



MEDIA RELEASE

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TO: News Media

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SUBJECT: **FREE Southwest Soccer Program...on Saturdays!!!**

The Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks Department Neighborhood Services Program is excited to announce the return of the Southwest Soccer Program. It is a **FREE** program serving youth ages 8 - 14! This year, the program will be offered on Saturdays and is open to the public. Southwest Soccer is an informal, drop-in program for which kids can sign up in advance, at the site, and at anytime throughout the duration of the program.

The Southwest Soccer Program will be offered at four locations in Santa Rosa beginning Saturday, April 4, 2009 and concluding with a tournament at Southwest Community Park on Saturday, June 27, 2009.

Location	Time	Days / Events
Bellevue Ranch Park 2648 Arrowhead Drive	9:00 am – 12:00 noon	<u>Saturdays Only!</u>
Jacobs Park/Lincoln Elementary 850 West Ninth	9:00 am – 12:00 noon	Saturdays in April, May, and June (closed May 23)
Roseland Elementary 950 Sebastopol Road	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<u>Special Events</u> May 16 – Skills Clinic (on location)
TBD	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	June 27 – Tournament at Southwest Community Park

Registration forms are available at the Finley Community Center, Steele Community Center, and at each site above when the program begins. Completed registration forms can be submitted to Recreation & Parks staff at each program site during hours. One registration form must be completed per child.

Why is this program so important to the Community?

The Southwest Soccer Program is designed to give youth a fun and safe place to be, providing them an opportunity to develop skills, build character, and partake in challenging fun activity. Besides the program's emphasis on the physical and health aspects of the sport, the soccer program exposes kids to assets, such as positive role models, constructive use of time, and youth programs, which help them make safe and healthy choices as they enter their teenage years. In addition, weekends can either be a time of risk to kid's health and safety, since school is not in session, or an opportunity to learn and grow in a protected environment. These programs not only help relieve the stress of today's busy families but offer kids a fun place to "hang out" with their friends in a supervised setting.

For additional information regarding the Southwest Soccer Program, please contact Kimberly Copperberg at 543-3456 or visit our website at www.santarosarec.com.

Media inquiries should be made to Ellen Bailey, Interim Gang Prevention and Intervention Services Manager at 543-4321.

**SANTA ROSA RECREATION & PARKS
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

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