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DMV PAL CHAPTERS



Annapolis, MD
Baltimore, MD (4)
Cambridge, MD
Cecil County, MD
Hagerstown, MD
Salisbury, MD
Washington, DC

DMV PAL 2019 Outlook

DMV PAL wrapped up 2018 celebrating the success of sites across the region and looking forward to what the New Year will bring. This past year was a learning process as we navigated what it takes to build a sustainable and impactful program in communities across Maryland. While this was a challenging undertaking, it has better equipped us for our future.



DMV PAL breaks ground for ABC Park at the Samuel FB Morse Recreation Center in Baltimore, MD.

In 2019, DMV PAL plans to continue providing high-quality programming, with a focus on our core values of intentionality, community, honesty, empathy, openness and service. Our values serve as a consistent reminder of our commitment to the students we serve and the mentors who give of their time and talents to support our efforts. While we live by the motto “once a PAL kid, always a PAL kid,” we are fostering the next generation of independent adults, who will live out the core values we have instilled in them.

We want to ensure that DMV PAL provides youth with a solid foundation to grow into citizens who know they are capable of achieving ANYTHING they set their minds to. We will provide programming that sparks a genuine love of community and highlights the necessity of pouring back into it. We are eager to see the lives that are changed because of their involvement with PAL. We look forward to the blossoming relationships of students and officers who were once strangers from two very different worlds. Most importantly, we look forward to seeing our PAL kids continue to thrive in spite of the challenges they may face and we cannot wait to cheer them on from the finish line as we celebrate our first year.

Booker T. Washington once said, “If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else,” and we could not agree more! We are excited to see what “lifting” we can do in the coming year with our spectacular team. We believe that 2018 was just the warm-up for all that 2019 will bring. We’re ready to get in the game and leave it all on the field!

Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County PAL Chapter Celebrate Badges for Baseball Program



A cadet from the Annapolis Police Department interacts with youth in the Badges for Baseball program.

On December 12, 2018, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County PAL Chapter hosted their final Badges for Baseball program session of the year at their Wiley H. Bates Club. Just as they did throughout the program, the youth participated in a variety of fun and challenging games to practice the leadership, teamwork and problem solving skills that they learned during the program.

Members of the Annapolis Police Department, who served as mentors throughout the program, worked with the children and their teams to successfully complete mini challenges. This created an environment where youth and their mentors were able to understand and reflect on the importance of having a strong support group and that it is okay to ask for help in a tough situation, while continuing to build relationships between youth and police officers in a safe, positive environment.

After completing their challenges, the youth and their mentors sat together to enjoy a healthy snack to highlight the importance of eating healthy after taking part in physical activity. Youth were recognized for their positive attitudes and successful participation in the program. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County PAL Chapter and Annapolis Police Department are looking forward to their continued partnership, fostering relationships, and building on the lessons learned throughout the year.

PAL – YES Hosts Shop with a Cop

On December 15, 2018, McKinnon and Joshua, from the PAL – YES Langston Hughes Recreation Center, had the opportunity to participate in Shop with a Cop. Shop with a Cop is a nationally recognized program that aims to foster positive relationships between youth and police officers.

The day started at 5:00 a.m., as Baltimore City Police officers picked up the boys from their homes. McKinnon, Joshua and the Baltimore City Police officers stopped at the Forest Park Country Club to have a nice, hearty breakfast to fuel them for their shopping adventure. The group made their way over to the local Walmart, where they were greeted by Walmart staff and led inside to begin their shopping. McKinnon and Joshua were told that they could pick out anything they want, within reason. The boys' eyes were wide as they walked up and down the endless aisles. After careful consideration, McKinnon and Joshua picked out gifts of LEGOs and video games and headed to check out.



Shop with a Cop fosters positive relationships with youth and police officers.

After an exhilarating day together, it was time for everyone to go home and for McKinnon and Joshua to play with their brand new toys! Their parents were quick to mention that they have not stopped playing with their LEGOs and video games and their smiles have yet to fade. This was a great experience for the two boys as Joshua said, "I had even more fun than I thought I would." PAL – YES and the Baltimore City Police Department hope to continue this event next year, and offer the opportunity to even more youth as a way to continue to cultivate relationships between youth in the community and local police officers.

SEED School of Washington, D.C. Hosts a Professional Development Series

The Seed School of Washington, D.C. (SEED DC) is the nation's first college-preparatory, public boarding school. Their mission is to provide an outstanding, intensive education program that prepares children, both academically and socially, for success in college and beyond. Throughout the month of December, DMV PAL conducted a presentation series, where SEED DC youth had an opportunity to participate in a number of talks and demonstrations from various guest speakers, including college students and other members of the community.



Youth from SEED DC participate in a Professional Development Series.

Two of the many guest speakers were Shania Stephen and Matthew Jenkins, who are both currently enrolled at George Washington University. Stephen, a Political Science and Government Affairs major, spoke to the SEED DC youth about creating a brand for themselves, and even gave some advice for building a resume and applying for jobs. Jenkins, an Interior Architecture and Design major, also spoke to the SEED DC youth about entrepreneurship, as well as the importance of confidence and being proud of your work. During his presentation, Jenkins discussed his shoe design and customization business, which the youth really enjoyed.

After their presentations, Stephen, Jenkins and other presenters had the opportunity to play games with youth from SEED DC. They showed the kids the importance of creating a self image that encourages positivity and how this can go a long way in making lasting impressions in their community. Needless to say, after hearing these helpful tips, the young scholars of SEED DC are ready to tackle 'Unfinished Business' by applying these principles and life lessons.

Cecil County PAL Spreads Cheer through Giving



Members of Cecil County PAL and deputies from the Cecil County Sheriff's Office went to a local rehabilitation and care center to deliver holiday cheer

During the season of giving, Cecil County PAL, a DMV PAL affiliate, was busy spreading tons of cheer throughout the holiday season. In the month of December, Cecil County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) deputies, who serve as mentors for the Cecil County PAL program, joined their mentees in a trip to a local rehabilitation and care center in Elkton, MD. They were able to spend time with residents who may not be home for the holidays.

Despite cold weather outdoors, PAL members brought warmth and joy to residents of the rehabilitation and care center, as they gave out handmade cards. With the presentation of each gift, mentees were able to stop and have conversations with each resident, allowing them to get to know each other and create new friendships in the community. After paying a visit to individual rooms, the

group came together for additional conversation and caroling. Cecil County PAL hopes to continue to bring happiness to members of the community in 2019 and beyond.

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at Joseph Lee Recreation Center

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.) provides the opportunity to proudly stand beside our neighbors to recognize our law enforcement officers for their sacrifice, bravery and commitment to protecting our communities. On January 9, 2019 the PAL youth of the Joseph Lee Recreation Center in Baltimore, MD joined many other organizations across the country in L.E.A.D., by taking the time to recognize and thank police officers in their communities.



Youth at the Joseph Lee Recreation Center take time to thank Baltimore City Police Officer Cromer on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

The idea stemmed from an Arts and Culture Day that was already scheduled for January 9th at the Joseph Lee Recreation Center. The PAL program, which meets regularly on Wednesdays, wanted to do something specific to their program and because L.E.A.D. also fell on this date, they thought it would be the perfect opportunity to thank those who protect our communities, by including it in their Arts and Culture Day. In doing so, the PAL youth created handmade cards as a way to thank Officer Cromer, a Baltimore City Police Officer, who has been participating in PAL sessions since November.

During the session, several members of the PAL group put together a presentation as a way to demonstrate how grateful they are to have Officer Cromer as a part of their program. The youth were also able to present their cards to Officer Cromer and each thanked him for his dedication to their program and their community. Despite National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day only happening once a year, the PAL youth at the Joseph Lee Recreation Center are thankful everyday for Officer Cromer and all law enforcement officers for protecting our communities and building positive relationships between police officers and youth.



Special thanks to the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention for their continued support of the efforts of DMV PAL.

LOOKING TO START A DMV PAL CHAPTER IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Send an e-mail to info@dmvpal.org to learn more!

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