



LA Dream Center 2026 Missions Trip
Information Package



Trip Details

We are organizing a team of students to minister with **LA Dream Center** in Los Angeles, California. from July 12 to 21, 2025 (inclusive of travel).

About LA Dream Center

The LA Dream Center is a faith-based organization in Los Angeles committed to serving the city through outreach, discipleship, and practical help. Our team will partner with them on a **short-term missions trip** designed to expose students to urban ministry, deepen their faith, and give them hands-on opportunities to serve others.

Students may participate in various ministries such as, food truck outreach, adopt-a-block, homeless ministry, kid's ministry and prayer walks.

July weather in Los Angeles is warm, sunny, and very dry, with average highs in the low 26-28°C and lows in the low 15-17°C. Sunscreen and hydration will be required.

Who can apply?

Students active in the Hope City youth group who are enrolled in grade 11 or 12 in the 2025/26 school year and who will be at least 16 years of age at the time of departure are welcome to apply.

Students must profess faith in Jesus, have been actively engaged in our youth group for at least six months, be involved in some aspect of ministry service in the church, and have the endorsement of a youth leader and the leader of their serve team.

As part of the application review, confidential references will be sought. If more students who meet the criteria apply than spots are available, priority will be given to students based on their current ministry involvement, maturity and the team needs.

Cost

Each team members will be responsible for raising \$2,350 in charitable donations towards the team costs. They can donate from their own income or ask for donations from parents, extended family and close friends. \$500 of this amount is required within 15 days of acceptance on the team.

Team funds will cover all team member expenses including transportation, meals (while at the Dream Center), accommodation and activities.

In accordance with Canadian law, all donations receipted by Hope City Church are for the team's expenses, and once a donation is made it is non-refundable. If for any reason the team member is unable to participate on the trip, the funds will remain in the team budget.

Additionally, team members will need to bring funds with them to cover meals for the four days we are at the Dream Center (July 12, 19, 20, 21), souvenirs and incidental expenses (approximately \$200-350 CAD).

Participant Requirements

All participants need to be able to manage themselves independently and have the maturity to seek out assistance if required.

They must be in good physical, emotional, and mental health. They should be able to handle heat, walk long distances, climb stairs, and manage full active days of ministry.

They need to be comfortable to reside in shared accommodations, and follow the rules and guidelines of the team leaders and our hosts.

Specifically, this means:

- They are able to care for their own daily needs
- They can monitor their own health, manage minor ailments (eg headaches or colds) and know when they need to ask for assistance or medical attention
- They will follow team leader instructions without pushback

A few good ways to know if someone is ready to participate on a team:

- They are able to stay home alone for a weekend without supervision and are trusted to behave responsibly and seek out assistance if they need it
- They have successfully participated in several overnight events in dorm settings (eg youth camps or retreats)
- They can keep track of their own purse/wallet
- They can manage their own laundry, hygiene, medications and food allergies

Travel and Accommodations

Participants will be arriving on Sunday, and staying overnight in a hotel. We then will be going to the Dream Center on Monday, and staying onsite in their dormitories, located in the converted Queen of Angels Hospital, until Saturday evening. From Saturday until Tuesday, we will be staying in a hotel.

Students and leaders will be placed in separate male/female dorm and hotel rooms. Dream Center dorms typically house 4–8 people with bunk beds. Leaders will be in nearby rooms for supervision.

Ground transportation will be by mini vans. Students will travel in groups and vans driven by team leaders.

Safety

While at the Dream Center, our team will under the guidance of Dream Center staff. Students will stay in on-site housing at the Dream Center, with secure facilities and curfews, and we will be expected to follow all Dream Center guidelines for conduct and safety.

Team Communication

Team members must have a personal mobile phone and WhatsApp for team communication leading up to the trip as well as during the trip. (They won't need data roaming on the trip as WhatsApp works on wifi). Participants will have access to wifi intermittently during the trip.

Team members should be able to activate international data roaming on their devices in the event of an emergency.

A parent's group will be created on WhatsApp for team travel updates, and parent will be provided with information to contact team leaders via WhatsApp before departure.

Passports and Visas

Team members who are Canadian citizens require a valid Canadian passport that expires more than six months after travel (an expiry date of March 1, 2027 or later). Team members are expected to apply and pay for a passport themselves.

Team members who are citizens of other countries should check their eligibility to travel to the US before applying to be part of the team.

Team members who are under the age of 18 on the date of departure will require a notarized letter signed by the parents listed on their birth certificate. If there are custody orders or guardianships, notarized documentation will need to be provided. Full details will be provided after acceptance.

Dietary Restrictions

Applicants with allergies or food intolerances must notify team leaders in advance to look into the possibility to accommodate allergies and other dietary needs. Depending on the type and severity of the allergy or intolerance it may not be possible to participate on the trip.

Application Dates

The application form will be available at gohc.ca/LA-2026 The student must complete the application online with their own hopecity.ca profile.

The initial application deadline is September 26, 2025. All applications received by that date will be considered and team members will be informed of their application status by October 3, 2025.

Important Information Regarding International Humanitarian Travel

When volunteering to travel and serve as part of a Hope City Church team, individuals and their parents / guardians are responsible for understanding the risks and considering the implications for them and their family. They must assume those risks, meaning they will not hold the church responsible for any loss connected to their participation.

All international travel involves risks. Participation in missions and humanitarian work carries different and greater risks than tourist travel. Travellers will not have access to the same protection, security and health services as in Canada or other international tourist destinations.

Each country has a unique legal system, specific safety and security conditions and potential health hazards. Participants are expected to read the travel advice published by the Government of Canada (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>) at the time they commit to the trip and again immediately before travel.

Countries make their own decisions about who they will allow to enter and leave the country. Participants are responsible for meeting the entry requirements for the countries they are visiting or transiting through, including obtaining any required visas.

Transportation, including air and ground travel, is provided by companies that are registered in different countries and are governed by different safety and liability regulations than Canadian companies.

Changes to the planned itinerary may be required due to schedule changes, natural disasters, security concerns and other reasons. Changes may involve alternate carriers and providers and may include stops in countries other than those on the original itinerary.

The activities of the team may include projects where the equipment, safety standards and oversight are different than those in Canada. Team participants assume greater risks than they would in Canada and are responsible for assessing the safety risks and taking appropriate precautions.

The church is not qualified to assess personal health risks. Participants are responsible for consulting with their physician and a travel health professional before travel and obtaining recommended vaccines and personal medications.

In the event of injury, disease or other medical emergency, the emergency medical care will be different than what is available in Canada. Participants are responsible for arranging health insurance to cover emergency medical needs for the duration of the trip. Participants must understand the coverage and limits of the policy, including any limitations on coverage and will confirm with the insurance carrier if there are any questions, including coverage for pre-existing conditions.

Individuals and their parents/guardians who participate on trips are responsible to consider how any injury, disease, loss or death would impact their financial situation. Participants are responsible for confirming any life, disability or other insurance policies will provide coverage for loss incurred as a result of the trip.

Meeting Dates:

- Oct 5 @ 1:30pm
- Nov 2 @1:30 pm
- Jan 11 @ 1:30pm
- March 1 @ 1:30pm
- May 3 @1:30pm
- June 14 @ 1:30pm
- July 8 @ 1:30pm