

100 BEST COMMUNITIES

California

City of Brentwood, CA

Brentwood is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of its efforts to reduce youth violence. At the middle school level, every student participates in the R.A.V.E Program (Reducing Adolescent Violence Education). This program is designed to expand the knowledge of middle school aged children to better deal with hostile situations both at school and at home. Because of this program, violent acts at middle schools have been reduced by 36%.

For additional information, please contact:

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City of Irvine, CA

Irvine is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of its Youth-Action-Team (YAT), which focuses on developing leadership skills at the middle and high school levels. Student representatives from each of the city's middle school and high school campuses act as the driving force behind Irvine's teen programming. This year, the YAT had over 400 student representatives, who accumulated over 7,000 volunteer hours, and offered more than 300 activities, serving more than 15,000 participants.

For additional information, please contact:

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City of Long Beach, CA

Long Beach is one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People, in part, because of its wide-ranging commitment to its children. The city operates its own health department, where multiple services not normally available within a community are localized for youth and their families. Its gold medal-winning Department of Parks and Recreation provides healthy recreational choices for youth, children and their families. Youth are also deeply involved in the city's efforts. It received the 2006 Grand Prize for Engaging Youth in City Government from the League of California Cities.

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City of Santa Clarita, CA

Santa Clarita is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of The Anti-Gang Task Force addresses youth employment initiatives through three programs. The Job Skills Program provides young people, 18-25 years old, the opportunity to gain work experience through a six-month paid program working in the City's Parks Division. The Summer Youth and Year Round Youth Employment Programs provide economically or educationally disadvantaged youth (14-18 years old) an opportunity to gain work experience through a guided mentor program utilizing various employers throughout Santa Clarita. The Santa Clarita Valley School and Business Alliance connects schools with businesses and community organizations. They facilitate integrated course curriculum between the high schools, community colleges and career pathways.

For additional information, please contact:

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Georgetown Divide, CA

The Georgetown Divide is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of The Georgetown Ready by 21 Coalition, which includes school and community leaders; community organizations (i.e. Rotary, churches); and other key organizations outside of the area that support our youth and parents. The Coalition's work to date includes: a kindergarten handbook, toddler literacy programs, outreach at community events, youth trained as evaluators, social marketing plans to address binge drinking, and several successful grant application.

For additional information, please contact:

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San Ramon, CA

San Ramon is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of its "Community and Youth Resource" program, which works with at-risk youth as a crime prevention program. Because many of the identified traits that bring youth to the program involve poor school performance (GPA under 2.0, truancy, poor attendance), the program focuses on changing those behaviors and works to assure that needed resources are available for identified young people.

For additional information, please contact:

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Solano County, CA

Solano County is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People* because of the caring community and collaboration among schools, cities, businesses and county agencies to support our children and youth. The Solano County Office of Education submitted the application after assembling a team of educators, county agencies, such as Children's Network and Health and Social Services, community members and students working in partnership to raise awareness of the resources, programs, training and opportunities available to our county's youth as well as the physical, civic and education needs of these children. With all entities working together, Solano County has a strong network to help families access services for the health, safety and well-being of the county's children.

For additional information, please contact:

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