

#17 LA SURFBUS

Donations: www.surfbus.org

Director: Marion Clark

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The LA Surf Bus mission is to design and implement a safe, educational, and fun experience at the beach for at-risk urban youth. The LA Surf Bus partners with established youth groups such as city park programs, church youth groups, and youth clubs thereby facilitating a fun and free extension to the groups' summer program.

Program Design

The LA Surf Bus program is designed with input from surf schools, lifeguards, educators, psychologists, marine biologists, and environmentalists. All activities are age appropriate with a focus on inspiring a lifelong relationship with the sea as a recreational and spiritual refuge to be respected, shared, and protected.

Surfers of Tomorrow

The LA Surf Bus proactive engagement of at-risk inner-city youth with the challenge and thrill of riding waves exposes them to viable venues of stress release and exercise. The youths are brought to an environment free from turf rules and wars and in this shell of safety they are able to explore and develop their personal courage, strength, and character.

A Kinship with Nature

Consistent exposure to the fun of a natural ever-changing 'playground' creates a relationship with nature as a lifelong friend. Nature's landscape is introduced both in its elemental status and in its relational capacity. The youths' positive personal discoveries and experiences are taken back home to families and neighborhoods that could only improve with an inspired generation of stoked new surfers.



5 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

LA Surf Bus is a call-to-action sparked by the drowning of a young girl, and the gap between inner-city youth and their natural environment. What has evolved out of a tragedy has turned into a growing victory for the children of Los Angeles and beyond. We began the summer of 2003 with 2 buses a week traveling from Macarthur Park and Echo Park. In 2007, the LA Surf Bus saw numbers soar to over 3,000 kids PER WEEK.

"EVERY DAY OUR KIDS HAVE TO SURVIVE THEIR SURROUNDINGS: BAD NEIGHBORHOOD, DRUGS, AND GANGS, BUT FOR THE SUMMER, WE WERE LUCKY TO KEEP THEM OFF THE STREETS AND EXPOSE THEM TO THE BEACH. SOME DIDN'T KNOW HOW THE BEACH LOOKED." -YESSICA FAMOSO, DENKER RECREATION CENTER

2008 SURF BUS GOALS

- Include California coastal communities such as San Diego, Ventura, Oxnard
- Expand beyond summer season with weekend camping trips to surfing/camping locations
- Network with school districts beginning with LAUSD developing a participatory environmental education program fulfilling science, social responsibility, and fitness needs
- Network with gang intervention groups and victim recovery groups to facilitate the healing and stabilizing encounter with the sea's environment and foster a lifelong responsible relationship with "HER"



We need your help to continue bringing the Children of Los Angeles to the beach. Our 2008 fundraising goal is \$1 million dollars to connect thousands of kids to the ocean, surfing, and each other

LASURFBUS

The LA SURF BUS is free to the kids

The plan for 2008 is to bring kids from LA and OC area youth programs to the beach on chartered busses for a day of safe and fun surfing, bodyboarding, swimming and beach games. No participant needs to know how to swim! Surf Bus teaches ocean safety to all ability levels.

Program season: 8 weeks. This can be split into two four weeks sessions.

Days: Park coordinator selects ONE day of the week (MTWThF) they want to participate and informs LA SURF BUS.

Dates: June 30th thru Aug 22nd and July 4th is off. A group that comes every Friday may select another day for missing out on Friday, July 4th.

Time: bus departure is 8-8:30AM from Youth Group's Hdqtr. Arrival time, depending on traffic, is from 9AM. Beach time is from 9AM to 1:30PM with bus leaving at 2PM. Home arrival is 3:00-3:30pm.

Pick-up Location: To be determined by the attending group(s). We try to coordinate several parks for one bus and work out the pick-up sequence with time and location. If one park fills a bus (50-60 kids) they do not stop at any other location but go straight to the beach.

More specifics: Lunch is 11:30-12noon. Kids bring their lunch. Water, snacks, and sunscreen are provided by LA SURF BUS. Body Glove wetsuits, bodyboards, and surfboards are provided.

Instruction: Surf Academy provides trained surf instructors. The water staff ratio is 1-10 or less. All campers must wear a bright colored jersey provided by Surf Bus that helps the staff to keep an eye on them for safety and accurate counting. The water play area and surfing area are clearly marked for the campers. Surfing is one-on-one in the early stages.

Beach Locations: Santa Monica, Southside of SM Pier at Tower 29
Dockweiler Bluffs, AKA Pratte's Reef at Tower 58
Huntington Beach, Seapoint
Hermosa Beach at 2nd Street (To be confirmed)

STEPS TO PARTICIPATE: Inform LA Surf Bus of you interest by emailing info@lasurfbus.org Mary will return the email and set up a visit to your park to explain the program and sign you up. She will email the forms ahead of time so you are ready. You may make copies and give to other parks. The following information is needed:

1. Decide what day is best for your park's summer program. Have alternate day ready.
2. Estimate the number of kids. Your park may be combined with another local group to fill the bus.
3. Fill out the "Group Form" and give to Mary at the meeting or Fax it in if requested to do so.

After your day has been approved:

4. Prepare flyers and waivers and promote the program (We provide sample flyers. Photos available from LA SURF BUS)
5. Update us on any surge of interest from original estimation
6. Appoint an LA Surf Bus supervisor for your park that will 1) attend with kids, 2) get all waivers signed, 3) have waivers ready for LA Surf Bus Staff at the Beach, 4) select mature helpers for beach supervisions and introduce them to LA Surf Bus Staff, 5) Be ready to communicate any changes in program needs before scheduled day or as soon as possible to LA Surf Bus Staff.

WEBSITE: LASURFBUS.org
310-850-7873 Mary's cell phone
310-372-2790 Surf Academy office
310-850-3948 Surf Bus cell phone