

2022 GRYD SUMMER NIGHT LIGHTS

SUMMARY REPORT | DECEMBER 2022

City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development (GRYD)

Prepared by Harder+Company Community Research



harder + co | community
research

BACKGROUND

In 2008, the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) created the Summer Night lights (SNL) program as a comprehensive response to recurring increases in crime during the summer months. SNL is a key component of the GRYD Comprehensive Strategy, which includes gang prevention, gang intervention, violence interruption, and community engagement programs. SNL provides safe, family-friendly programming like free meals, sports leagues, and fitness activities, to over 30 parks in communities at highest risk for gang violence during the summer when spikes of violence usually occur. Delivery of SNL programming is supported by a public-private partnership between the GRYD Office, the GRYD Foundation (a 501c3 non-profit formed in 2012 as an SNL funding and implementation partner), and several other City agencies and philanthropic supporters¹.

During the summer of 2022, after two years of adapted programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic², SNL returned to full in-person programming. Additionally, for the first time since 2012, GRYD expanded to 11 new sites in 2022, bringing the total to 43 recreation and parks locations across the City of Los Angeles. The expansion sites were made possible via funding from a CaliforniansForAll Youth Workforce Development grant from the Governor's Office, California Volunteers Office. The grant supports employment opportunities for youth and adults ages 15-30 years old.

GRYD Office Mission

GRYD's mission is to improve the overall health and well-being of families and communities through engagement and by preventing violence and promoting prosocial decisions and behaviors among young people and emerging adults. GRYD is also committed to supporting the overall health and well-being of GRYD provider staff and their capacity to deliver effective services

GRYD SNL is possible because of financial support from the following:

- Ballmer Group
- Goldman Sachs
- The Walt Disney Company
- Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
- UniHealth Foundation
- LA84 Foundation
- Weingart Foundation
- Johnny Carson Foundation
- City National Bank
- UniHealth

GRYD would also like to acknowledge their partners who make SNL a success:

- Recreation and Parks
- LAPD
- GRYD Foundation
- Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles
- Los Angeles Rams
- Angel City FC
- LA County Department of Public Health
- LA County Department of Mental Health



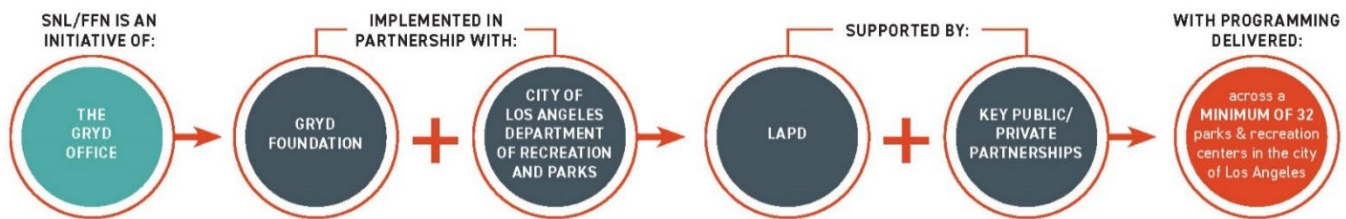
THIS REPORT

This report summarizes SNL 2022 data from three main sources: 1) nightly site activity logs entered by GRYD SNL site managers into an online database at the end of each individual SNL event (n=968), 2) an online SNL participant survey that was advertised at all SNL sites and was available to be taken by any SNL attendee over 12 years old (n=718) and 3) an online SNL Youth Squad survey that was sent out after SNL concluded to all 2022 SNL Youth Squad members (n=64).

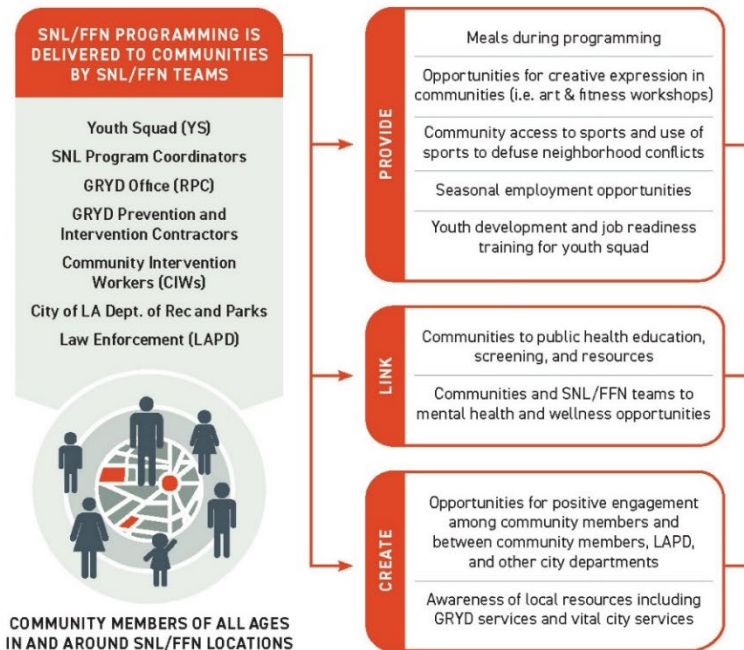
The data presented in this report are organized to align with the SNL and Fall Friday Nights (FFN) Logic Model, shown below. The SNL and FFN Logic Model articulates the relationships between the activities and resources SNL and FFN offer in the community (e.g. Provide, Link, Create) and the outputs, outcomes and impacts that GRYD intends for SNL and FFN to achieve.

SNL LOGIC MODEL

GRYD SUMMER NIGHT LIGHTS (SNL) & FALL FRIDAY NIGHTS (FFN)



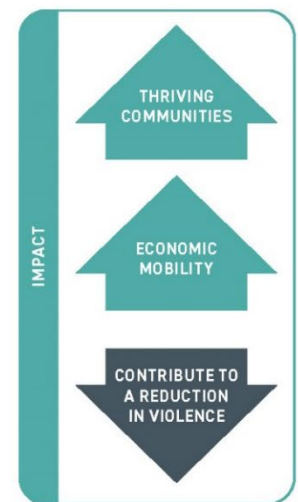
WHAT DOES SNL/FFN PROGRAMMING OFFER FOR THE COMMUNITY?



WHAT DOES SNL/FFN HOPE TO ACHIEVE?



WHAT DOES THE GRYD COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY HOPE TO ACHIEVE?



PROVIDE

SNL programming is designed to provide GRYD communities with access to a variety of safe, family-friendly activities throughout the summer. This includes hot meals, opportunities for creative expression, community access to sports and use of sports to defuse neighborhood conflicts, seasonal employment, and youth development and job readiness for Youth Squad members. During the summer of 2022, GRYD provided:

1,050

nights of SNL programming across
43 parks and recreation sites



179,775

hot meals for
community members

The 968 nightly site activity logs that were completed
by GRYD SNL site managers documented that at least

111,876

community members
attended SNL

3,900

activities were offered
during SNL events,
which included...



749

sports and fitness activities
including basketball, soccer,
Zumba, dodgeball and kickball



179

education
and literacy
activities



62

mental health
and wellness
activities



1,194

activities with arts and
crafts

1,252

games like board
games, puzzles and
loteria



464

other activities such as
raffles, movies and
jump houses

Employment

300+

GRYD hired over **300 seasonal employees**, including
intervention workers, site coordinators, and referees

203

Additionally, **203 youth were hired** as part
of the SNL Youth Squad

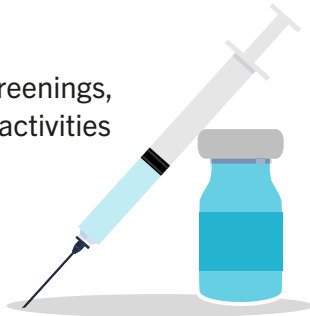


LINK

SNL offers opportunities to link community members to needed community resources. At SNL 2022, community members were offered linkages to public health education materials, screenings and other resources, such as COVID information and vaccines. Across all sites in 2022, SNL offered at least:

21

public health education, screenings, and resource activities



114

resource booths about GRYD services and other city services.

Nearly all (95%) SNL participants who completed a survey reported that they are **more aware of resources** available in their community after attending SNL.



CREATE

GRYD SNL seeks to create access to spaces where community members can have positive interactions with other community members, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and other city departments. In 2022, SNL participants were surveyed about their perceptions of safety during SNL and asked to reflect on whether SNL partners care about their communities.



88% of SNL participants reported seeing LAPD officers at the SNL event they attended. Of those,

93% reported feeling safe seeing LAPD at SNL

SNL participants reported feeling that SNL community partners care about their neighborhood

91%

reported that Department of Recreation and Parks cares about their neighborhood

90%

reported that the GRYD Office cares about their neighborhood

85%

reported that LAPD cares about their neighborhood



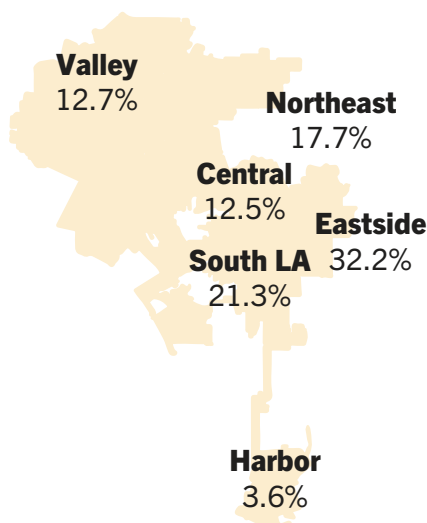
SNL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

As shown in the logic model on page 3, SNL hopes to achieve four main outcomes: increase access to safe and inclusive community spaces, foster healthy lifestyles by increasing the accessibility of prosocial activities for community members, increase a sense of community ownership, and improve community-LAPD relationships. Community members who attended an SNL event in 2022 were invited to take a short online survey that asked them about their experiences at SNL that day and assessed the degree to which SNL's outcomes are being realized. The survey was advertised at each SNL site and promoted by site staff. Participants were instructed that they had to be at least 12 years old to participate. A total of 718 community members across all sites took the SNL survey in 2022. Characteristics of survey respondents are described below.

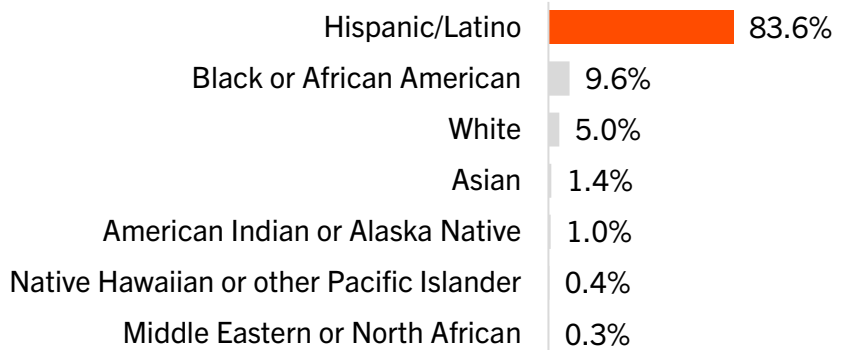
30
years

Survey respondents were between 12 and 89 years old, with an average age of 30

Surveys were completed by participants at SNL locations across the City of Los Angeles

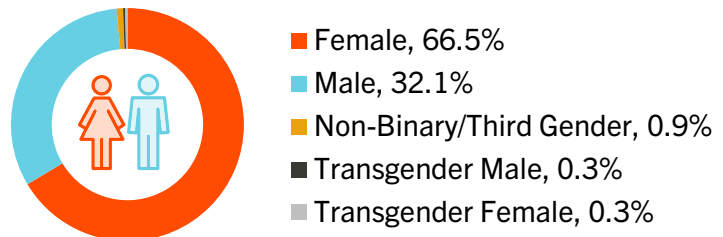


Most of the survey respondents identified as Hispanic/Latino

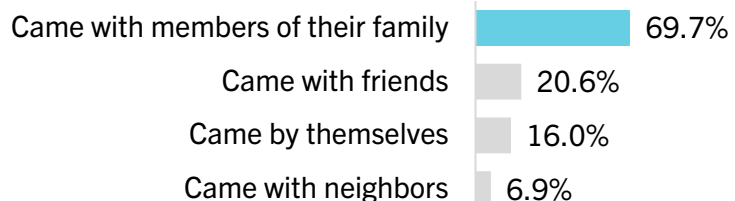


Note: Survey respondents could select multiple options. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

Two-thirds of survey respondents identified as female

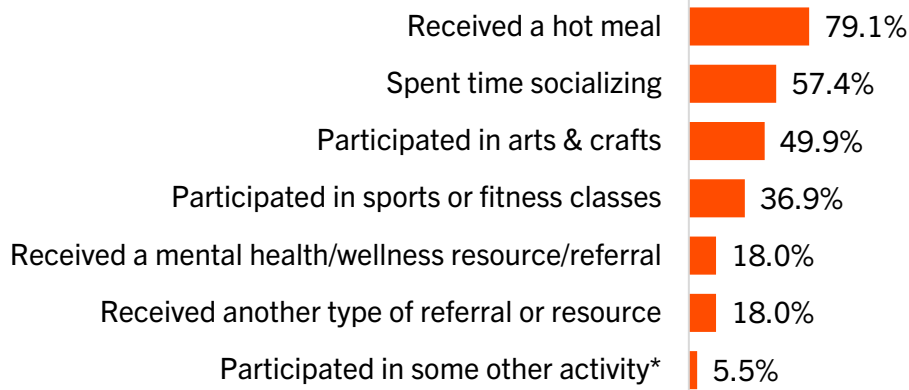


The largest percentage of attendees came to SNL with their family



Note: Survey respondents could select multiple options. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

Community members participated in a variety of activities while at SNL



*such as Loteria, a scavenger hunt, movie night or a backpack giveaway

Note: Survey respondents could select multiple options. Percentages may add up to more than 100.



SNL participants reported positive experiences at SNL events in 2022

98%

I feel **welcome** here at SNL today

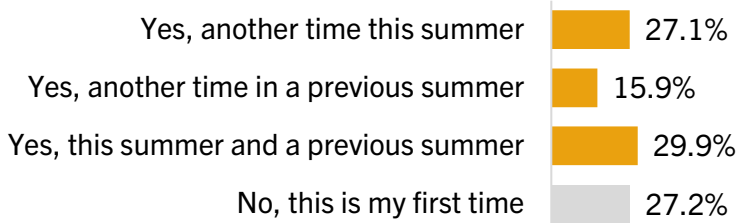
98%

I feel **like I belong** here at SNL today

92%

I see **other people I know** from my neighborhood here today

Most survey respondents had previous experience with GRYD SNL



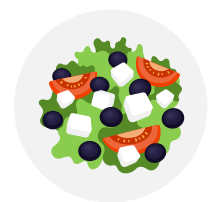
Food Security

86%

said that the **opportunity to receive a free, hot meal** was a big reason why they came to SNL today

39%

had **cut the size of their meals or skip meals** because there wasn't enough money or food in the last 30 days



Safety

SNL participants largely reported feeling safe at SNL events

99%

would come back to SNL again

98%

felt safe while at SNL today

84%

reported that the park is a safe place for them and their family when SNL is not going on there

43%

saw other people from their neighborhood at SNL who make them scared or uncomfortable

Reasons for Coming to SNL

Community members reported various reasons why they like coming to SNL. One community member wrote, “My children have a good time, they have fun, they do activities, and I keep them away from electronics for a bit.” From the open-ended survey comments, it appears that SNL appeals to families, especially those with children. Children can socialize with other children and participate in activities (i.e., sports, games, and arts and crafts) in a safe environment. One community member wrote:

“I like coming, because my kids love hanging out with their friends and making new friends and doing activities.”

fun nice
safe respectful
welcoming

In addition, community members enjoyed socializing with each other, seeing familiar people, and meeting new people at SNL. Words that they used to describe these interactions were “fun,” “safe,” “welcoming,” “respectful,” and “nice.”

SNL YOUTH SQUAD SURVEY

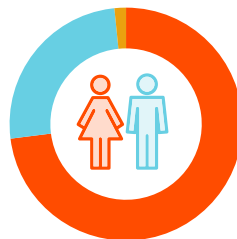
SNL reinvests in the community by hiring youth and adults from the neighborhoods it serves. Each summer hundreds of youth, called SNL Youth Squad members, are hired to work at SNL sites. Youth Squad members support outreach, service delivery and community engagement at each site, while earning money and receiving work readiness and financial literacy trainings.

At the conclusion of SNL 2022, Youth Squad members received an online survey designed to understand their experiences as a Youth Squad member, perceived benefits because of participating in Youth Squad, and to help GRYD understand what they can do to improve the experience of Youth Squad members in the future. Survey invitations were emailed to 175 of the 2022 SNL Youth Squad members and 64 responses were received.

19
years

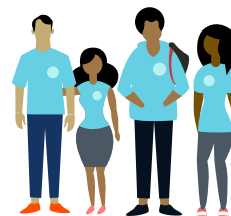
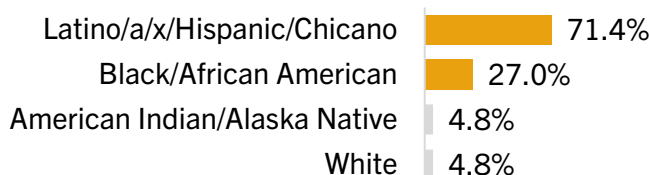
Youth Squad members were between 17 and 23 years old, with an average age of 19

Almost three-fourths of Youth Squad members identified as female



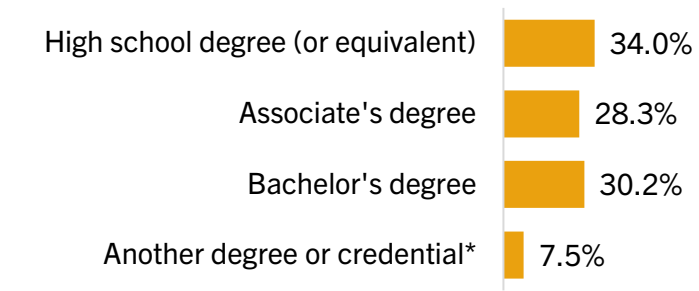
- Female, 73.0%
- Male, 25.4%
- Genderqueer/Non-Binary, 1.6%

Many of the Youth Squad members identified as either Latino/a/x/Hispanic/Chicano or Black/African American



Note: Survey respondents could select multiple options. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

Most Youth Squad members (83%) are currently students. Current students are pursuing a variety of degrees:



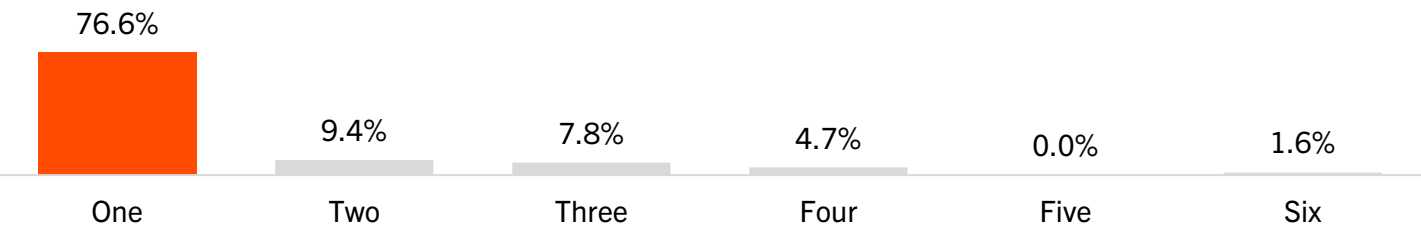
*e.g., Medical Assistant, CNA program or programming class



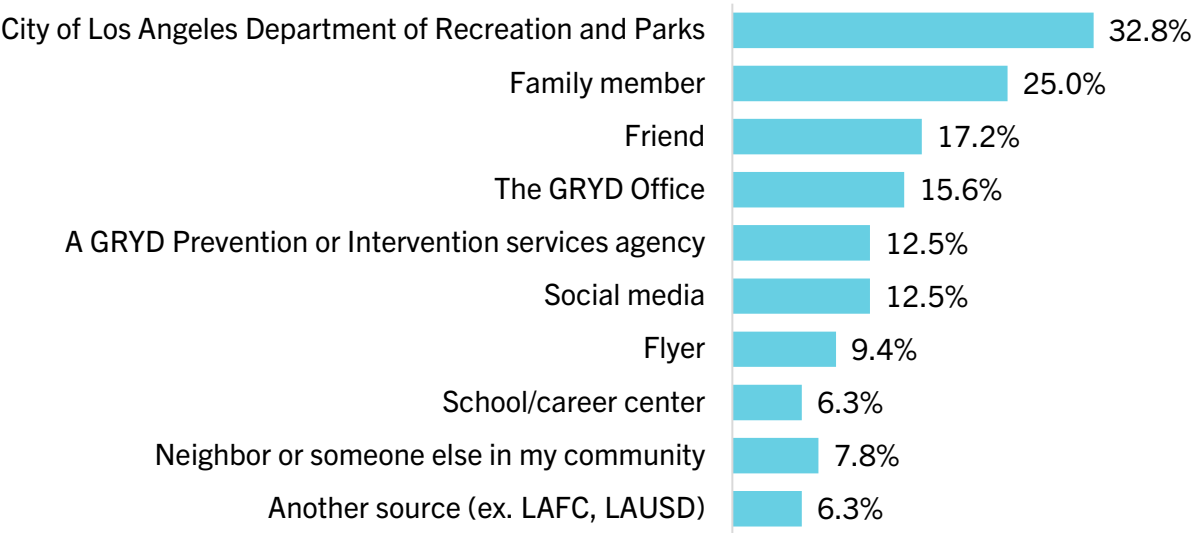
About a third (36%) of Youth Squad members had never been employed prior to being part of the Youth Squad

Youth Squad Engagement

Number of summers that members have been part of the Youth Squad

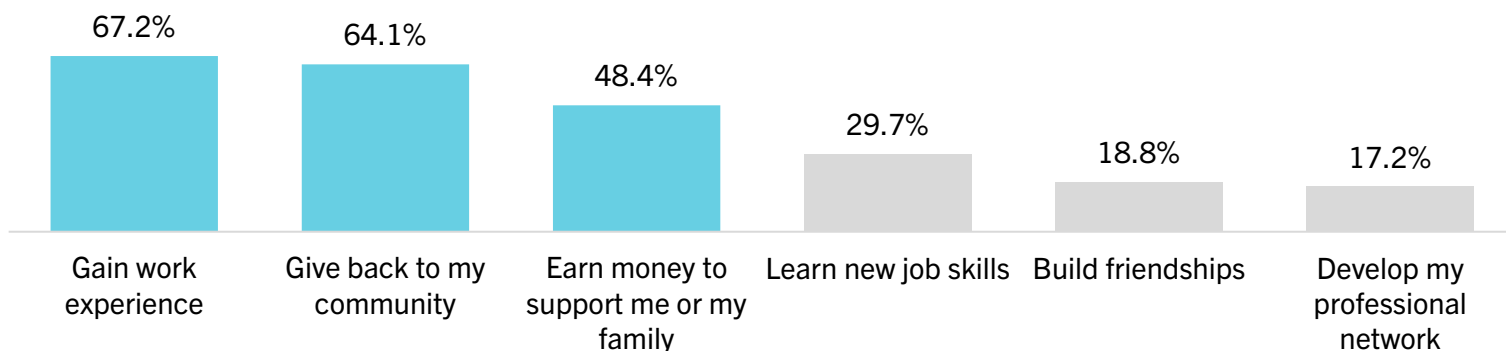


Youth Squad heard about the opportunity to join the Youth Squad through various mechanisms. The most common were the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, a family member, friend, and the GRYD Office.



Note: Survey respondents could select multiple options. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

The most common reasons to join the Youth Squad were to gain work experience, give back to the community, and earn money to support themselves or family.



Note: Survey respondents were asked to select their top three options. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

The skills that members used the most this summer were:



Communication

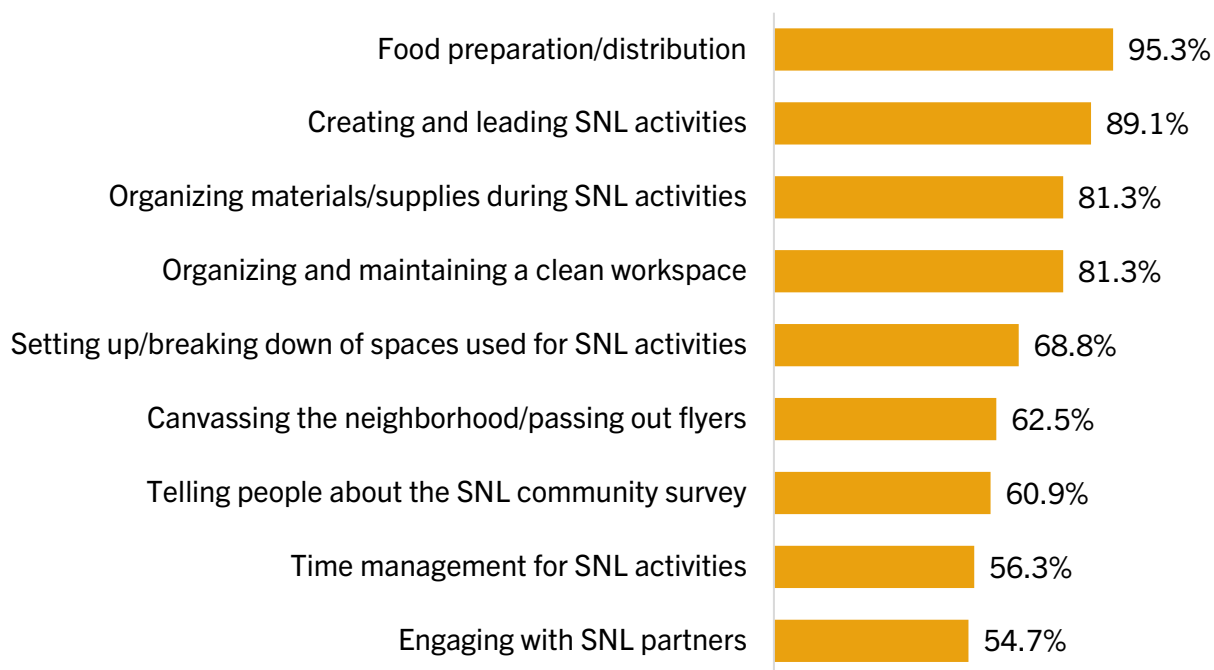


Leadership



Time Management

Members had various job responsibilities during the summer.

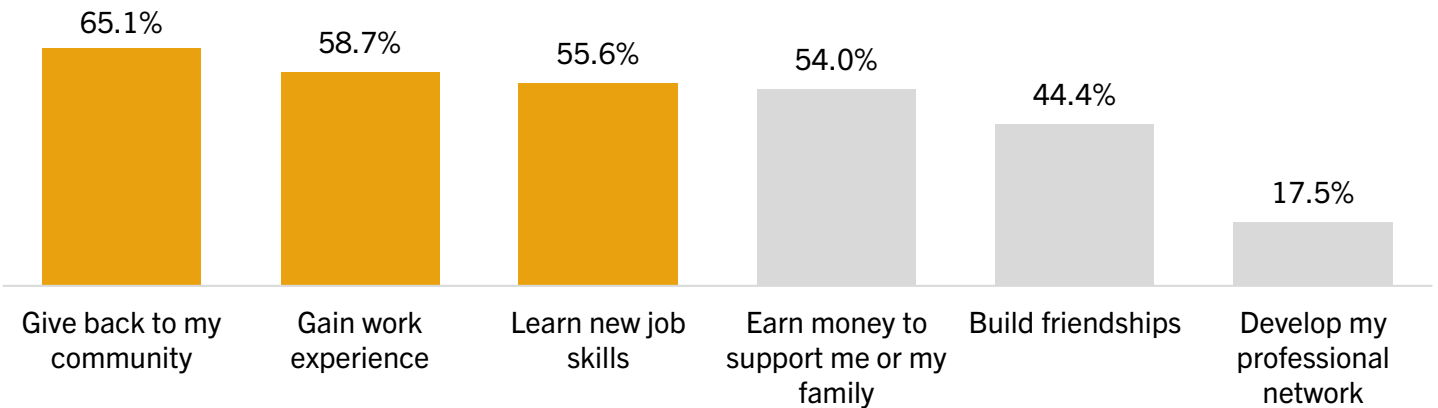


Note: Survey respondents could select multiple options. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

Youth Squad members were satisfied with their experience this summer.

- 92% understood what was expected of me as a member of the Youth Squad at SNL this summer
- 89% said participating in the SNL Youth Squad this summer was a good use of their time
- 81% felt valued as a member of the SNL Youth Squad this summer
- 78% said they were paid fairly for their work on the SNL Youth Squad this summer

The top three benefits of participating in Youth Squad this summer were giving back to the community, gaining work experience, and learning new job skills



Note: Survey respondents were asked to select their top three options. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

Satisfaction with Youth Squad

The online survey allowed SNL Youth Squad members to share what they enjoyed the most about their time on Youth Squad this summer. Responses included engaging with their community, building relationships with other members, and working to gain experience and earn pay. One Youth Squad member wrote, “Being able to go out and positively engage with such an amazing community gave me purpose to work at SNL; [also] seeing people happy to get along and kids smiling at the work my teammates and I were doing.” Members described being able to provide their community with “a safe and enriching environment” through their work with the SNL Youth Squad in 2022. In addition, many members also built relationships with their coworkers and shared how they were able to make friends and bond with other members. One member wrote, “The team I had was very supportive we communicated very well with each other.” Lastly, some of the members enjoyed the work itself, which allowed them to gain experience, learn new skills, and work at the parks in their community.

In the online survey, SNL Youth Squad members also provided feedback on aspects of the program that could be improved. Most of the feedback for improvement was around themes of communication, staffing, and resources. For example, some members said they would appreciate more communication between SNL Youth Squad members and upper management. Several SNL Youth Squad members also cited challenges with staffing shortages and needing more SNL Youth Squad members overall. One member wrote, “The Youth Squad should be fully staffed to avoid stressful situations.” Staffing shortages were a challenge for SNL in 2022, so this may not be surprising feedback. In addition, some SNL Youth Squad members cited needing more resources like supplies, food, and activities for the events.

“I loved meeting new people in the neighborhood, I made a lot of people that I can call friends.”

“I enjoyed working with employees who became friends of mine, making the summer job even more enjoyable because the workplace was nice.”

“There was a great working environment that taught me many valuable skills that I plan to use in the professional field. I was additionally given networking opportunities and resources to further progress in my career when I reached out for help.”

80% Most of the 2022 SNL Youth Squad members **would consider joining the SNL Youth Squad in the future**

For those who reported that they wouldn’t (6.3%) or were unsure (14.1%), they cited hesitation due to challenges with communication or management.



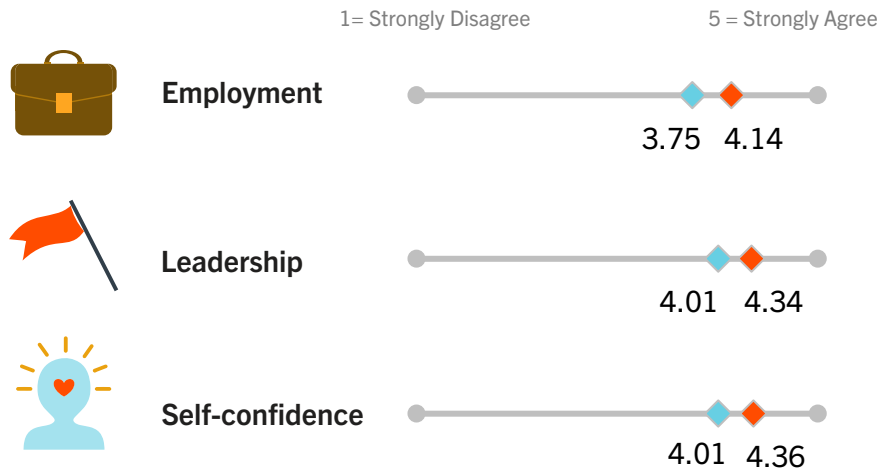


Reflection of Skills

SNL Youth Squad members were asked to reflect on how they saw themselves *before* joining the Youth Squad compared to how they see themselves *since* joining the Youth Squad. Responses to questions in this section of the survey were grouped to form three scales 1) employment, 2) social and leadership, and 3) well-being. Response options ranged from 1=Strongly disagree to 5=Strongly agree for each question. Employment-related questions asked Youth Squad members about their knowledge of how to seek employment, confidence in their ability to keep a job, access to resources and support to meet their employment goals, and whether they had clear plans for future employment. Social and leadership-related questions asked SNL Youth Squad members to rate their ability to solve personal conflicts, get along with people who are different than them, be a leader, and be a role model for their community. Self-confidence-related questions asked about ability to problem solve, confidence in their future, and awareness of their strengths.

Paired t-tests results indicated statistically significant increases on all scales, which means that since joining SNL Youth Squad, Youth Squad members felt more confident in their assessment of themselves on these three domains.

- Before Youth Squad
- After Youth Squad



KEY TAKEAWAYS

During the summer of 2022, GRYD SNL:

- Was implemented in **43 parks** across the City of Los Angeles, including 11 new sites this year
- Was attended by at least **111,876 people** across **1,050 nights** of programming
- Provided **179,775 hot meals** for community members
- Offered **749 sports and fitness activities**
- Offered **62 mental health and wellness activities**
- Hired more than **300 seasonal employees**, including more than 200 youth from SNL communities

Of those community members who attended SNL in 2022:

- **95%** reported feeling more aware of the resources in their community after attending SNL
- **93%** felt safe seeing LAPD at SNL
- **98%** felt welcome and a sense of belonging at SNL
- **73%** had been to SNL previously, either this summer or another summer
- **39%** had experienced food insecurity in the last month
- **86%** were drawn to SNL for the opportunity to receive a free, hot meal
- **99%** would come back to SNL again

Of those youth who were employed to work at SNL as part of the Youth Squad:

- **83%** were current students, pursuing high school or college degrees
- **33%** heard about the Youth Squad through the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, a family member (**25%**) or friend (**25%**)
- **89%** said participating in the SNL Youth Squad this summer was a good use of their time
- **81%** felt valued as a member of the SNL Youth Squad
- **78%** felt they were paid fairly for their work with the Youth Squad this summer
- **65%** reported that giving back to the community, gaining work experience (**59%**), and learning new job skills (**56%**) were top benefits of participating in SNL Youth Squad
- **80%** would consider joining the SNL Youth Squad in the future

REFERENCES

REFERENCES

1. Tremblay, A., Herz, D.C., Zachery, R., & Kraus, M. (2020). The Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development Comprehensive Strategy (GRYD Research Brief No. 1). Los Angeles, CA: California State University, Los Angeles
2. Harder & Company Community Research. (2021). 2021 GRYD Summer Night Lights Summary Report. Los Angeles, CA: Harder & Company Community Research.

APPENDIX

Exhibit 1. List of GRYD SNL Site Locations

In 2022, GRYD SNL was offered at the following locations across the City of Los Angeles:

SNL Site	Location
Algin	8800 S Hoover St, Los Angeles, CA 90044
Costello	3141 E Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90023
Cypress	2630 Pepper Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90065
Delano	15100 Erwin St, Van Nuys, CA 91411
El Sereno	4721 Klamath St, Los Angeles, CA 90032
Glassell Park	3650 Verdugo Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90065
Green Meadows	431 E 89th St, Los Angeles, CA 90003
Harvard	1535 W 62nd St, Los Angeles, CA 90047
Hazard	2230 Norfolk St, Los Angeles, CA 90033
Highland Park	6150 Piedmont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90042
Humphrey	12560 Filmore St, Pacoima, CA 91331
Imperial Courts	2250 E 114th St, Los Angeles, CA 90059
Jim Gilliam	4000 S La Brea Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90008
Lanark	21816 Lanark St, Canoga Park, CA 91304
Lemon Grove	4959 Lemon Grove Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029
MLK Jr.	3916 S Western Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90062
Montecito	4545 Homer St., Los Angeles, CA 90031
Mt. Carmel	830 W 70th St, Los Angeles, CA 90044
Nickerson Gardens	11251 Compton Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90059
Normandale	22400 Halldale Ave, Torrance, CA 90501
Normandie	1550 Normandie Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90006
Ramon Garcia	1016 S Fresno St, Los Angeles, CA 90023
Ross Snyder	1501 E 41st St, Los Angeles, CA 90011
Sepulveda	8825 Kester Ave, Panorama City, CA 91402
Slauson	5306 South Compton Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90011
South Park	345 E 51st St, Los Angeles, CA 90011
Sun Valley	8133 Vineland Ave, Sun Valley, CA 91352
Toberman	1725 Toberman St, Los Angeles, CA 90015
Valley Plaza	12240 Archwood St, North Hollywood, CA 91606
Van Ness	5720 2nd Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90043
Wilmington	325 N Neptune Ave, Wilmington, CA 90744
109th Street	1464 E 109th St, Los Angeles, CA 90059
Harbor City	24901 Frampton Ave., Harbor City, CA 90710
Rosecrans	840 W 149th St, Gardena, CA 90247
Saint Andrews	8701 S St Andrews Pl, Los Angeles, CA 90047
Evergreen	2844 E 2nd St, Los Angeles, CA 90033
David M. Gonzales	10943 Herrick Ave, Pacoima, CA 91331
Denker	1550 W 35th Pl, Los Angeles, CA 90018
Gilbert Lindsay	429 E 42nd Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90011
Rancho Cienega	5001 Obama Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90016
Lafayette	625 S La Fayette Park Pl, Los Angeles, CA 90057
Trinity	2415 Trinity St, Los Angeles, CA 90011
Wabash	2765 Wabash Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90033

Exhibit 2. Zip codes of Community Members (n=699)

Zip code	Frequency	Percentage
90001	1	0.1
90002	2	0.3
90003	8	1.1
90004	4	0.6
90005	1	0.1
90006	13	1.9
90007	9	1.3
90008	2	0.3
90011	62	8.9
90014	1	0.1
90015	9	1.3
90016	1	0.1
90017	3	0.4
90018	21	3.0
90020	2	0.3
90022	20	2.9
90023	93	13.3
90026	2	0.3
90029	18	2.6
90031	32	4.6
90032	40	5.7
90033	58	8.3
90034	1	0.1
90036	3	0.4
90037	2	0.3
90038	5	0.7
90039	1	0.1
90041	3	0.4
90042	23	3.3
90043	2	0.3
90044	22	3.1
90047	11	1.6
90057	10	1.4
90058	1	0.1
90059	12	1.7
90061	1	0.1
90062	2	0.3
90063	14	2.0
90065	47	6.7
90211	1	0.1
90220	1	0.1
90222	2	0.3
90241	1	0.1
90247	2	0.3
90248	1	0.1
90250	2	0.3
90270	2	0.3
90501	6	0.9
90515	1	0.1

Exhibit 2, continued

Zip code	Frequency	Percentage
90604	1	0.1
90710	12	1.7
90717	1	0.1
90744	6	0.9
90746	1	0.1
90933	1	0.1
91001	2	0.3
91103	1	0.1
91204	1	0.1
91214	3	0.4
91303	5	0.7
91304	7	1.0
91325	1	0.1
91331	7	1.0
91335	1	0.1
91343	2	0.3
91352	3	0.4
91401	1	0.1
91402	3	0.4
91405	9	1.3
91406	2	0.3
91411	7	1.0
91504	1	0.1
91601	2	0.3
91605	22	3.1
91606	12	1.7
91607	1	0.1
91776	1	0.1
91791	1	0.1
93551	1	0.1

Exhibit 3. Zip code of Youth Squad Members (n=62)

Zip Code	Frequency	Percentage
90002	1	1.6
90003	2	3.2
90004	1	1.6
90006	2	3.2
90007	1	1.6
90008	4	6.5
90011	3	4.8
90015	1	1.6
90018	3	4.8
90019	1	1.6
90022	1	1.6
90023	3	4.8
90026	1	1.6
90029	1	1.6
90031	2	3.2
90032	2	3.2
90033	1	1.6
90035	1	1.6
90038	1	1.6
90044	2	3.2
90057	2	3.2
90058	1	1.6
90059	1	1.6
90062	1	1.6
90065	3	4.8
90222	1	1.6
90255	1	1.6
90301	1	1.6
90501	1	1.6
90660	1	1.6
90731	1	1.6
90744	5	8.1
91303	2	3.2
91343	1	1.6
91404	1	1.6
91411	1	1.6
91505	1	1.6
91607	1	1.6
91775	1	1.6
95616	1	1.6