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Photo Contest Winners Capture Municipal Park Perks



"Parks Make Life Better" photo contest winners Ashley Lipton and her daughter, Katelyn Mason, hold their winning entries in the competition sponsored by the City of Perris.

The City of Perris this week announced the winners in a photo contest aimed at showing how municipal parks make life better.

Perris mom Ashley Lipton, her daughter, Katelyn Mason and City Recreation Coordinator Rachel Pinedo captured honors in the inaugural photo contest.

The trio received certificates from the City and will have their winning pictures submitted in the annual photo contest at the Southern California Fair, which begins Oct. 1.

Lipton, who works at the Veterans Administration hospital in Loma Linda, describes herself as an avid amateur photographer who always keeps her cellphone handy. She snagged a photo of Katelyn holding a ladybug in her hand and earned a second win by photographing her 8-year-old daughter moments after waking up from napping on the lawn at Patriot Park.

Katelyn won for a picture she took of the family turtle, Leonardo, crawling up her mom's leg at Patriot Park. Pinedo's winning entry featured her daughter, Revelry, 5, as she frolicked in the water at Mercado Park.



Winners in the "Parks Make Life Better" photo competition were (left to right) Katelyn Mason, Ashley Lipton and Perris Recreation Coordinator Rachel Pinedo, pictured with daughters, Garnett, 3, and Revelry, 5.

Recreation Coordinator Juan Rodriguez publicized and coordinated the photo contest. Housing Authority Project Manager Rebecca Miranda was responsible for getting the entries judged, which was completed by volunteers from the Community Development Committee.

"They were thrilled to be part of this project," Miranda said.

Rodriguez said the City kicked off the "Parks Make Life Better" contest to give residents the chance to show in images how they take advantage of parks through exercise classes, community event and family recreation time.

"We're pleased with the results of the initial contest," Rodriguez said. "We hope to make this an annual event."

Lipton said she appreciates the City's large and varied parks and recreation programs. Her children have taken part in soccer, t-ball and basketball programs sponsored by the City and also have attended the annual Spring Egg Hunt and Breakfast with Santa.

"Perris does a lot of things to get residents to become part of the community," she said.

As for her winning entries, Lipton said she knew she had captured good images.

"I feel special when I can take a good picture with my kids," she said. "Every picture is a memory."

Pinedo said she took her daughter to Mercado Park the first day this summer that the water flowed. She said she didn't stage the picture as Revelry grinned and ran under the park's sprinklers.

"She was having a great time and I snapped the pictures at just the right time," Pinedo said.



Perris resident Revelry Pinedo, 5, runs through Mercado Park in a similar manner as the one that won her mom, Perris Recreation Rachel Pinedo, honors in the "Parks Make Life Better" photo contest sponsored by City of Perris.

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