



Los Angeles

ENVISION HANDBOOK





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Introduction

ABOUT THE SITE

Envision LA is based in Watts at Powerhouse Church. Planted 11 years ago, Powerhouse is a multiracial church ministering to the community 7 days a week. Some of the ministries include medical/dental clinics, a crisis pregnancy mobile unit, a food bank, children’s ministries, VBS, Summer JAM enrichment, men’s and women Bible studies, literacy classes, driver’s education classes, prayer and intercession, resume writing, GED tutoring, addiction recovery, grief recovery and PHLI (residential men’s discipleship program.) Envision LA is in the process of beginning an after-school program. Their prayerful hope is to launch a preschool and elementary school soon.

The home base for ministry is the three-story building which houses the medical/dental clinics, church, offices, apartments, sleeping areas, restrooms with showers, PHLI (Power House Leadership Institute), kitchen and food bank. Inside the courtyard is a large playground area, picnic tables and a parking area. The team is currently one year into a three-year “lease to own” agreement. They are praying for God to miraculously provide the funding needed to purchase the ministry building.



General Information

HOUSING & FOOD

Our building is safe and enclosed by a secure fence. If driving, you will park in our lot inside the gated area. Our staff stay on site with you and are available in case of emergency. The staff will explain safety precautions and protocol. Please don't bring valuable or irreplaceable items. Keep valuables (purses, wallets, medicines) in your locked room when not in use. Don't lay your phone down unattended. If you need to charge a device, do so in your room.

Teams sleep on the 3rd floor of our ministry building. It is air conditioned and has bunk beds and mattresses. Please bring bedding and towels. Bedding (sleeping bag/pillow) can be provided by Envision LA for a charge. Please indicate if you will need this when you register.

Three meals and an evening snack are prepared and served onsite by our team. If someone has a diagnosed food allergy, please tell Envision LA several weeks before your trip. We will be happy to make accommodations.



AIRPORT & ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Flying

AX is the closest airport. It is about a **15-minute** drive if traffic isn't bad. Depending on group size and the ministry projects you will be working on, you may need to rent a van(s) at the airport. This will be discussed with each group on an individual basis.

Driving

Our ministry center is right beside the 105 freeway at the Wilmington exit. The address is 2003 E. Imperial Hwy., Los Angeles CA 90059. Our building sits on the corner of Grape St. and Imperial Hwy. The entrance to the parking lot is on Grape St. You will turn into the driveway with the sliding fence gate.

COMMUNICATIONS

We know LA is a fascinating city with some cute kids, and you can't wait to show your family and friends what you're experiencing. But we respectfully request that you be careful about taking photos when out in the neighborhood and working with kids on site. It can distract from ministry and be offensive to community members.

Imagine we brought a van of Los Angelenos to your city and stood outside your home snapping photos of your family as they went about daily tasks. If we came to your church snapping pictures and taking selfies in front of your stores and schools. Imagine if we brought a group every week all summer and each one did that. We want to build relationships, not walls, so please be respectful. If you build a friendship with someone, ask to take their picture and they agree, that's wonderful. If you complete a work project and want to take a picture, go for it. If you get the opportunity to take a selfie at the beach beside a palm tree, that's a bonus. We just ask you to have empathy and show respect.

We respectfully ask that you do not post photos of our three youngest children to social media or the internet and that you don't use their names for privacy concerns. Thank you.

Packing List

- Work/ministry clothes (that you can get dirty)
- Closed toed shoes for working
- Church clothes (jeans or pants are fine; we're casual!)
- Comfortable, modest clothes
- Light sweatshirt or jacket
- Modest bathing suit (no two-pieces)
- Beach towel and sandals
- Pillow
- Bedding for a twin mattress or sleeping bag
- Toiletries
- Towel and washcloth
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Bible, notebook, pen
- Backpack or drawstring bag
- Money for souvenirs (optional)
- Any electronic needs (phone charger, camera, etc.)
- Project-specific tools or resources (ask Envision LA)

SUGGESTED DRESS CODE

Please bring clothes that are modest. You are representing Christ in our neighborhood. Shorts and skirts are permissible but should cover you well. Swimming suits should be one piece or a non-white t-shirt should be worn over it at all times. If an outfit is considered inappropriate you may be asked to change.

Schedule

TEAMS

A day in the life of a team here looks something like this:

7:00 am	Wake up, prepare for the day
7:30 am	Personal devotion time
8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Devotions, worship, training, prep
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Ministry and activities
4:30 pm	Rest and restore
5:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Teambuilding, devotions, daily debrief
8:30 pm	Snack, fellowship, downtime
10:00 pm	Quiet hours (to respect our neighbors)
11:00 pm	Lights out

Upon arrival, your leaders will receive a schedule specific to your group and the ministry activities and projects scheduled for your team. We realize there are amazing sites, sports venues and amusement parks in southern CA. There won't be time to experience those during your trip, so if you'd like to take see those, we recommend adding a day or two to your trip. (You will need to plan accordingly to book lodging and make meal plans for those days.) The good news is that we will, most likely, visit one of the most iconic So Cal places, the beach, for team bonding during your trip.

INTERNS

Summer interns closely follow the team schedule, but may vary based on roles and rotation of responsibilities in the team. This may include meal prep, clean up, facilitating devotions, training, ministry activities, worship, service projects, and teambuilding.

Interns here during the school year will plan their roles with Site Coordinators for responsibilities and ministry activities. Intentional discipleship, community building, cultural experiences, and Sabbath time will be included in the schedule



Ministry

Ministry at Envision LA flows through the local church. The goal of ministry is to build relationships to share the gospel and to disciple others to raise up leaders in families, the church, and the community. We love to connect intern and team gifts and skills with needs in the local church and community, so if you have an idea that God has placed on your heart, we would love to hear about it. Here are some of the ways you can engage:

Prayer and Evangelism. This entails neighborhood prayer walking, door-to-door prayer, Water Bottle Blessings (when we hand out free waters at the nearby train station and engage in conversations as God leads), and sharing the good news as we minister in practical ways throughout the community.

Compassion Ministries. This involves sharing food or Blessing Bags with our homeless neighbors, those on Skid Row, praying with them and listening to their stories. It also includes sorting and organizing canned goods in our food pantry and organizing items for our monthly Thrift Sale. Our building is safe and enclosed by a secure fence.

Community Outreach. These events are designed to help us meet and connect with our neighbors. It gives us an opportunity to listen to their stories, build relationships, and to share the good news with them as God leads. Some examples: barbecues, a thrift sales, a festival, a backpack giveaway, sports tournaments, skills classes, or concert.

Children/Youth Ministry. Summer Splash is our 6-week long children's program...a VBS on steroids! We teach the Bible, help them apply it to their lives, sing songs, play games, create crafts, serve snacks and offer a choice of activities each week. These activities include things like beginning robotics, messy science, theater and poetry workshops, sports clinics, and dance classes. During the school year we offer PHASE (Power House After School Enrichment) where students receive one on one academic tutoring, character training, and enrichment activities in literacy, science, art and music. Mid-week during the school year we also have Gems and Arrows (our mid-week event for elementary students) and Soul'd Out (Junior High and Senior High mid-week event).

Work Projects. By assisting our community with practical tasks, we share the love of Jesus in tangible ways. This includes painting, yard work, cleaning, planting gardens and home repairs.



Cultural Sensitivity

The greater Los Angeles Area contains 5 counties and is home to 18.55 million people. Famous for Hollywood stars, movie sets, amusement parks and beaches, Los Angeles also has one of the highest homeless rates in our country. L.A.'s chronically homeless population has grown 55% since 2013.

According to the Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty at the Weingart Center, an estimated 254,000 men, women and children experience homelessness in Los Angeles County during some part of the year and approximately 82,000 people are homeless on any given night. More than one-third of the nation's chronically homeless live in California.

Our neighborhood of Watts is a 2 square mile radius and is home to 42,000 people which makes it the most densely populated neighborhood in LA county. The median age in Watts is 21 which means we also get the title of youngest neighborhood in the county. There are so many children and youth that need to hear about Jesus and His love for them. 44% of Watts lives below the poverty line.

We are located about 15 minutes south of downtown Los Angeles and about 15 minutes east of the Pacific Ocean. We are less than 10 miles from the location of the new Los Angeles Rams stadium and once it is built, thousands of people will drive directly past our building for each home game.

Watts has 3 large, government-run housing projects including Imperial Courts, Jordan Downs, and Nickerson Gardens, which is the largest government housing unit west of the Mississippi River. There are also several smaller housing projects tucked inside Watts' borders. Watts is famous for the Watts Towers, as well as the Watts Riots. Our neighbors in Watts are primarily Hispanic and African American.



Contact Info

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