The USTA Southern New Mexico District and LCTPA Volunteers Team Up with the Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Youth Services Team

What better way to introduce tennis to Las Cruces youth—kindergarten through 5th grade—than by partnering with the Parks & Recreation Department's summer camp and after-school programs?

On Wednesday, May 27, more than 50 summer program facilitators and staff members gathered at the Meerscheidt Recreation Center for an introductory tennis training session led by USTA Southern New Mexico and LCTPA volunteers. The session was designed to equip staff with the tools and confidence to bring fun, age-appropriate tennis activities to youth ages 5–12.

Participants learned how to set up agility and movement stations, practiced using foam, red, and orange balls for games and rally play, and worked with pop-up nets and junior racquets to create engaging, beginner-friendly environments.

By the end of the training, facilitators had a stronger understanding of how tennis supports youth health and wellness, along with practical best practices they can apply throughout the summer.

This year, the Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Department will host Summer Camps at three elementary school sites, serving more than 300 young participants. USTA SNM and local volunteers will join the camps during "World of Sports" week—bringing tennis to even more kids across the community.