



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THOUSANDS OF YOUTH AWAIT ADMISSION TO JUVENILE HALL *Juvenile Hall and Juvenile Court Open for Public Viewing*

It's the only day of the year where youth gladly wait for County probation officers to tell them to pull up their pants, tuck in their shirts, fold their arms, and walk quietly in a single-file-line through Juvenile Hall while their parents follow behind. This routine will be repeated for an expected 3,000 visitors to "Juvenile Hall Open House," on Saturday, May 2 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at 2801 Meadow Lark Dr. in Kearny Mesa.

Visitors will learn about Juvenile Court and experience how juvenile detainees spend their days in Juvenile Hall, now officially known as Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility. Probation officers repeat the message that youth and parents can prevent an extended visit.

"Parents need to know they have a huge influence on keeping their kids out of the juvenile justice system," says Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins. "We are committed to helping families find positive alternatives to delinquent behavior and incarceration. This open house is a great opportunity for families to connect with those alternatives."

Once the tour is over, visitors will be directed to more than 50 resource booths which will feature prevention, intervention, diversion, and treatment information focused on helping the entire family.

Juvenile Hall Facts

- Approximately 4,835 juveniles spent at least one day in custody at Juvenile Hall in FY 07-08
- There was an average daily attendance of 309 juveniles for FY 07-08
- Parents are billed \$31 per day for each day of incarceration

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