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NEWS RELEASE



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Approved: BN
Date: August 17, 2026
Release No.: 26-113

Camp HOPE Gives Child Victims of Crime a Week of Healing, Friendship & Hope

VENTURA, Calif. – Sixty children from across Ventura County recently gathered at Camp Daley in Calabasas for six days of Camp HOPE, a program designed to give child victims of crime an opportunity to heal, build friendships, and simply be kids.



This year's camp included 20 children ages 7 to 11 and 40 youth ages 12 to 17. Forty-eight campers were returning participants, demonstrating the lasting connection many children have with the program.

"Visiting Camp HOPE is a powerful reminder that every single child, no matter their life experiences, deserves a space to feel safe, feel loved, and find connection," said Ventura County Supervisor Vianey Lopez (District Five). "For children who have experienced adversity,

these spaces of healing and connection are especially important. I appreciated the opportunity to join the youth that have been connected through the Family Justice Center and sit in on one of their meaningful sessions. Every young person deserves to know that their past experiences do not define their future. We must continue efforts like the Family Justice Center and Camp HOPE to ensure these young people are not left behind."



The camp was staffed by 30 counselors, 11 District Attorney's Office employees and three community volunteers. Victim advocates, prosecutors and investigators served alongside the counselors, with an increased number of male adult staff this year to provide additional positive male role models for campers.

Medical care was provided through a new partnership with Dr. Anthony Walls and his nonprofit, Healthcare for Justice, along with the Ventura County Health Care Agency. Dr. Walls and other physicians provided medical support throughout the week.

“Camp HOPE gives children who have experienced trauma the opportunity to laugh, make friends and create positive memories in a safe and supportive environment,” said Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. “It is incredibly rewarding to see so many campers return year after year. We are proud to give these young people a place where they can feel supported, have fun and look toward a hopeful future.”

The entire Camp HOPE experience is provided free of charge through a combination of grant funding and the generous support of the Ventura County Family Justice Center Foundation and its donors.

The District Attorney’s Office thanks the Foundation, its donors, Healthcare for Justice, Dr. Walls, the Ventura County Health Care Agency, counselors, volunteers and everyone who helped make this year’s Camp HOPE possible.

