## **PRSPECT**



RESPECT Project is a character building and mentoring program designed for teenage youth. Developed in 2014 by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, the program aims to reduce juvenile delinquency, lower recidivism, and offer alternatives to street gangs, substance abuse, and a life trapped in the criminal justice system. During a 20-session introductory course over 10 weeks, participants are introduced to law enforcement officials and community members in the hopes that each student can form authentic relationships with positive role models.

The 10-week course includes decision-making classes, athletics, field trips, and student-led discussions. Special guest speakers, including those with lived experience in the criminal justice system, are frequently invited to share their life stories and offer valuable advice to the group. In addition to weekly classes and mentoring, partners such as the San Diego County Probation Department, North County Lifeline, local businesses, and faith-based organizations supplement the program and further enrich the students' personal lives.

Upon successful completion, graduates possess the necessary skills to make better decisions and improve the quality of life for their families and communities. Graduates are encouraged to return as student leaders and maintain a relationship with RESPECT Project staff. In addition to support obtained during group sessions, graduates can receive assistance including tutoring, employment preparation, counseling, and referrals to outside organizations. Produce positive relationships between law enforcement and youth to forge safer homes, schools, and communities

## VISION

Identify high-risk youth and offer them tangible opportunities for lifelong success outside the justice system.

## VALUES

- **R** ESPONSIBILITY
- **E** MPATHY
- S ERVICE
- **P** ERSEVERANCE
- **E** DUCATION
- C OURAGE

## **T** RUSTWORTHINESS



