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NEWS RELEASE

04 / 27 / 2023

City Public Libraries Set to Celebrate Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros

Children's Festival Set to Give Thousands of Books

EL PASO, Texas — The El Paso Public Libraries and the Parks and Recreation Department invite the community to Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros, presented by the Great Khalid Foundation, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 29 at Washington Park.

The FREE, family-friendly festival that celebrates children literacy and the outdoors is celebrating 27 years in the community. Children of all ages will be able to select free books to take home.

"Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros is a signature event for the Public Libraries because it emphasizes the importance of literacy for all children of all backgrounds," said El Paso Public Libraries Director Norma Martinez. "Everyone is invited to celebrate our children, literacy and the outdoors."

After four years of being held at different locations, Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros returns to Washington Park. Besides free books, children can participate in a variety of activities from more than 50 organizations. The fun includes a stage with live entertainment, lucha libre, jumping balloons, superheroes and more!

Free parking will be available at the El Paso County Coliseum. Sun Metro will also be providing free bus rides throughout the day.

Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros is an effort to keep kids engaged in reading and healthy activities. Studies show that children who read and comprehend well, do better in school and in life. Children who pick out their own books are more likely to read and use the books they choose.

About Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros

The event started in 1997 at the behest of El Paso-born author and educator, Pat Mora, who called on schools, libraries, and other organizations around the country to celebrate Children's Day with an emphasis on reading and learning. The El Paso Public Libraries and Parks and Recreation answered the call by organizing a joint event at the Armijo Library and Recreation Center in 1997. To date, the event has given away more than 350,000 books to children in the El Paso area.

Special thanks to sponsors: The Great Khalid Foundation, Raiz Federal Credit Union, the El Paso Children's Hospital and Rasing Cane's.

For more information about Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros or the El Paso Public Library visit www.ElPasoLibrary.org.

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