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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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Celebrate Dia de los Niños, Dia de los Libros at Washington Park

Public Libraries to Give Away Thousands of Books to Children

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Public Libraries and Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with El Paso Children’s Hospital, invite the community to the 29th Annual Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday April 26, at Washington Park, 200 Washington Street.

The family-friendly event is free and open to the public, with complimentary parking available at the El Paso County Coliseum. **The celebration begins with a walking parade at 9 a.m. starting at Orchard Avenue and Shelter Place, leading to Washington Park for the official kickoff.** City leaders and event sponsors will be on hand to welcome attendees.

As part of the festivities, the El Paso Public Library will give away more than 16,000 new books to children who attend. Families can also enjoy a wide range of free activities, including jumping balloons, a Parks and Recreation Fun Zone, live music and performances, dozens of games and informational booths, giveaways, mascots, food trucks, and more.

“It is very important for children to have books in the home because books inspire children to read more which, in turn, helps them develop skills that will help them succeed in school and in life,” said El Paso Public Libraries Director Norma Martinez. “That’s why we want to make sure that each child who attends gets to take home at least one free book.”

To help families attend the celebration, Sun Metro is offering free rides for children 18 years old and younger. Visitors are encouraged to bring water, hats, sunscreen, chairs, tote bags, snacks, carts, umbrellas, or anything else needed to stay cool and comfortable throughout the day.

Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros is one of El Paso’s most successful free family events that draws thousands of visitors. For more information Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros, visit the El Paso Public Libraries at www.ElPasoLibrary.org.

About Dia de los Niños, Dia de los Libros

Dia de los Niños, Dia de los Libros is an annual event organized by the El Paso Public Libraries and the Parks and Recreation Department. The event began in 1997 as an effort to keep children engaged in reading and healthy activities. El Paso born author and educator, Pat Mora, first proposed the idea of celebrating children and books much like they do in Latin-American countries. She wrote an open letter to teachers and librarians across the country asking them to join in the celebrations. Since then, thousands of communities across the country have hosted “Día” celebrations intent on honoring children and reading.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media Contact: Rick Isaías
Strategic Communications
isaiasra@elpasotexas.gov
(O): 915.212.1077
(M): 915.355.6611