbon** (Ages 0-11)
- **1 FREE pass for the Museum of Us** (All ages)
- **1 FREE pass for the Mingei Museum** (Adults)
- **FREE 5 pc Boneless Wings from WingStop** (Ages teens-adults)

Check out our Every Picture Tells a Story themed reading suggestions online at [sandiego.gov/WinterReading](https://sandiego.gov/WinterReading) and choose one to add to your Reading Log.



\*Prizes are available while supplies last.

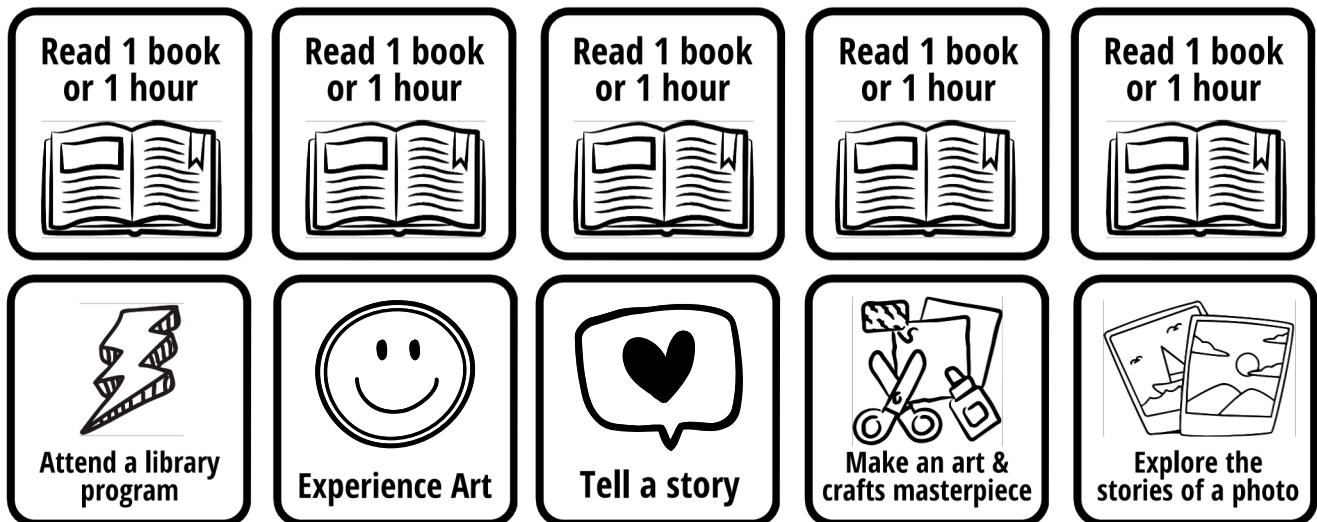


# EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

WINTER READING CHALLENGE 2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete any combination of **5 activities, reading hours or books read** to earn your prize! **Color each badge when completed.**



- Online sign-ups begin January 1st at [sandiego.gov/WinterReading](https://sandiego.gov/WinterReading)
- Program runs **January 1st – January 31st**
- **FOR READERS OF ALL AGES**
- Read a combination of **5 books, hours or Every Picture Tells a Story activities** to claim your prizes (*See website for activity descriptions*)
- Check out our Every Picture Tells a Story themed reading suggestions online at [sandiego.gov/WinterReading](https://sandiego.gov/WinterReading) and choose one to add to your Reading Log.



# SAN DIEGO YOUTH SUMMIT JUNE 3RD, 2026

## A platform for youth to:

- Showcase their talent
- Explore, learn, & discover new interests
- Share community with peers & professionals
- Identify pathways to success across various fields



## We welcome and call upon:

- Businesses • Community Partners • Leaders • Organizations

## To Join us:

- Planning Partners • Sponsors • Presenters • Resource Tabling

**FOR MORE DETAILS**



**CLICK OR SCAN HERE**



✉ [tryan@sandiego.gov](mailto:tryan@sandiego.gov)

✉ [OCYS@sandiego.gov](mailto:OCYS@sandiego.gov)

🌐 <https://www.sandiego.gov/child-youth-success>

**SD** Office of Child  
and Youth Success

**youth will**



  
OUR TIME TO **ACT**

**SD** Public  
Library

# Upcoming Events

**Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## [Holiday Bowl Parade](#)

Park Blvd & Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Free family event, filled with floats, live music,  
and a marching band.



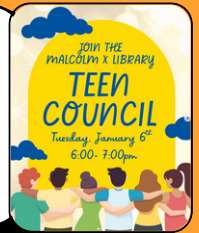
**Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>**

## [Teen Council Meet Up](#)

5148 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Your voice matters, and we want to hear it.  
Join the Malcolm X Library Teen Council!



**Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>**

## [Mending Workshop @ Idea Lab](#)

5148 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

A hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to sew.  
Bring an item you'd like to mend!



**Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>**

## [Family Gardening Workshop](#)

302 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, National City CA

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Learn about gardening and plant a seasonal  
fruit or veggie! All ages are welcome!



**Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**

## [16th Annual Dr. MLK Jr. Day Celebration & Sportsfest](#)

MLK Jr. Rec Center 6401 Skyline Dr, San Diego 92114

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Free family event filled with fun activities,  
performers, food and vendors.



**Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>**

## [Ground Up: Arts in the Park Project](#)

Officer Henwood Memorial Park, 4455 Wightman St, San Diego

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Join this community input session for youth-led designs  
for Officer Henwood Memorial Park. Youth voices are  
needed, **RSVP today!**



JANUARY 10 & 11



# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: NATURE ACCESS AND WELLBEING

- \$25 Gift Card
- Free Museum Tickets
- Snacks & Drinks
- Free Childcare

the**nat**

# 2026 YOUTH-LED CAREER EXPO



Calling all youth job seekers, ages 16 to 24! Explore your career options at the Promise Zone's annual Career Expo.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026**

**10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

Balboa Park Club  
2150 Pan American Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92101

**WEBSITE LINK:**



Join us at the highly anticipated Youth-Led Career Expo! This event presents an incredible opportunity for youth job seekers, ages 16 to 24, to connect with companies, apprenticeship programs, and nonprofits to explore a wide range of career options and resources. Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to kick-start your professional journey!



Please contact [promisezone@sandiego.gov](mailto:promisezone@sandiego.gov) with questions.