National PAL’s 75th Annual Conference & Training

The National PAL 75th Annual Conference & Training was one of the best conferences National PAL has produced to date, with over 250 attendees gathering in downtown Los Angeles at the LA Grand Hotel from April 29 - May 3, 2019. National PAL provided an unparalleled series of workshops and tools to identify new trends impacting the industry — essential to each PAL’s success.

The week started with a special press conference and the announcement of National PAL’s partnership with USA Boxing to host the 2019 Last Chance Olympic Qualifier in conjunction with the 2019 National PAL Boxing Championships in Oxnard, CA, November 2-9, 2019.

“It’s a big deal to be able to have this partnership reestablished,” said National PAL CEO, Jeff Hood. “There is a rich history of boxing that has come from both organizations that have done great and major work - from Muhammad Ali to George Foreman and beyond. They got their start, right here in PAL. It makes sense for National PAL and USA Boxing to come together again as we bring about this Last Chance Olympic Qualifier.”

Day two of Annual Conference began with a general session where Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti, and Los Angeles Police Chief, Michael Moore addressed the Chapters and welcomed them to the city. Additionally, National PAL welcomed Director of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office, Phil Keith, to our event. Director Keith spoke to the mission of his office, as well as his appreciation for having National PAL as a recipient of funding from his office.

Following that, there were four days of Chapters gaining inspiration and a fresh perspective from the energy of colleagues while they immersed themselves in informative learning sessions led by some of the industry's brightest, most innovative minds including National PAL Board President Barbara Bonilla of San Mateo County, CA SAL who presented an informative
workshop on fundraising. Additionally, National PAL COPS Project Manager, Bridgette Wright gave a brief introduction to social media best practices before debuting the new National PAL Members Only Toolkit. Speakers energized Member Chapters, teaching key drivers of critical business functions and providing them with tactics to overcome organizational challenges.

One of the highlights of the week was the National PAL Day of Service, this year benefitting the Skid Row community, one of the largest stable populations (between 5,000 and 8,000) of homeless people in the United States. Member Chapters and the National Office boarded buses to the community to host a good old fashioned neighborhood block party and cookout. National PAL members enjoyed food and companionship while passing out brand new pairs of socks and hygiene items to those in need.

The week concluded with the National PAL Awards Gala hosted by actress/producer/author and television host Vivica A. Fox. As the final evening of the Conference began, guests dressed in formal attire were treated to photos on the red carpet with Fox and National PAL CEO Jeff Hood, which were printed as mementos for all in attendance. After the red carpet Meet & Greet, guests gathered in the grand ballroom for the sit-down gala which included a chef-prepared dinner and desserts.

National PAL announced the recipients of the 2019 Inspirational Award Winner of the Year which included Sergeant Craig Littles of the Memphis Shelby PAL (Law Enforcement Officer of the Year), Ignatius Hayer of San Mateo County Sheriff’s Activities League (Male Youth of the Year), Betty Arnold of Palatka PAL (Female Youth of the Year), Coach Forrest Caldwell of Cleveland PAL (Volunteer of the Year) and Jethro Cardona of Nassau County PAL (Alumni of the Year).

More exciting news arrived when Fox was announced Ambassador of Youth Girl’s Empowerment for National PAL alongside her longtime friend, comedian and actor Tommy Davidson who was announced as the Ambassador of Youth Boy’s Empowerment for the organization. Both Fox and Davidson will utilize their platforms to help reintroduce an over 70-year-old organization that bridges the gap between kids, cops and the community.

SAVE THE DATE

2020 NATIONAL PAL 76TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2020 76th Annual National PAL Training & Conference is scheduled to kick-off on Monday, April 13th and will conclude on Friday, April 17th. The location for the 2020 event will be in New Orleans, Louisiana at the beautiful New Orleans Marriott.
From July 24th through July 28th, National PAL welcomed over 600 youth and 125 adults from across the country and the Virgin Islands to the 2019 National PAL Youth Mentoring and Leadership Summit in Potomac, Maryland. Member Chapters converged upon the William F. Bolger Conference Center to participate in informative workshops designed specifically for those in attendance. Each morning, mentors and mentees gathered for breakfast and fellowship in the Bolger Center dining room before parting ways to continue their days by attending exciting, enriching, and thought provoking leadership development sessions.

On the first full day of the Summit, Chapters gathered on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. with their representatives from Congress for photos and a meet and greet session. Following the session, Chapter participants were able to attend scheduled meetings with their representatives while others explored various historical points, museums, and monuments throughout the city.

San Mateo SAL met with their Congressional Legislative Director and Senior Legislative Assistant at the U.S. House of Representatives, Matthew McMurray. During their time with McMurray, San Mateo SAL youth informed McMurray on the benefits of the PAL program, shared personal growth testimonies, and thanked Congresswoman Anna Eshoo for her support of the San Mateo SAL program while McMurray shared his knowledge on how to get started on Capitol Hill and apply for open positions.

Richmond, CA PAL was also fortunate enough to meet with Congressman Mark Desaulinier, who represents California’s 11th Congressional District. Desaulinier assured the youth of their political influence and that even though they are not of age to vote, he encouraged them to be
aware of political climates and increase their political activity. Congressman Desauliner also emphasized that youth around the nation can have a major impact on critical issues by becoming involved with their municipal governments through volunteering, interning, campaigning and also shared the importance of understanding people's perspectives and reaching across party lines for progress.

New to the Mentoring and Leadership Summit this year, mentees and mentors screened the documentary “Charm City”, an intimate portrait of a diverse group of neighbors, including police officers, citizens, community leaders, and government officials who, with grit and compassion, survive in and work to improve their vibrant neighborhoods during a violent three-year stretch in Baltimore, Maryland. Youth and adults had the opportunity to watch the full documentary, then experience a panel discussion with those affiliated with the film in attendance, including Major Monique Brown of the Baltimore Police Department, Amy Oden with Maryland Public Television, Zandra Campbell, Group Supervisor/Brand Manager of Baltimore Public Libraries, and Ganesha M. Martin, Esq., the President of GMM Consulting.

During the remainder of the Summit, youth mentees were treated to various sessions led by Leading to Change, a nationally awarded training agency designed to transform the professional development arena and Perry Kalmus, CEO of AKALA, an AI-enabled College Admissions Counseling platform that helps students navigate the complicated journey to college. Leading to Change presented a motivational message encouraging our youth not only to set a plan for their future, but also take advantage of the messages and networking opportunities presented to them over the course of the next few days. Kalmus shared his message on challenging yourself academically by taking advantage of whatever honors, AP and IB programs were available at their school as well as the importance of relationship building for recommendation letters from school administrators and how to take charge of your professional development through self-advocacy. Kalmus also stressed that good grades are no longer the sole determining factor in college admissions and that admissions officers also look for students who demonstrate their passions and vision by taking on leadership roles, community service projects, and other game-changing roles.

Throughout their remaining breakout sessions, adult mentors sharpened PAL toolkits with informative and insightful workshops including college preparatory tools from AKALA and mentoring tips from Leading to Change. National PAL’s Grants Manager, Angie Caffee, also walked mentors through various areas of grant compliance while National PAL’s Project Manager, Bridgette Wright, helped Chapters work through their strategic plans for the future.

The last night of the Mentoring and Leadership Summit concluded with social activity and celebration for the mentees as well as a dance party complete with teen’s favorite foods and a live DJ. National PAL continues to emphasize how important it is for Chapters to experience new things for the first time through the National PAL Mentoring Program and is already looking forward to next year’s Summit.
Mentoring Spotlight: Guadalupe PAL

Guadalupe, Arizona has a very rich and unique culture and population, composed primarily of Latin and Native Americans. The town has long been known as a center of Yaqui culture and it is home to many religious festivals. However, the population of the town is quite dense with almost 6,000 people living within one square mile. According to Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office Community Liaison, Ron Gomez, “Rivalries between different communities can be pretty intense.” As such, growing up in Guadalupe can be challenging; over a quarter of the town’s population lives below the poverty line.

In order to help youth in the area develop the necessary skills to overcome some of the obstacles that they may encounter, Guadalupe PAL teamed up with Guadalupe Boxing Gym to provide an after-school boxing program that challenges members as athletes and contributing citizens of the community. The Guadalupe Gym is now home to 25 Guadalupe PAL participants who regularly train and participate in mentoring activities.

Recently, Guadalupe PAL implemented a mentoring program called “Unfinished Business Game Time”. As part of this program, police officers mentor youth by teaching them life lessons and offering advice on being productive members of the community. Lessons are usually geared towards character development, civic responsibility, and strategies for communicating with adults and figures of authority. Advice on body language and attitude are other common themes discussed throughout the program. “The mentoring lessons offered by Guadalupe PAL make kids want to get more involved and they look forward to coming to the program,” explains Vice President of Guadalupe PAL, Irene Soto. “The kids tend to be more mindful after spending time with the officers – they’re building habits for finding success in life.”

Youth learn sportsmanship, discipline and much more at the Guadalupe Boxing Gym.

Guadalupe PAL participants show off their hard work after a mentoring session at the Guadalupe Boxing Gym.
Adding Chapters that have the capacity to serve youth and address social struggles throughout the country is a top priority for National PAL. Each Chapter has a unique story that catalogues their initiation into the PAL family. However, Chief Rainey of the University of Chicago Police Department was unaware of what this initiation process looked like when he reached out to the Chief Executive Officer of National PAL, Jeff Hood. Upon discovering Hood’s contact information on National PAL’s website, Rainey called and received an immediate answer from the CEO himself. During their conversation, Rainey indicated a strong desire to bring a PAL to his area, and discovered Hood would be visiting Chicago that same day. Later that evening, the two met and began mapping out the initial phases of development for University of Chicago PAL.

According to Rainey, the University of Chicago PAL is only the second university police department in the history of National PAL. Interestingly, the department’s patrol area extends beyond the boundaries of the university’s campus. This has provided interns at the University of Chicago the opportunity to experience important initiatives, such as community outreach and capacity building with the surrounding neighborhoods.

In addition, the newly formed PAL has allowed officers to interact with the community in a more positive way. Many officers have started volunteering with local churches, Little League programs, and community basketball tournaments hosted by University of Chicago PAL.

“PAL gives officers the vehicle to connect with their community in a formal way. This helps break down barriers, start conversations, and see police in a different light.”

- Chief Kenton Rainey, University of Chicago Police Department

In recognition of their efforts, the University of Chicago PAL was recently awarded the Innovations in Community Policing Award by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Agencies.
National PAL is thrilled to officially announce Ms. Vivica A. Fox as the Ambassador of Youth Girl’s Empowerment. Fox, an actress, producer, philanthropist, and entrepreneur, is also featured in *Empire*, an American musical drama television series on Fox. In her role as Ambassador of Youth Girl’s Empowerment, Fox aims to enlighten, encourage, and inspire young women because she cares about Generation Z and the young ladies who face even more challenges than she did as a young lady.

With the popularity and growth of social media platforms, one of the challenges is the added peer pressure put on young girls to create a positive image for themselves and others. In knowing so, Ms. Fox hopes to use the decisions she made as a young woman to “teach and encourage young women to get out of their own way and make good decisions, because the choices that young women make now have the potential to impact their lives forever.”

While recently attending the 75th Annual National PAL Conference in Los Angeles, CA and receiving her award from Chief Executive Officer, Jeff Hood, and Board Chair, Barbara Bonilla, Fox was inspired by National PAL’s commitment to provide opportunities for kids, cops, and community; an issue Fox knows has impacted many neighborhoods across the country. Growing up two blocks away from challenging communities, Ms. Fox knows what it takes to go through struggles when trying to create the best version of you. In her book *Everyday I’m Hustling*, Ms. Fox explains that you make your own luck and that you have to wake up each day and create the best opportunities for yourself.

As a result, National PAL and Ms. Fox plan to host a Youth Girl’s Empowerment Summit, where Fox will meet with young ladies to sit down and discuss challenges
Mr. Tommy Davidson – comedian, film and television actor, and philanthropist – has performed roles in major television shows and movies, including: In Living Color, Juwanna Man, and Ace Ventura II: When Nature Calls. However, it is in his new role as National PAL Ambassador of Boy’s Empowerment that he feels he can make a major difference in the lives of children who are growing up in a similar environment to the one he experienced. “Entities like National PAL seek out like-minded and like-hearted individuals,” Mr. Davidson explains. “I was one of the kids who had character development barriers because of my environment growing up, but the availability of a program like this, which is created by law enforcement to benefit youth, lets these boys and girls know that society cares about them.”

In order to maximize the influence Mr. Davidson is able to impart on the youth involved with National PAL, Chief Executive Officer, Jeff Hood, is coordinating a Youth Boy’s Empowerment Summit in which youth will be invited to spend 2-3 days with program staff and Mr. Davidson. Over the course of the Summit, Davidson will play a major role in helping train youth to relate positively to their surroundings and generate lasting impacts in their communities. This aligns perfectly with Mr. Davidson’s mission to recreate communities that are grounded in knowledge and understanding. According to Mr. Davidson, “Programs like National PAL made me the man I am today – if I can make an investment to benefit our future, this is the best way to do it.”
The Visit Oxnard Team is looking forward to having you for the National PAL - USA Boxing 2019 Last Chance Qualifier, this November 2-9, 2019 in Oxnard, California. We are so excited for our renewed partnership with the National PAL, Oxnard PAL and USA Boxing and are excited to welcome the most elite boxers in the sport to our beautiful city.

Rich in the boxing tradition, Oxnard even has an appropriate nickname – “Boxnard.” Oxnard is a national hub for boxing and is home to many amateur and professional boxers, some of whom have been born and raised within the city limits, and others who have moved to Oxnard specifically to train.

While you’re here, pursuing your dreams, punching your ticket to the 2020 Olympic Trials for Boxing in December, take time to delight in our hidden gem of a town, where the U.S. 101 meets Pacific Coast Highway – California cool, panorama-perfect, culturally authentic and vibrant beyond measure. Just sixty miles northwest of LAX and in close proximity to Santa Barbara and other major destinations, Oxnard is one of California’s best kept secrets.

Oxnard is home to miles of pristine white sand beaches, electric nightlife, some of the best taquerias in the state, historic Victorian era architecture, the California Strawberry Festival, and an expansively picturesque harbor that serves as the closest access point to the Channel Islands National Park. Board an excursion to one of the Channel Islands, just eleven miles off the coast from Oxnard, where you’ll discover a world untouched at “North America’s Galapagos.” Spend the day diving, kayaking, swimming, hiking, camping or exploring deep sea caves; see wildlife found nowhere else on planet Earth.

Return to Oxnard to rejuvenate: shop the incredible boutiques at The Collection at RiverPark, Oxnard’s premier lifestyle venue. Oxnard like a local, and take in one of the breathtaking sunsets along the shore, which are particularly spectacular in the fall and winter months. We invite you to relax, unwind and enjoy this beach town filled with unique experiences and passionate people. Roll with the punches during the tournament, and take time to coast in Oxnard. We look forward to welcoming you. Your California dream awaits.

For more information on things to do or places to stay, please visit: VisitOxnard.com or call our office at 805-385-7545.

With Gratitude, Julie Mino, Visit Oxnard.
National PAL COPS Initiative

Through the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ’s) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), National PAL has been awarded funding to implement a Community Policing Development (CPD) program to improve positive youth-law enforcement engagement, with the intended outcome of formulating enhanced relationships of trust and clearer understanding between youth, their communities, and local law enforcement.

At National PAL, we understand that Community Oriented Policing (COP) must comprise key components in order to establish lasting and impactful success in local communities. The components include developing community partnerships, promoting organizational transformation and coordinating problem solving approaches. In order to include these key components in our programming, we are fortunate enough to welcome Bridgette Wright as the Project Manager for Law Enforcement Engagement. Ms. Wright will play a pivotal role in helping National PAL aid in the prevention of juvenile crime and violence by providing mentorship, civic service, athletic, recreational, enrichment, educational opportunities and resources to PAL Chapters.

By combining the CPD Program and existing National PAL programming, National PAL’s goal is to recruit new PAL Chapters and help them start and maintain a successful PAL by assisting with social media management, email campaigns, and creating resources to focus on youth mentee recruitment and retention as well as public relations. In doing so, National PAL has kicked off NPAL University: A Series of Online Development Webinars, aimed toward helping PAL Chapters with fiscal management, strategic planning and public relations.
Throughout the series, National PAL is hoping to receive feedback from local PAL Chapters on how to better provide assistance and meet the individualized needs of each Chapter. National PAL will also work with partners such as the National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACP), the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) to share the PAL model as a best practice and highlight the resources available for local agencies interested in starting PAL programs.

When working with local law enforcement, Wright makes certain to emphasize that law enforcement officers are called to “protect and serve,” and in doing so, law enforcement can work in their communities through PAL to create and maintain positive relationships with youth. By combining community oriented policing through the CPD Program and National PAL programming, we are confident that community members will see officers as partners in making their communities safer and will allow law enforcement and youth to come together without the politics and mistrust, providing a healthy environment in which real change can occur.