



Perris Press Release

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Annual Snow Day Brings Sun & Snow for Perris Kids

Sun, shorts, t-shirts and snow.

That was the combination enjoyed by many of the hundreds of Perris children who came to Foss Field Park Saturday to take part in the annual Snow Day festivities. Warm temperatures and blue skies gave the youngsters a chance to dress like summer while playing like it was winter.

Snow Day is always hugely popular with children and their parents, many who are native Californians who almost never get to snow up close.

They tossed snowballs, made snow angels (those who wore gloves and winter clothing) and took toboggan rides down a man-made hill. A couple even munched the crunchy snow.

About 400 youngsters took part in Snow Day 2012. Their parents expressed thanks to City officials for making it possible to bring winter fun to Southern California.

"We really appreciate what the City does for us," said Zech Cozine, 23, who came to Snow Day with his wife, Kiara, and sons, Kaedin, 3, and Tristan, 15 months. "The kids have only seen snow on television. This gives them a chance to see what every kid desires to see--snow in California. I thank the City for that."

Lisette MacDonald, 30, said bringing snow to Perris means she won't have to take her family to the mountains. She brought her two sons, Ezekiel, 4, and Kendrick, 1.

"I think it's great the City cares enough about its residents to have entertaining activities like this," MacDonald said. "It gives the kids something to look forward to. It really does make a difference."

Snow Day preparations actually begin hours before the first visitors arrive. City Public Works crews take bales of hay and create a play area for kids. Early Saturday morning, a truck loaded with 300-pound blocks of ice arrived. Workers pushed the ice blocks into a shredding machine, which turned the solid ice into fine powdery snow. The 21-tons of ice was enough to create a play area several inches deep and a gentle hill to slide down.

Ben Torres expressed the sentiments of many parents when he said the reason he came to Snow Day was to see his children smile as they got a rare chance to see, touch, feel and throw snow. He came to Foss Park with his children, Angel Garcia, 10, and Annabel, 7.

"The kids get excited because of the snow," he said. "I enjoy watching the kids play in the snow. It's fun to see the kids happy."

Isela Salgado, 33, said she brought her two children—Nyisis, 6, and Ixchel, 5—for the first time to Snow Day. She said the City of Perris provides a wide assortment of community activities, parades, Spring Egg Hunt, Strut Your Mutt and Breakfast With Santa.

"I've never lived in a city with so many services," Salgado said. "It's great to get out and watch the kids play and see their happy faces."

Claudia Tellez, 33, was just one of scores of parents who came to Snow Day camera in hand to capture the fun and frolicking forever. She brought her three children, Mia, 5; Maya, 3, and Andrew, 12. When the trio took a toboggan ride or tossed snowballs, she was there camera in hand.

"We came out last year and the kids had a blast," she said. "This year was even better. The kids have been really excited about it. We live in a great City that offers so many activities for our children."



Ben Torres came to Snow Day 2012 with his two daughters, Angel Garcia, 10, and Annabel, 5.



A short-sleeve wearing youngster slides down a man-made hill created for Snow Day.



This little girl makes a snow angel.



Using an ice shredder, workers created a fine powdery snow that proved ideal for snow-seeking youngsters.