

Supportive Agencies

- Athens-Clarke County Unified Government
- Athens-Clarke County Police Department
- Athens-Clarke County Transit System
- Arts & Environmental Education Department
- Athens-Clarke County Health Department
- Athens-Clarke County Housing Authority
- Athens-Clarke County Business Merchants
- Junior League of Athens, Inc.
- The University of Georgia
- State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Zeta Beta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

FACTS ON "GRAND SLAM"

- "Grand Slam" was originated in Athens, Georgia during the summer of 1990.
- Average attendance per night 1990 (950 participants), 1994 (1100 participants).
- Reduction in crime among youths 65% to 75% in 1990.
- 1990 operating budget was \$20,000.
- Athens-Clarke County Government provides initial cost for employees, transportation, police and recreational services.
- The program is currently being duplicated by some cities throughout the southeast region of the United States.
- "Grand Slam" has been recognized by several national organizations, including the National Association of Counties for innovative programming.

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Athens-Clarke County Recreation & Parks Department



Youth Crime Prevention Program

About "Grand Slam"

"Grand Slam" was started as a leisure program to offer a variety of recreational and educational activities for pre-teen and teenage youths. The Summer Program is operated by the Athens-Clarke County Recreation and Parks Department from 7:00pm until 11:30pm on the weekends at Bishop Park, the largest recreational facility in the City.

A staff consisting of college students, school teachers, and local citizens are hired each summer to conduct the majority of the activities.

At the beginning of each evening program an assembly session is held to allow a speaker selected from organizations or agencies to talk with students about the importance of obtaining a good education, saying no to drugs and crime, and staying in school.

Members of the Police Department and educators agree that when youths have something constructive and positive to do they are less likely to engage in unlawful activities.

"Grand Slam" is supported by many local agencies who provide various services for the Program, such as transportation, police, radio, tv, and newspaper publicity. Volunteers offer some supervision, leadership and instruction for various recreational and educational activities.

History Of "Grand Slam"

"Grand Slam" was initiated during the summer of 1990 as a result of an increase in criminal activities among youths who lived in the Athens Community. The Athens-Clarke County Recreation and Parks Department joined with other local organizations and groups to address this problem by developing recreational and educational activities for youths.

The City of Athens and The Athens Housing Authority agreed to donate \$5,000 each to fund the Program. Later, the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources pledged \$10,000, (Since that time the Program has been put into the City's general budget.)

The Recreation and Parks Department provided the staff to operate "Grand Slam" from 7:00pm until 11:30pm on Friday and Saturday evenings. This is a time when most criminal activities usually occur.

"Grand Slam" participants consisted of middle and high school age youths who were offered a variety of recreational and educational activities. At the conclusion of summer 1990, the average attendance for the Program exceeded 900 youths per night.

From 1990 to the present time, there has been no recording of major fights, drug incidents or weapons at the Program, thus bringing potential crime to an all time low during the summer months.

Youth Crime Prevention Program

In 1989, the Athens Police Department recorded an increasing number of crimes involving juveniles who were engaging in burglaries, assaults, thefts, and gang related fights.

"Grand Slam" was established in June 1990 under the leadership of the staff of the Athens Recreation and Parks Department. During the first weekend that "Grand Slam" was held, hundreds of youths visited Bishop Park to get a first hand view of the activities that would be available for pre-teens and teenagers.

Crime among youths immediately decreased drastically in every part of the city. Youth participation in "Grand Slam" increased by the hundreds. The crime rate involving teens dropped 65% to 75% at the end of the first summer.

Some of the activities included in "Grand Slam" are: tennis, golf, swimming, video games, tee-ball, softball, flag football, volleyball, warball, dodgeball, double-dutch, talent shows, gymnastics, and tumbling, dance classes, self-esteem classes, health education programs, drug prevention programs, motivational speakers, group talks and special activities.

"Grand Slam" provides a window of opportunities for individuals, organizations, and agencies to reach youths that they normally would not be able to reach or contact.