



Los Angeles Service Trip: March 22 - 29, 2025

Mission

The Los Angeles Service Trip works through an organization called Union Rescue Mission (URM), whose mission is to embrace people with the compassion of Christ, and whose ultimate vision is helping men, women, and children experiencing homelessness to get off the streets and find their way home. *As a team, The King's Academy will partner with the URM to serve the needs of inner-city communities, both materially and spiritually.* This can take on any number of forms, but generally, the types of needs remain fairly consistent—all people need food, water, clothing, and Jesus—and the URM transforms lives through meeting these material needs and ministering through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no doubt about it—the depraved landscape of the inner city is significantly different from most other service trip destinations. But God is still powerfully at work there. Nineveh, that great city of many years ago, was turned completely around by the eventual obedience of just one person—Jonah—fulfilling his calling to bring God's word to the city. Los Angeles is another great city where God's message is truly needed today, and where even one person from TKA can help share that Good News.

Goals

- Team members will provide material and spiritual service to inner-city residents. Team members will likely experience settings that may be uncomfortable, and they may be around others who may make them feel uncomfortable. This is not an opportunity for team members to compare levels of bravado, but to bring love and compassion where there has been mostly emptiness and disdain.
- Team members will experience a variety of ways to practice urban ministry, and to deepen their understanding of the complexities influencing chronic inner-city homelessness.
- Team members will be challenged to grow new eyes for service, new ears for compassion, new thoughts for responding, and new hearts for people living in the city.

Itinerary

March 22	Team departs TKA and arrives in the afternoon
March 23	Team receives orientation; City Life experience
March 24	Team attends local church service; possible service project in afternoon
March 25-28	Service projects – L.A./Skid Row/Watts/MacArthur/Imperial Courts
March 29	Team returns to TKA and arrives in the afternoon

Accommodations/Food

We sleep in sleeping bags in tents atop the URM main building site in Skid Row, with girls in one area and boys in another. There is one adult leader among each group of five (5) students. Limited showering is typically available. Most meals are available through the cafeteria located in the URM facility. On some days, our lunches will be self-prepared sack lunches, and for two dinners we will eat at a local restaurant.



Cost - \$925

This covers food (except meals on the road to and from Los Angeles), lodging, transportation, and most of the supplies and materials for work projects. Any expenses for extra food or souvenirs purchased by team members will not be covered by the school.

Application Process

The Los Angeles service trip is open to all High School Students. To apply, please submit the 2025 Service Trip Online Application. The 2025 Service Trip Application is for current full-time students only. The application link will be posted in Canvas in the Grade Level Classrooms. Applications will only be accepted during the following time frame: Thursday, August 29, 3:00PM, through Tuesday, September 10, 11:59PM.

Selection Process

The team will consist of a maximum of 30 students, plus 8 adult chaperones. After applications are submitted, participants will be selected based on the following trip-specific criteria: willingness to have your comfort zone stretched by working within emotionally and environmentally challenging situations; commitment to learning to identify those in need who are hidden “in plain sight”; desire to reach out to the homeless, addicted, and destitute citizens of inner-city Los Angeles. Students with compromised immune systems may not be able to attend—please ensure the trip leaders are made aware of any health concerns. For the Los Angeles service trip, priority will not automatically be given based on grade level. All applicants will be notified of their placement on October 11.

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Please Note: *Information is subject to change.*