



ASTRA

A COMMUNITY SERVICE CLUB
ERNEST RIGHETTI HIGH SCHOOL

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Who are We?

ASTRA IS...

- A volunteer organization for young people, sponsored by Altrusa of the Central Coast.
- An opportunity to use your time and talent to enrich the lives of others.
- Working with other local civic and volunteer groups on service projects of lasting benefit.



- Interaction with the business, professional and civic leaders who are members of the sponsoring Altrusa Club.
- A unique opportunity to form lasting friendships and share ideas, goals and aspirations with others in your peer group.

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About Us

ASTRA - an acronym formed from...

A = Ability To know that all of us have special talents to share with others.

S = Service To improve the lives of those less fortunate in the community.

T = Training To develop leadership ability and potential.

R = Responsibility To learn to accept obligations and know the satisfaction of carrying projects through to a successful conclusion.

A = Achievement To experience success; to know that a group can accomplish so much more than any one individual.

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About Us

Ernest Righetti's ASTRA Club is for students of all grade levels and backgrounds. Our focus is to give back to our community and promote literacy. Meetings are held twice a month where members are informed about different types of events and volunteer opportunities in the community, and on campus. We are over a hundred members and have grown tremendously over the past few years. We use platforms such as Instagram and Remind to communicate and inform our members about events and upcoming meetings.

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

Data

- The 23-24 school year we hosted 18 meetings to over 156 members.
- This school year 215 students have attended at least 1 ASTRA meeting!
- Last year our members volunteered 1,594.25 hours to better our community!
- This year we have logged in 692.75 hours to date.
- We collected over 2,437 books, of which we were able to distribute to 1,427 children in our community.
- We provided our members with over 60 service projects.

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Notable Community Partnerships/Resources



- ALTRUSA of the Central Coast
- Elks Golden Circle of Champions
- Lions Club - Orcutt
- Oasis Center - Orcutt
- OCAF Chalk Festival
- Orcutt Youth Softball
- Friends of the Orcutt Library
- Guadalupe Senior Center
- Pioneer Picnic
- Serve Santa Maria
- Open Streets Santa Maria
- Friends of the Santa Maria Public Library
- Santa Maria Chambers of Commerce
- Santa Barbara County Fair
- Santa Maria Bonita School District
- Elementary Schools
 - Mary Buren, Ontiveros, Jimenez, & Oakley

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About Us

Our goals as a community service club surround literacy. The following are our goals:

1. To increase literacy within our community.
2. To provide reading materials to individuals who may not have the means to access books.
3. To encourage kids to put greater value on literacy.
4. In order to establish a stronger community through events to obtain and disperse books.
5. To demonstrate to Righetti ASTRA members the significant impact of their work on the community.

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Schoolwide Spring Children's Book Drive

In our latest book drive we received 1,462 books to support our cause of promoting literacy in our community. All books collected (new or gently used) are passed out at various community events and schools. This past year we were able to partner with Ontiveros Elementary School in Santa Maria and Mary Buren Elementary School in Guadalupe to read and provide free books to their TK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade classes. With this upcoming Spring Book Drive we are looking to crush our previous numbers and receive well over 2,000 books.

1st Place Class: Pizza Party - Roxanne Leasure's class (681 books)

2nd Place Class: Donut Party - Brandi Carney's class (354 books)

3rd Place Class: Cookie Party - Sophia Sandoval's class (109 books)

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Reading at Guadalupe's Mary Buren Elementary School



Righetti ASTRA had the privilege of reading to six kindergarten and six first grade classes at Mary Buren elementary school in Guadalupe. ASTRA members were able to read stories in both English and Spanish to all classes. All students were given a book to take home, the books were from our ASTRA book drive. A special day for all involved!

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Free Book Giveaways

Other notable book giveaways include:

- Discovery Museum's Kite Festival
- Open Streets Santa Maria
- Santa Maria Foodbank's Picnic in the Park (Tunnell Park)
- Holiday Celebration at Buena Vista Park
- Festival of Trees.

Physical events like the Kite Festival and Open Streets Santa Maria, encourage connection and well-being, having free book giveaways at each event can help promote literacy, as well as making it enjoyable and educational for both children and adults.

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Orcutt Monthly Craft Event

In a great many of our projects, children not only received books cost-free such as in our book distribution projects, but they engaged in inclusive literacy-focused activities such as our library events or contributions to local family day events. With our free craft event we hold every month at the Orcutt Branch Library, we are able to pass out books as well as provide volunteers an opportunity to help children with crafts that we provide at no cost.



Valentine's day crafts!



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Read Across America

During our "Read Across America" events, we were able to read and distribute free books to 144 Ontiveros School students from 6 TK and Kindergarten classes. We also hosted an event at the Orcutt Library featuring The Cat in The Hat reading to children, giving away Dr. Seuss books, and other activities.

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DOLLAR TREE - 2023



Serve Santa Maria

Serve Santa Maria has become an important event in community service outreach. In our latest event, we painted about a half mile of brick walls covered in graffiti along a railroad track and used over 45 gallons of paint. It meant a lot to directly see our efforts especially since a lot of the walls we covered were directly behind residential areas in our community. It was also really nice to work with other age groups. Others from the Santa Maria community joined in and it was nice to connect with them with shared goals in striving for improvement.

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Serve Santa Maria

SANTA MARIA RAILROADS - 2024



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Serve Santa Maria

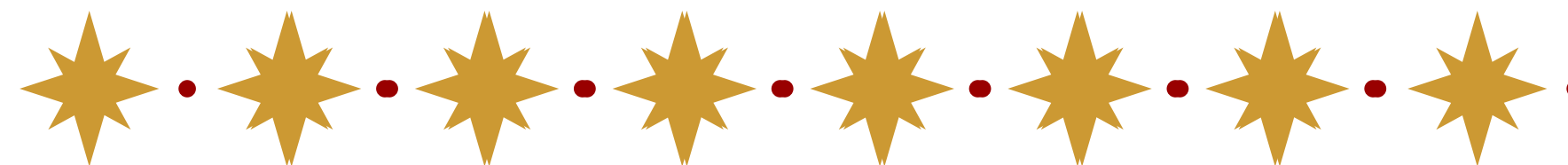




Serve Santa Maria



Seeing such community service and collaboration like this within the community inspires even greater change.



FESTIVAL OF THE TREES

This event brings holiday spirit and joy to our community; it is also a fundraiser to give back to the community. It occurs every year at the Santa Maria Mall and the money raised provides scholarships for students and community grants. This event provides many volunteer hours to our members and is a great opportunity for many to practice their social skills.



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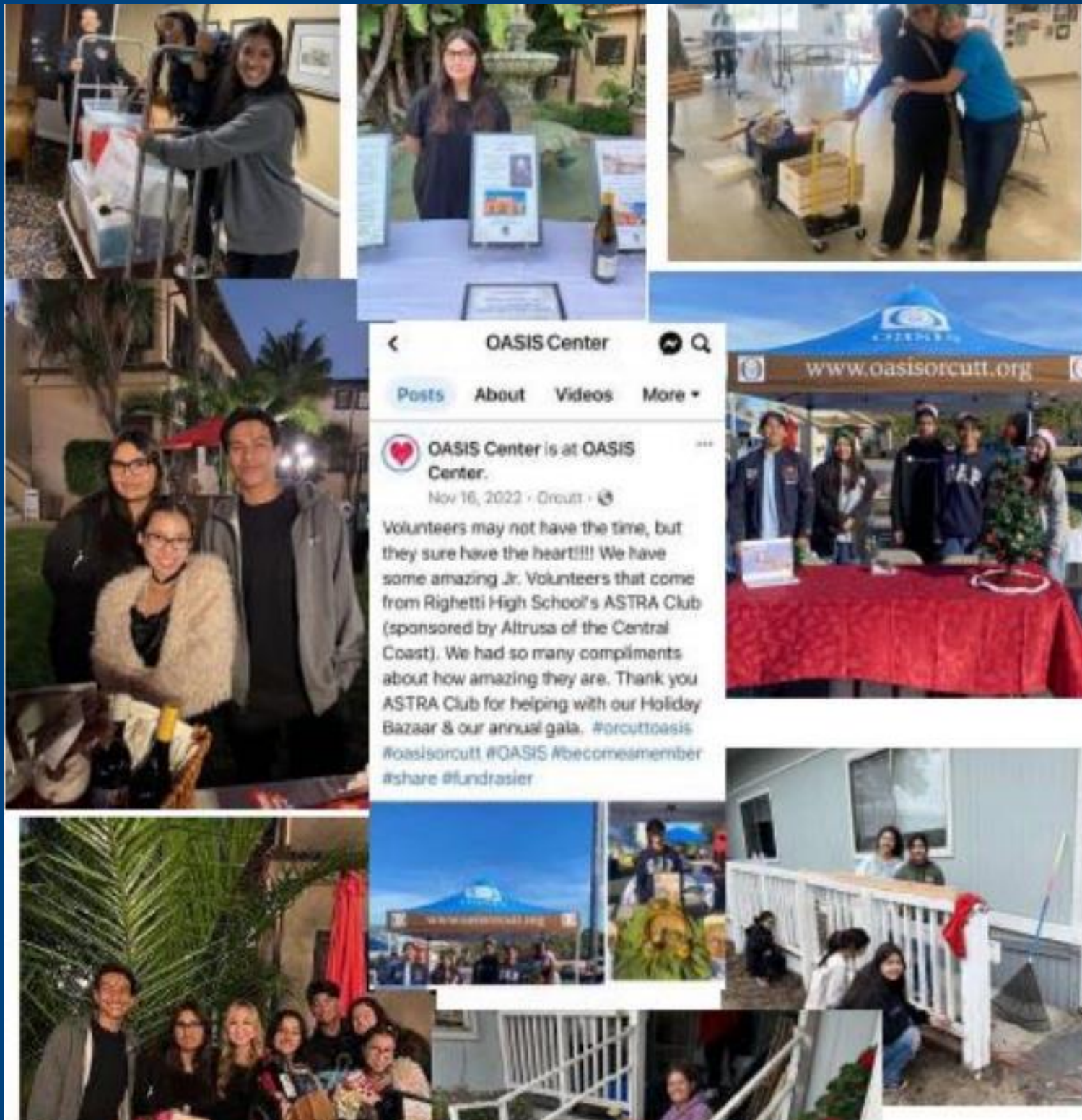


FESTIVAL OF THE TREES

The Festival of Trees event has given our ASTRA club the opportunity to donate and decorate children's book themed trees. We have also used this event to host various fun children's holiday activities like Santa Letter Writing, Christmas Bingo, Hot Cocoa and Cookie Decorating, and a Christmas Coloring Contest.

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Oasis Senior Center

Working with the Oasis Center has impacted both the younger and older generations. Our members have helped restore the Oasis Center, promote and help with the activities they offer, and assist with their fundraising events for a new Oasis Center.

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Guadalupe Senior Center

We are proud that we have done volunteer work in Guadalupe as we have many ASTRA members that live there. We have hosted several fun crafting events at the Guadalupe Senior Center where we have been well received from the seniors and the community!



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MORE INFO:

Advisor: Mrs. Watson:
dwatson@smjuhsd.org
(805) 478-2232

Meetings every other
Thursday (subject to
change) in the ERHS library

Stay updated with our
Instagram (RHSASTRA) or
Remind (@ASTRA 23-24 to
81010)

Thank you for having us!

As a community service club, we are constantly looking to expand our operations to provide the largest impact in the Santa Maria Valley. If you know of any volunteer opportunities please contact us and we will be sure to look into any suggestions you provide.

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