



Program Guide 2024-25

A community for families of children and young adults with diverse abilities, providing social, educational, recreational, and Judaic opportunities.

A place where teen volunteers are enriched and empowered to become tomorrow's leaders and advocates.



▲ Mission

The Friendship Circle's mission is (1) to provide Jewish children and young adults of all abilities with a full range of social, recreational, educational and Judaic experiences; (2) to provide their parents with respite and support; and (3) to enrich, inspire, and motivate Jewish teenagers through sharing of themselves with others.

The Friendship Circle is made up of five parts: children, volunteers, parents, staff, and supporters. The true beauty of the Circle is how we all link together to form a seamless circle of friendship.

Vision

The Friendship Circle envisions a world where individuals of all abilities and their families are accepted, included, and befriended so they can become successful members of society. To create that world, we aim to foster an environment where these children and families are given the support and love they need.

In addition to supporting families and their children with diverse abilities, the Friendship Circle endeavors to empower teens to take an active role in the wider Jewish community. Through our many programs, we hope to create a new generation of leaders to make the world a better place.

3 Questions

- Do you know a teenager who would like to be a volunteer?
- Do you know a family you would like to refer?
- Would you like to support the work of the Friendship Circle by making a financial contribution?

 info@fcla.org





Friends at Home

Every week, teenage volunteers visit participating children in their homes, engaging in activities and developing close friendships. These teens are specially prepared for their valuable role as friend and mentor while parents enjoy a regular respite. Visits can be arranged to accommodate a wide variety of schedules.*

FOR

Children and young adults
ages 3-30
Volunteers 8th grade+

** Friendship Circle requires
that a parent or guardian
be at home during these visits.*



2 Fellowship Points







luba@fcla.org

Project Inclusion

On legal holidays when public school is out, inclusion is in!

Friendship Circle now has inclusion opportunities at a variety of Jewish day schools. Get in touch to find out which opportunity is right for your child.

-  Ages 5-14
-  Most Legal Holidays
-  Cheder Menachem LA
-  chanie@fcla.org



Torah Social

Sunday mornings come to life at an innovative program filled with Jewish educational, social, and recreational fun. Participants of diverse abilities and peers pair up to enjoy the experience together!

FOR

Div A | Girls & Boys Ages 5-12

TTYA | Girls 13+

Girl Volunteers 8th Grade+

Div B | Boys 13+

Boy Volunteers 8th Grade+



Participants: 9:15AM-1PM

TTYA Participants: 9:45AM-1PM

Volunteer's Choice:

Choice 1: 9AM-11:15AM

Choice 2: 11AM-1:15PM

Choice 3 (TTYA): 9:45AM-1:15PM



3 Fellowship Points



doonie@fcla.org



Vendored by Westside Regional Center.

Vendor Code PW8359

Service Code 008-Sports Club

Self-Determination friendly

FALL

Sep 15

Sep 22

Nov 3*

Nov 10

Nov 17

Nov 24

Dec 8

Dec 15

WINTER

Jan 12

Jan 19

Jan 26

Feb 2

Feb 23

Mar 2

Mar 9

SPRING

Mar 23

Mar 30

Apr 27

May 4

May 18

Jun 8

*Track B only





Your Program @ A Glance - *Mandatory for Torah Social Volunteers*

Meet fellow volunteers and get an intro to all you need to know as a volunteer.



Fall Session: Wednesday, Oct 30
Winter/Spring Session:
Wednesday, Jan 8



Girl Volunteers 6:00-7:00pm
Boy Volunteers 7:30-8:30pm







3 Fellowship Points



Kicks 'N Hoops

At Kicks 'N Hoops, participants get to experience the thrill of soccer and basketball firsthand. Guided by a professional coach, they learn the rules of the games, develop teamwork skills, and most of all, have fun!

-  **FOR** Boys Ages 12+
Boy Volunteers 8th Grade +
& MVP Graduates
-  **Wednesdays**
-  **6:30PM-8:00PM**
-  **Friendship Circle**
-  **2 Fellowship Points**
-  **racheli@fcla.org**
-  **Vendored by Westside Regional Center.**
Vendor Code PW8359
Service Code 008-Sports Club
Self-Determination friendly

Dates: *(Volunteers commit per season)*

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Sep 18	Jan 15	Mar 19
Sep 25	Jan 29	Mar 26
Oct 9	Feb 5	Apr 2
Nov 6	Feb 12	Apr 30
Nov 13	Feb 19	May 7
Nov 20	Feb 26	May 14
Dec 4	Mar 5	May 28
Dec 11	Mar 12	Jun 11
Dec 18		

Girls Scene

Teen girls from across LA get together on Monday nights for dancing, art, and to just hang out. Join the fun and sign up today!

-  For girls ages 12+
Volunteers 14+ and MVP Graduates
-  Mondays
-  5:00 - 6:30 PM
-  Friendship Circle
-  2 Fellowship Points
-  racheli@fcla.org
-  Vendored by Westside Regional Center.
Vendor Code PW8359
Service Code 008-Sports Club
Self-Determination friendly

Dates:

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Sep 16	Jan 13	Mar 17
Sep 23	Jan 27	Mar 24
Oct 7	Feb 3	Mar 31
Nov 4	Feb 10	Apr 28
Nov 18	Feb 24	May 5
Nov 25	Mar 3	May 12
Dec 2	Mar 10	Jun 9
Dec 9		

Your Program @ A Glance -

*Mandatory for Kicks 'n Hoops
and Girls' Scene Volunteers*




Meet fellow volunteers and get an intro to all you need to know as a volunteer.

-  Fall Session: Wednesday, Oct 30
Winter/Spring Session: Wednesday, Jan 8
-  Girl Volunteers 6:00-7:00pm
Boy Volunteers 7:30-8:30pm
-  Friendship Circle
-  3 Fellowship Points






Camps




Join us for a fun-filled and memorable camp experience, featuring a wide variety of activities, games, and sports as well as daily field trips. Our dedicated volunteers pair up with participants for a time to remember!

-  Age 5+
Volunteers 8th grade +
-  Racheli@fcla.org
-  Vendored by Westside Regional Center.
Vendor Code HW0425
Service Code 850-Camping Services.
Self-Determination friendly

Winter Camp

-  Dec 23 - Jan 3
**No camp Wednesday, Dec 25 and Wednesday, Jan 1*
-  9:30AM-3:30PM
Friday early dismissal
-  6 Fellowship Points (per day)

Volunteer Workshop Mandatory

-  Sunday, December 22
-  Girls: 10 AM - 12 PM
Boys: 10:30 AM -12:30 PM
-  5 Fellowship Points (*per workshop*)

Summer Camp



July 21-August 8, 2025



9:30AM-3:30PM

Friday early dismissal



Friendship Circle



6 Fellowship Points (per day)

Volunteer Workshop

Mandatory



Sunday, July 20



Girls: 10:00AM-12:00PM

Boys: 10:30AM-12:30PM






5 Fellowship Points (*per workshop*)








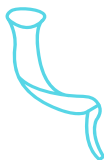
Holiday Programs

The Friendship Circle Holiday Programs allow the entire family to celebrate together in a comfortable and lively setting. Volunteers are on hand to bring holiday cheer and ensure the needs of each participant is met. Innovative activities bring the warm and joyous feelings of the holidays to the children and their families.


-  Participants who have special needs and their families
- Volunteers 6th Grade+
-  2 Fellowship Points
-  chanie@fcla.org


Rosh Hashana Festival

-  Sunday, September 29
-  1:00PM-3:00PM
-  Friendship Circle



Succot Celebration

 Sunday, October 20


 5:30-7:30pm

 Friendship Circle



Chanukah Bash

 Sunday, December 29

 1:00-3:00PM

 Friendship Circle



Tu B'Shvat Party

 Sunday February 9

 1:00PM-3:00PM

 Friendship Circle



Purim Celebration

 Friday, March 14


 TBD

 Friendship Circle

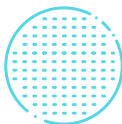


Matzah Factory

 Sunday, March 30


 1:00-2:00PM

 Friendship Circle



Lag B'omer Celebration

 Thursday, May 15

 5:30-7:30PM

 TBD

♥ *Sponsored by the Joy and Jerry Monkarsh Family Foundation*

Let's Play Family Summer Edition!

Fill your child's long summer afternoon with the perfect blend of fun, sun, and friendship!

-  Kids Ages 4+
-  Jun 17 | July 15 | Aug 19
-  5:30-7:30PM
-  Friendship Circle
-  chanie@fcla.org








▲ Saturday Night Fun

Parents, on select Winter Saturday nights, come drop off your kids for a night filled with food, fun, and activities while you enjoy a night out on the town!

-  Participants who have special needs and their siblings Ages 4+
- Volunteers from Jewish schools, youth groups & synagogues
-  Nov 23 | Dec 7 | Jan 11 | Feb 1 | Mar 1
-  TBA
-  Friendship Circle
-  chanie@fcla.org
-  4 Fellowship points

▲ Pizza & Pop

Boys and young men enjoy an evening of Torah learning and engaging activities with their choice of dad or favorite guy - because learning together is for individuals of all abilities! Pizza and popcorn will be served!

-  Young men ages 12+ with dad or other favorite guy
-  Sat, Nov 9 | Dec 21 | Feb 8
-  8pm-9:30pm
-  doonie@fcla.org
-  TBA



Just for Parents ♥

▲ Mom's Challah Bake



Tuesday, September 24



7:30 PM



FCLA

▲ Spa for the Soul

Join us for an exclusive event for Friendship Circle moms to pamper the mind, body & soul.



Tuesday, February 18



7:00PM-10:00PM



TBA



Racheli@fcla.org

Dad's Night Out



Tuesday, Mar 25



TBD



TBA



In the Know Workshops

Stimulating and informational workshops designed to help parents advocate and plan for their child with diverse abilities. All workshops run in conjunction with our holiday programs so parents can relax, enjoy, and know that their child is in good hands.



Sun, Sep 29 | Sun, Dec 29 | Sun, Feb 9



1:45-2:15pm



chanie@fcla.org





Mitzvah Volunteer Program

The Mitzvah Volunteer Program is a four week series of sensitivity awareness workshops that teaches aspiring volunteers how to interact with children of diverse abilities, culminating in a hands-on Volunteering Experience. The series highlights various abilities, appropriate conduct when volunteering, the importance of giving back to the community, and the huge impact they can make on others.



Boys and Girls in 6th-8th Grade



Sessions 1& 2: Thursdays | Session 3: Tuesdays

SESSION #1

Nov 14
Nov 21
Dec 5
Dec 12

SESSION #2

Feb 13
Feb 20
Feb 27
Mar 6

SESSION #3

Apr 29
May 6
May 13
May 27



7:00-8:00pm

Volunteer Experience



Dec 15 | Mar 9 | Jun 8



9:15am-11:00am



Friendship Circle



chanie@fcla.org

Orientations

Volunteers are required to attend one orientation before beginning to volunteer at the Friendship Circle. Learn more about who we are, what we do, and all of our volunteering opportunities. Choose the program that works best for you! *Volunteers under 18 are required to attend with a parent.*

 Volunteers 8th Grade +



Dates:

Wednesday, October 30

7:00-8:00PM

Thursdays:

Aug 22

Feb 27

Sep 26

Mar 27

Nov 21

May 1

Dec 12

Jun 19

Jan 30

July 10

Aug 21



8:00PM-9:00PM



Friendship Circle



6 Fellowship Points



By RSVP ONLY to Liam@fcla.org





▲ *Volunteer Chanukah Bash*



Boy Volunteers: Thursday, Dec 26
Girl Volunteers: Thursday, Dec 26



TBA



TBA



liam@fcla.org

▲ *Volunteer Educational Workshops*



Sunday, November 3
Sunday, January 12
Thursday, March 23



Boy Volunteers 6:30-8:30PM
Girl Volunteers 7:00-9:00PM



liam@fcla.org



10 fellowship points

Sushi & Shiur Pizza & Parsha

Girls nights out full of inspiration & stimulating conversations amongst friends.



Tuesdays

SUSHI & SHIUR: Sept 17 | Nov 12 | Jan 28 |
Mar 18 | May 28 (Wed)

PIZZA & PARSHA: Oct 8 | Dec 17 | Feb 25 |
Apr 24 (Thurs)



8:00PM-9:00PM



Friendship Circle



2 Fellowship Points



chanie@fcla.org

Boys Wings & Wisdom

Boys nights out full of inspiration & stimulating conversations amongst friends.



Wednesdays



8:00-9:00 PM



Friendship Circle



2 Fellowship Points



Text Joshua @ 310-497-8834

The Garden Party

Volunteers and their parents are invited to an evening celebrating young leadership in recognition of their year of giving.



Wednesday, May 21



6:30-9:30 pm



▲ Fellowship Award

Friendship Circle Fellowship Awards are presented to all volunteers who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to their special friends. Volunteers qualify for this prestigious honor by consistently volunteering and expanding their knowledge in the field of special education. Recipients receive a beautiful award.

Qualifications:

- For Volunteers in grades 9-12
- Earn 60 Fellowship Points throughout the school year
- Attend a minimum of two Educational Workshops
- Log in your community service hours AT LEAST once a month. Points will not be issued if received after one month of volunteering.

How to:

1. Create a new account online at FriendshipCircleapp.com OR on the app 'FCConnect' (Select Chapter: FC Los Angeles)
2. FCLA staff will approve and activate your account
3. Log your hours online or in the app!

*Have any questions?
Contact Liam@fcla.org*

Fellowship Points

Per Event/Day

Educational Workshops	10 pts
Friends @ Home	2 pts
Holiday Celebrations	4 pts
Torah Social (per segment)	3 pts
Volunteer Orientation	6 pts
Walk4Friendship	8 pts
Winter/Summer Camp	6 pts per day
Camp Workshop	5 pts
Wings & Wisdom/Sushi & Shiur/ Pizza & Parsha	2 pts
Program @ a Glance	3 pts
Saturday Night Fun	4 pts
Girls Scene	2 pts
Kicks & Hoops	2 pts
Let's Play	2 pts



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Supported in part by:



*The Friendship Circle is a non-profit, 501C3
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