



## Recognizing City Employees: Recreation Specialist Rafael Felix

The City of Chula Vista Parks and Recreation Department is proud to name Rafael Felix as the inaugural recipient of its new Leader of the Season award, for his outstanding dedication, hard work, and contributions to the department and community. The award, launched in November, identifies and celebrates part-time recreation staff going above and beyond for the community.



Felix began with Parks and Recreation as a volunteer referee at the age of 16. As he became more involved in serving his community, Rafael set his sights on joining the City's Recreation staff and secured work as a Recreation Aide. Felix's passion for recreation and the well-being of the community have fueled his success as a Recreation Leader and most recently as a Recreation Specialist.

In the last seven years, Felix has performed a wide variety of duties, including managing day camps and classes, coordinating league game schedules, and ensuring the smooth operation of programs at Parkway Community Center.

Felix has grown both professionally and personally by building strong relationships with other City staff members and community members who he serves. One of his favorite parts of the job is being able to work on youth sports. He explained that the youth sports community is filled with volunteers who share his love for sports and recreation, which makes the experience for participants a whole lot better.

"I really enjoy anything sports related with kids," he said. "I feel like it's a good way for them to learn basic life skills like teamwork and communication. I really enjoy my time here."

Felix expressed his gratitude for Recreation Supervisor III Christy Vasquez, who has been mentoring him by providing opportunities to further develop his leadership and technical skills. Felix has become more involved in supporting adult athletics programming during a critical time, and his colleagues thank him for his dedication.

"Rafael's impact goes beyond the day-to-day tasks as he inspires his colleagues and sets a standard of excellence for all part-time employees," Vasquez said. "His leadership and dedication make him a truly deserving recipient of this award."