



TENNIS FOR EVERYONE

# Youth Tennis Camp 2019

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## Tiny Racquets!!

by Marv King

Whoop! Whoop! Miss! Chase ball!  
(Laughter)...Yes these are the sounds of another Youth Tennis Camp!

The Ventura Tennis Club (VTC) once again sponsored a two-week tennis camp for kids 6-16. Hosted at Buena High School the program kicked off on June 24<sup>th</sup> and ended July 5<sup>th</sup>. Thirty youngsters spent 3 hours a day learning tennis skills– how to grip the racket, position your feet, move, swing and hit!

Working with a group of nearly a third “true” beginners, the VTC coaches accepted the challenge. The program coordinator & VTC President Marv King was able to enlist a great corps of volunteers to coach the upstarts, including: Jim Whitney, former VTC President, Karen Proffitt, Lester Tong and Patti Yoshida to assist him. Nancy Thomsen coordinated the registrations

The program started in 2013 and has grown ever since! The summer camp acts as a “starter” program to introduce kids to the game. The cost is kept low - \$13/week per student. As King says, “the cost is minimal compared to private lessons so it does not become a barrier to participants.”

“The really fun part is working with the 6-8 year olds who may be playing organized tennis for the first time!” says Marv.

The Ventura Tennis Club (VTC) has been a mainstay in Camino Real Park and established over 35 years ago to “further enjoyment of the game of tennis.” Though membership is publicly open to adults, the tennis club started a youth camp and play days in an effort to fulfill its responsibilities as a Community Tennis Organization (CTO). Many tennis clubs gain the CTO distinction by sponsoring a wide variety of programs that support the local community gaining a better understanding and increasing participation in tennis.

Fridays final session was all smiles as the kids played one of their favorite games – “Clean Your Room” – and received some going away gifts. Many received free rackets!

The summer youth camp was launched in conjunction with the LA84 Youth tennis initiative. The program now has joined the USTA Net Generation initiative. Ultimately, these young tennis players are encouraged to continue in tennis – ‘the sport for life.’



### GameTime !

A group lines up for some drills covering the whole court and getting ready to show what they learned



### Storytime?

Tennis Coach Karen Proffitt took a “time out” to read a story – about Tennis to a captive audience!