



April 2026

THE YOUTH BULLETIN

San Diego, A City Where Children and Youth Thrive

Table Of Contents

- 01. About Us**
- 02. Stay Connected**
- 03. SD Youth Summit 2026**
- 04. SD Youth Commission**
- 05. SDPL Discover U Programming**
- 06. Reality Changers: Understanding and Comparing Your Award Letters**
- 07. Reality Changers: Career Spotlight**
- 08. SDPL Teens April Calendar**
- 09. SDPL Teens April Newsletter**
- 10. Park and Recreation Spring Events**
- 11. Upcoming Events**



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.

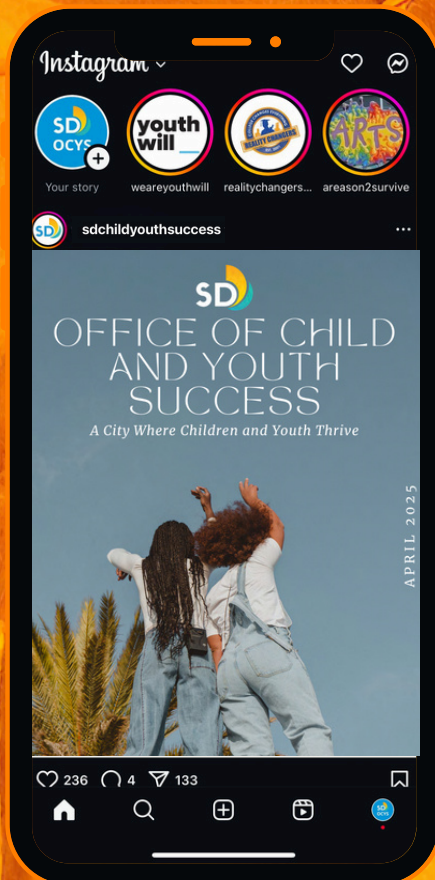
CREATORS

Each of our monthly newsletters are created by OCYS interns and staff.

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!

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



SUBSCRIBE
➔ **HERE!**

FOLLOW US
HERE! ➔



Office of Child and Youth Success

presents ...

YOUTH SUMMIT 2026

June 3rd • 10:00am–3:45pm • Balboa Park

RESOURCES • GUEST SPEAKERS • WORKSHOPS
GAMES • ART • COMMUNITY

An opportunity for youth (ages 15–24) in San Diego to build bridges with community and connect with resources while having fun in the park, learning and creating with peers

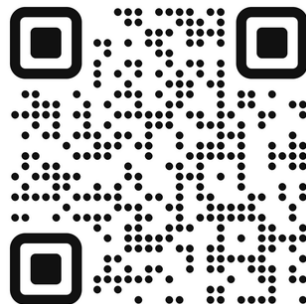
San Diego Youth, ages 15–24, are highly encouraged to attend!

FREE!

GO-HOSTS



ENGAGING ART ACTIVITIES PRESENTED BY:



Information for resource vendors and sponsors:
ocys@sandiego.gov

REGISTER

bit.ly/sdyouthsummit2026

YOUTH COMMISSION

Get Involved

The Youth Commission currently has **vacant seats** ready to be filled. Consider applying to make a difference in your community!

If you are interested in what a Youth Commission meeting looks like, attend a meeting. Youth Commission meetings are open to the public and we welcome public comments.

April, May, and June meetings to be announced soon. Check our site for updates at sandiego.gov/youth-commission/meetings



Scan the QR Code or Click here to Apply!

Youth Commissioner Spotlight

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Layla Al-Khafaji



Layla Al-Khafaji is currently a junior at Mission Bay High School, and she is the Youth Commissioner for the Mayor. Layla is very interested in protecting the environment and increasing youth voice in policymaking. Layla is the co-president and co-founder of the Safe Horizons Club, which helps support refugees in Mexico. Through this club, she facilitates donation drives, volunteer opportunities, and more to support refugees. She is also the co-president of the Model United Nations Club at her school, and has competed at various conferences worldwide, including winning Best Delegate at the Oxford Model UN Conference. Outside of academics, Layla plays water polo for her school's varsity team and at La Jolla United Club. Layla is eager to be a San Diego Youth Commissioner, and she hopes to make a significant difference for her community.

DISTRICT 7

Aiden Hughes



Aiden Hughes is a senior at Point Loma High School. He joined the Youth Commission in the fall of 2025 and is pleased to serve alongside his fellow commissioners as advisors to the City and representatives of San Diego's youth. His priorities include strengthening the voice of young people in municipal policymaking and combating teen substance abuse. Beyond the Commission, Aiden serves as the Operations Officer on the SDUSD's JROTC Joint Brigade Staff, overseeing the planning and execution of events involving 14 schools and 2000 students. He is a Taekwondo instructor and is a member of his school's environmental, Academic League, and philosophy clubs. To explore different avenues of positively impacting and supporting youth, Aiden interned with the City of San Diego and the Center for Teen Economic Education. For the past three summers he has volunteered at the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System to give back to veterans and their families. He is eager to see the activities and membership of the Youth Commission expanded to better serve the San Diego community.

Discover



APRIL 2026 PROGRAMS

ALL PROGRAMS FREE OF CHARGE

LIFE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Automotive Maintenance & Safety

Oak Park Library

04/18/2026 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Healthy Cooking for Teens

Central Library - Teen Center

04/23/2026 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Mental Wellness: Understanding Emotions

Paradise Hills Library

04/30/2026 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

CAREER READINESS

Certification Station: Exploring Career Certification

Logan Heights Library

04/14/2026 | 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Work While You Learn: Exploring Apprenticeships

Skyline Hills Library

04/18/2026 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Trade Talk: The Power of Skilled Trades

Central Library - Teen Center

04/21/2026 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

COLLEGE PREP

First-Gen Futures

Central Library - Teen Center

04/07/2026 | 4:00PM - 5:00PM

Preparing for College Applications: Personal Insight Questions

Pacific Highlands Ranch Library

04/09/2026 & 04/16/2026

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Transitioning from High School to College

Logan Heights Library

04/27/2026 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

STEAM

Squishy Circuits

Otay Mesa-Nestor Library

04/03/2026 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Piñata Science

Skyline Hills Library

04/23/2026 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM



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.

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. For language access needs such as translation services please email Ady Huertas Ahuertas@sandiego.gov.





SPRING PLANNING: PREPARING JUNIORS AND SENIORS FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, AND A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

APRIL 2026

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

As spring arrives, so does one of the most important seasons for high school students—planning for what comes next. For juniors and seniors, this is a pivotal time to solidify college and career goals, make informed decisions, and prepare for a smooth transition into life after high school. Whether students are heading to a four-year university, community college, trade program, or directly into the workforce, intentional spring planning can make all the difference.

Why Spring Matters

Spring is not just about acceptance letters and warmer weather; it's a decision-making and preparation window.

- Seniors are receiving financial aid offers and admissions decisions
- Juniors are preparing to step into the college application cycle
- Both groups are refining their goals and next steps

For Seniors: Finalizing the Transition to College or Career

1. Compare Financial Aid Offers
 - Review total cost (not just tuition)
 - Compare grants vs. loans
 - Think long-term affordability
 2. Make Your Final Decision (by May 1)
 - Revisit fit: academics, campus culture, support
 - Reflect on where you'll thrive
 - Consult family and mentors
 3. Prepare for Transition
 - Complete housing, enrollment, and paperwork
 - Submit final transcripts
 - Build life skills: budgeting, time management, self-advocacy
- Career/Trade Path:
- Confirm job, certification, or apprenticeship
 - Prepare resume and communication skills

Juniors: Prepare for Application Season

1. Build a College List
 - Research schools aligned with your goals
 - Include reach, match, and safety options
 - Visit campuses or attend virtual tours
2. Start Applications Early
 - Brainstorm personal statement ideas
 - Create a resume/activity list
 - Identify recommendation writers
3. Focus on Academics & Testing
 - Take/retake SAT/ACT if needed
 - Finish junior year strong
 - Plan summer: programs, internships, or volunteering

Transition Planning (For All Students)

Success isn't just getting in—it's thriving. Focus on:

- Identity & Purpose: goals and motivation
- Independence: time management and decision-making
- Support Systems: mentors and resources
- Career Awareness: connecting majors to real-world paths

Final Thoughts:

Spring planning is about more than checking boxes, it's about stepping into your future with clarity and confidence. For juniors, create a college list, begin mapping your future enrollment. Seniors, think of a career or education path you want to commit to.

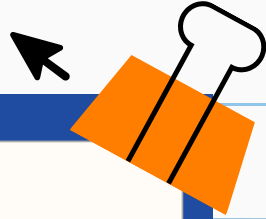
FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES:

- National Parent Volunteer Association Scholarships | Multiple Deadlines | All awards are \$1,000
- Altruism + All Good Deeds Scholarship | May 31st, 2026
- Building Bridges Scholarship | September 30th, 2026
- Aaliyah Lee Scholarship | Deadline: November 30th, 2026



CAREER SPOTLIGHT

AUTOMOTIVE AND INDUSTRY WELDER



According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook 2025
 Videos: : [Auto Mechanics](#) | [Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers](#)

2024 Median Pay (Per Year) (Per Hour)	Automative/Auto Mechanic \$49,670 per yr. \$23.88 per hr. Welder/Cutters/Brazers \$51,000 per yr. \$24.52per hr.
Typical Entry-Level Automative/Auto Mechanic Welding or Industry Welder	Postsecondary nondegree award High School Diplomas or Equivalent
Work Experience in Occupation	None None None
On-the-job Training	Short-term on-the-job training Moderate-term on the job training
Number of Jobs, 2024	805,600 457,300
Job Outlook, 2024-34	2.7% (As fast as average) 2% (Slower than average)
Employment Change, 2024-34	33,600 9,900



AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY



AUTOMOTIVE | SKILLED AND TECHNICAL TRADES



PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Pauline Foster Teen Center
Newsletter April 2026*



APRIL TEEN PROGRAMMING

All programs can be found in the calendar of events
<https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/>



National Tabletop Game Month

Wednesday, April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Level: Ages 12-18

Location: Central Library, 2nd floor,
 Pauline Foster Teen Center

Haiku Poetry Contest

Haiku Poetry Contest

Tuesday, April 14, 4:00 PM

Level: Ages 12-18

Location: Central Library, 2nd floor,
 Pauline Foster Teen Center



First-Gen Futures

Tuesday, April 7, 4:00 PM

Level: 9th-12th grade

Location: Central Library, 2nd floor,
 Pauline Foster Teen Center

Trade Talk

Trade Talk: The Power of Skilled Trades

Tuesday, April 21, 4:00 PM

Level: 9th-12th grade

Location: Central Library, 2nd floor,
 Pauline Foster Teen Center



Earth Day Planter Jars

Monday, April 13, 5:00 PM

Level: Ages 12-18

Location: Central Library, 2nd floor,
 Pauline Foster Teen Center

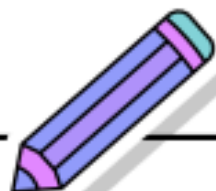


Anime Your Way

Thursday, April 23, 4:00 PM

Level: Ages 12-18

Location: Central Library, 2nd floor,
 Pauline Foster Teen Center





PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Pauline Foster Teen Center
Newsletter April 2026*

RESOURCES FOR TEENS

All databases can be accessed from the eLibrary
<https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/elibrary>.



Book
Connections

Personalize and enjoy digital connections to books for kids and teens.

GALE PRESENTS

PETERSON'S
TEST AND CAREER PREP

Download test handbooks, plan for higher education, explore career paths, build a resume, and more.

Britannica
Escolar

Trusted for accurate and age-appropriate content in Spanish.

Rosetta
Stone

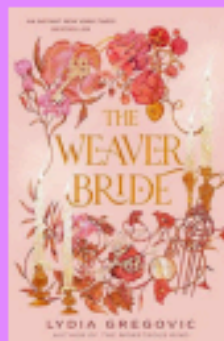
Learn a new language for free!

NEW YA BOOKS SPOTLIGHT

All books can be put on hold using the library's catalog
<https://sandiego.bibliocommons.com/>



TAGS:
Grief,
Mother and daughters,
Treasure hunting



TAGS: Contest,
Magic,
Witches

TAGS:
Boarding schools,
Dead,
Secrecy



New book arrivals are delayed due to distributor ceasing operations

CONTACT US

If you need any help with the library, including booking a school tour, books, or other resources, please contact us at:

619-236-5800 teenspace@sandiego.gov 330 Park Blvd.



2026 SPRING EVENTS

**CELEBRATE SPRING WITH US AT A FUN-FILLED
EGG HUNT EVENT FEATURING EXCITING
ACTIVITIES, LIVELY ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS &
CRAFTS, JUMPERS, PHOTOS WITH THE SPRING
BUNNY, AND SO MUCH MORE!**



SCAN HERE

**SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CLICK THE LINK
FOR EVENT DETAILS!**

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



MAKERS ARCADE!!!

SPRING FAIR AT BALBOA PARK

APRIL 4 + 5

A one-of-a-kind art, culture, and community experience with 140+ makers and emerging brands

DETAILS

Makers Arcade Spring Fair at Balboa Park
624 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92104

Saturday, April 4, 10am-5pm
Sunday, April 5, 10am-5pm

TICKETS ONLY \$5

Kids under 12 are free and get an easter egg gift at the door!
(While supplies last)

MAKERSARCADE.COM

FEATURING

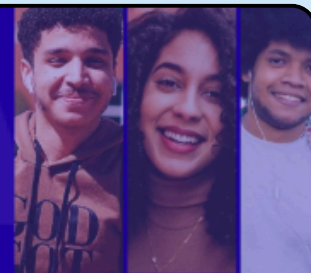
- 140+ makers
- Live Music
- Food Trucks
- Coffee + Bars
- Photo Booths
- Interactive Art
- Make + Take Stations
- Kids Activities
- Free Gift with Purchase (while supplies last)



ANDIEGO CITY COLLEGE
CALIFORNIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CORPS
Community-Based Immigration Legal Services

Fellowship Opportunity in Immigration Law

Last Day to Apply: **April 15, 2026**



Join Our CLINIC-CYLC Immigration Legal Services Pathway Fellowship Program!

The Community-Based Immigration Legal Services Pathway Fellowship will expand the number of well-trained advocates, practitioners, paralegals, legal assistants, and nonprofit leaders in underserved immigrant communities. California Youth Leadership Corps (CYLC) has partnered with Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC Inc.) and selected community colleges to create community change career pathways in community-based immigration legal services. This program connects community college students with paid fellowship opportunities at DOJ-recognized organizations serving immigrant communities.

*Priority will be given to students concentrating in Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Conflict Resolution, Labor Studies, Political Science, or related fields. We welcome applications from all majors or courses of study.



Get in touch!

Roger Sanchez, Job Placement Coordinator
rsanchez2003@sdccl.edu
Genet Arede, CYLC Program Director,
genet.g@communitylearningpartnership.org
communitylearningpartnership.org

Applications Open:
March 2 - April 15, 2026

Benefits of Joining!

Academic Credentials

Earn a postsecondary credential with academic and career advising support.

Training in Immigration Law

Take CLINIC's Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law (COIL) e-learning course to learn the fundamentals of immigration law.

Paid Work-Based Learning Opportunities

Be placed with a DOJ-recognized community-based immigration legal services provider to gain experience in the field and in an immigration law career pathway.

Stipends and Scholarships Available

Fellows will be awarded up to \$10,000 in stipends and awarded up to \$5,000 in scholarships during their participation in the nine-month fellowship.



5TH ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION JUSTICE EXPO



Saturday, April 11 | 10 AM - 2 PM @ Market Creek Plaza
310 Euclid Ave, San Diego, CA 92114

SAVE THE DATE!

- Learn about transportation justice & clean mobility.
- Explore careers in transit, planning & sustainability.
- Connect with community organizations shaping climate action and mobility in the San Diego region.
- Access free community resources and services.
- Shape the future of transportation in your community

Interested in Sponsoring or Volunteering?

Contact: events@ucproject.org
RSVP to Exhibit at:
bit.ly/tjexpo5 or
Visit Link in Bio



Southeastern San Diego URBAN COLLABORATIVE PROJECT Euclid STEWARDS

Cultivating Community Stewardship through Education & Collaboration



EARTH DAY EXTRAVAGANZA



bit.ly/UCP_EDX_26

Celebrate youth-led community stewardship!



The Urban Collaborative Project, Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek, and local youth are activating Chollas Creekside Park into a space for gathering, learning, and recreation! Join us for a day of community, care, and celebration.

What to expect:

- Tree planting & watering
- Litter + Invasive plant removal
- Rock Painting + LHS Art Showcase
- Community resource booths
- Live Music & family fun for all ages
- Danza Azteca Land Acknowledgement
- Free Coffee by Grinds & Grooves Coffee & Vinyl

Saturday, April 18 | 9 AM - 1 PM
Chollas Creekside Park, Market St, San Diego, CA 92102

Questions? Contact info@ucproject.org



APRIL 25, 2026

GIRLS' DAY OUT 2026

A DAY OF HANDS-ON ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING WORKSHOPS

Join us for our annual conference hosted at the Jacobs School of Engineering at UC San Diego. GDO is open to all female and nonbinary high school students from the San Diego area. Participate in hands-on engineering and computing workshops to build your own stem projects!

When? Saturday, April 25th, 9:00AM - 3:30PM


Who can come? Open to ANY high school student in the SD area interested in pursuing STEM-related careers.

Where? Jacobs School of Engineering at UCSD

What to Expect? Multiple workshops, networking, presentations, and lunch provided.

Workshops:

- Circuit Design
- Bias in Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence
- Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Design
- Biomedical Engineering
- ... and more!

Hosted by  &  @ UC San Diego

REGISTER NOW!



THE 56TH ANNUAL

CHICANO PARK

DAY COMMEMORATION



APRIL 25 2026

10 AM 5 PM



DANZA AZTECA - LIVE BANDS - SPEAKERS - BALLET FOLKLORICO - LOWRIDER CAR EXHIBITION Y MAS!

San Diego Earth Fest

FREE ENTRY & PARKING | 100+ VENDORS | FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

AN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

11AM - 5PM

BALBOA PARK
PRESIDENTS LAWN, PARK BLVD, SAN DIEGO

- International Food Court
- Live Music and DJs
- Speakers and Demos
- Kids Activities

PRESENTED BY VIRIDIAN PRODUCTIONS SANDIEGOEARTHFEST.COM

Barrio Bloom: Art & Book Market



Books
Coffee
Arte

Community
Resources
Buenas Vibra

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
11AM-4PM

2138 LOGAN AVE, SD, 92113




ART GARDEN

AN INSPIRING EVENING OF VISUAL ART, STORYTELLING, DANCE, & COMMUNITY CARE PRESENTED BY VANGUARD CULTURE & UC SAN DIEGO CRAFT CENTER.

STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS BY STORYTELLERS OF SD
 NATIONAL LAUNCH OF JIMI APPESEED INITIATIVE
 LIVE THEATRE BY BLINDSPOT COLLECTIVE
 ART EXHIBIT BY NEIL SHIGLEY
 LIVE DANCE BY CULTURE SHOCK

Made possible with support from:

APRIL 30, 2026
6 - 9 PM

UC SAN DIEGO PARK & MARKET
DOWNTOWN, SAN DIEGO

VANGUARDCULTURE.COM

RECONNECTING SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO & NATIONAL CITY

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN!

VISIONING WORKSHOPS

SAVE THE DATES

RSVP SCAN ME

<https://bit.ly/visioningsrsvp>

What do you want to see in your community?
 More Green Spaces?
 Grocery Co-ops?
 Cultural Art Park?
 Workforce Development?
 Housing?

Visioning Workshop 1.1 Wednesday 4/29/26
 Jackie Robinson YMCA
 151 YMCA Way, San Diego, CA, 92102
5-8pm

Visioning Workshop 1.2 Saturday 5/2/26
11am - 2pm
 Music Southcrest Park
 Food 1297 S 40th Street,
 Fun San Diego, CA 92113

Visioning Workshop 2.1 Thursday 6/4/26
5-8pm Mundo Gardens
 210 North Q Ave
 National City, 91950

Visioning Workshop 2.2 Saturday 6/6/26
11 am-2pm
 Music Jackie Robinson
 Food YMCA
 Fun

All are welcome to join our Visioning Workshops
SESD & NC residents encouraged to attend!

We proudly continue the legacy of unity as we reclaim over 57 acres of land. We are convening residents, community partners, and leaders to inform & support our community-led land use design. Join us on the following dates for our upcoming workshops!

Dinner and beverages provided. Interpretation available upon request.

619.986.4392 / connect@mundogardens.com

The Princess Project San Diego

Making Prom Dreams Come True

Get A Free Prom Dress and Accessory!

Parkway Plaza Giveaway Days

March 25, 27, 28, 29, April 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19

Reserve your appointment online beginning March 10th!

PrincessProjectSD.org

Parkway Plaza: All 15 Days
 Murrieta Library: March 20 & 21
 Jacumba Library: April 3 & 4
 Vista Library: April 11
 Fallbrook Library: April 11 & 12
 Oceanside Library: April 18 & 19
 El Cajon Library: April 25
 Borrego Springs Library: April 28
 Malcom X/Valencia Park Library: TBA

The Princess Project is a 100% volunteer run 501(c)3 non-profit organization that promotes self confidence and individual beauty by providing free prom dresses and accessories to high school teens. Our efforts are made possible by the invaluable support of our volunteers, donors, and community.

the princess project

Instagram: Princessproject_SD
 Facebook: Princessproject_SD

EMSCORPS SAN DIEGO

WE PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CAREERS IN EMS AND FIRE

EMS Corps has trained hundreds of young people underrepresented in the fire and healthcare workforce for careers in EMS. Many have gone on to become **paramedics, nurses, firefighters, and doctors.**

THE 5-MONTH PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- EMT training and ridealongs
- Life coaching, mentorship, job readiness training, and physical fitness.
- Earned \$1500/month stipends during the program
- Assistance finding jobs after graduation

LEARN MORE & APPLY!

THE NEXT EMS CORPS STARTS MAY 2026

Applicants should be 18-26, reside in California, and have a high school diploma or GED. **Spots are limited.**

OUR PARTNERS

SANDIEGOEMSCORPS.ORG