



Program Guide 2026-27

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 is a Jewish organization that envisions a world where individuals of all abilities and their families are fully accepted, included, and befriended as contributing members of society. To build this inclusive future, we empower teen volunteers to take an active role in the wider Jewish community, cultivating a new generation of leaders dedicated to making 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



Support@fcla.org

In Partnership with



▲ 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 or school.

-  Ages 5-14
-  Most Legal Holidays
-  Ghindi Maimonides Academy | Shalhevet High School | Cheder Menachem
-  yael@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

Oct 18

Oct 25

Nov 1

Nov 8

Nov 15

Nov 22

Dec 13 **Div A only*

Dec 20 **Div B only*

WINTER

Jan 10

Jan 24

Jan 31

Feb 21

Feb 28

Mar 7

Mar 14

Mar 21

SPRING

Mar 28

Apr 4

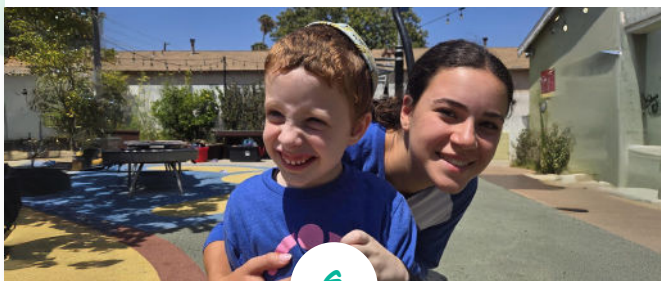
Apr 11

May 16

May 23

Jun 6

In Partnership with





Torah Social Open House



Tuesday, August 25



5:30-7:30 PM



FCLA



▲ 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!



Boys Ages 8+
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: *(Volunteer commitment per season)*

FALL

Oct 14
Oct 21
Oct 28
Nov 4
Nov 18
Dec 2

WINTER

Jan 6
Jan 13
Jan 20
Feb 3
Feb 10
Feb 17
Feb 24
Mar 3
Mar 10

SPRING

Mar 17
Mar 31
Apr 7
Apr 14
May 5
May 12
May 26
Jun 2

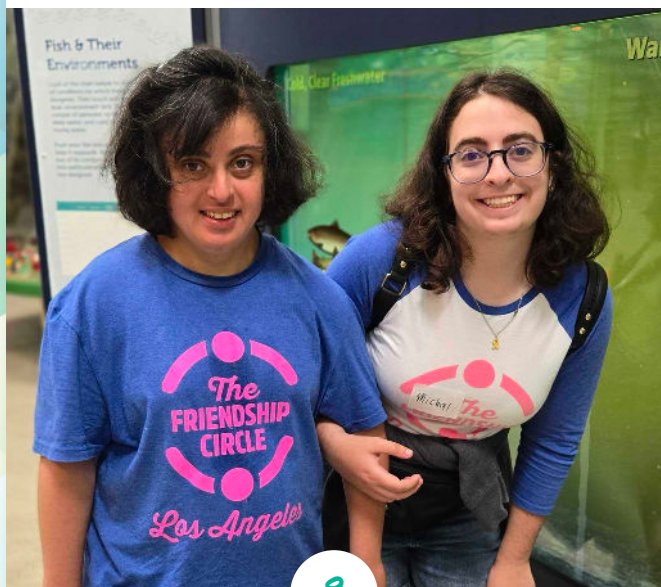
Girls Scene

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: *(Volunteer commitment per season)*

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Oct 12	Jan 11	Mar 15
Oct 19	Jan 18	Mar 29
Oct 26	Feb 1	Apr 5
Nov 2	Feb 8	Apr 12
Nov 9	Feb 22	May 3
Nov 23	Mar 1	May 10
Nov 30	Mar 8	Jun 7
Dec 14		





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 21, 2026- Dec 31, 2026**
**No camp Friday, Dec 25 and Friday, Jan 1*
-  **9:30AM-3:30PM**
Friday early dismissal
-  **6 Fellowship Points (per day)**

Volunteer Workshop *Mandatory*

-  **Thursday, December 17**
-  **Girls: 7:00PM-9:00PM**
Boys: 6:30PM-8:30PM
-  **5 Fellowship Points (*per workshop*)**

Summer Camp



July 19-August 6, 2027

** No camp Thur, July 22 (Fast Day)*



9:30AM-3:30PM

Friday early dismissal



Friendship Circle



6 Fellowship Points (per day)

Volunteer Workshop

Mandatory



Sunday, July 18



Girls: 10:00AM-12:00PM

Boys: 10:30AM-12:30PM



5 Fellowship Points (*per workshop*)

In Partnership with





▲ 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



Yael@fcla.org

Rosh Hashana Festival



Sunday, August 30



1:00PM-3:00PM



Friendship Circle



Succot Celebration



Wednesday, September 30



5:30-7:30pm



Friendship Circle



Chanukah Bash



Sunday, December 6



1:00-3:00PM



Friendship Circle



Tu B'Shvat Party



Sunday, January 17



1:00PM-3:00PM



Friendship Circle



Purim Celebration



Tuesday, March 23



5:30-8:00PM



Friendship Circle



Matzah Factory



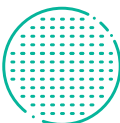
Sunday, April 11



1:00-2:00PM



Friendship Circle



Lag B'omer Celebration



Tuesday, May 24



5:30-7:30PM



Friendship Circle

♥ *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!

-  Families who have children and young adults with diverse abilities
-  Tuesdays June 15 | July 6 | August 17
-  5:30-7:30PM
-  Friendship Circle
-  Yael@fcla.org
-  2 Fellowship points



▲ 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!

FOR Participants who have special needs and their siblings Ages 4+
Volunteers from Jewish schools, youth groups & synagogues

 Nov 7 | Dec 12 | Jan 9 | Feb 20

 TBA

 Friendship Circle

 Yael@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!

FOR Young men ages 12+ with dad or other favorite guy

 Sat, Oct 31 | Nov 21 | Jan 16

 TBA

 doonie@fcla.org

 Bais Chaya Mushka





▲ *Royal - Tea*

A special mother daughter night out filled with song, stories, inspiration & tea!

-  **FOR** Young Adult Women Ages 16+ and their moms | Girl Volunteers 8th Grade+
-  Dec 19 | Feb 6
-  TBA
-  Private Home
-  Doonie@fcla.org
-  2 Fellowship points

▲ *Musical Minyan*

A lively, joyous prayer service for our participants, male family and friends. People of all musical inclinations are welcome!

-  **FOR** Young Adult Men Ages 16+ | Boy Volunteers 8th Grade+
-  Sunday, February 7
-  9:15-11:00AM
-  doonie@fcla.org
-  FCLA
-  3 Fellowship points

Ma'alah

Ma'alah is our Adult Day program that provides adult participants with vocational training and hands-on work experience in the Jewish community. The teaching objectives and learning opportunities focus on communication, employment readiness, and self-advocacy while encouraging independence and upholding our mission of fostering friendship.

FOR

Participants 18+

Male and Female Tracks run separately



Runs Annually



Monday-Thursday 8:30AM-3:00PM

Friday 8:30AM-1:30PM

**The program merges into Winter and Summer Camp twice a year*



Vendored by Westside & Frank

D. Lanterman Regional Centers |

Self-Determination Friendly

Vendor Code PW9138 |

Service Code 531- Adult Day Program



Julius@fcla.org



▲ Ma'alalah Pop Up Shops

We are kicking off our pop-up shop, where adult day program participants showcase and sell products. The pop-up highlights the participant's skills, builds confidence, and job readiness. Participants take part in setting up the store, handling all transactions, and providing customer service. Sign up today to receive exclusive updates on our next vocational pop-up!

FOR

Young Adult Men Ages 16+
Boy Volunteers 8th Grade+



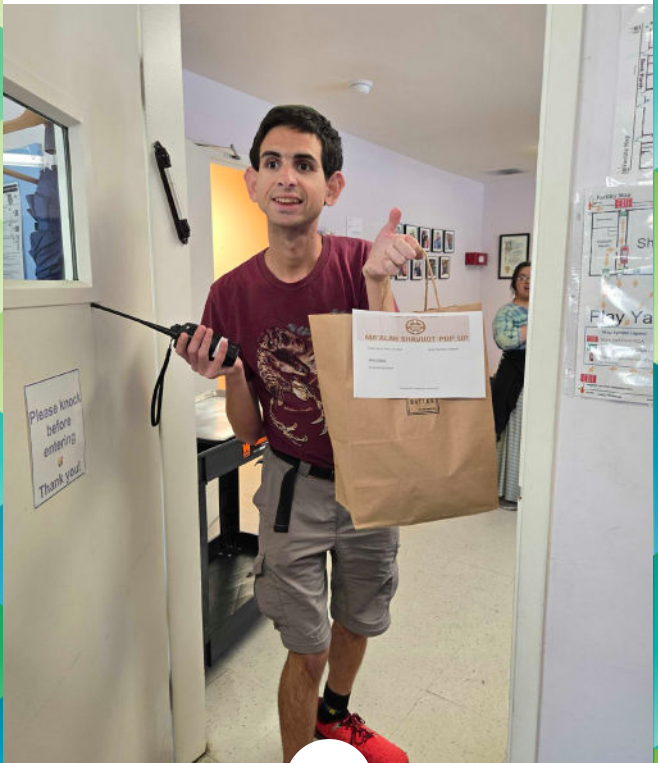
TBD



10:45 AM - 12:00 PM



Email Julius@fcla.org to receive Pop Up
Shop schedule notifications!



▲ Inclusive Connections

Partner with us to connect your school, office, or organization with individuals who have special needs for collaborative experiences like art, music, dance and more. Your group will leave uplifted and with a deeper understanding of the diverse needs within our community.

FOR

*Corporations, Middle & High School
Classes, Youth Groups and Camp Bunks*



Yael@fcla.org



Just for Parents

▲ Mom's Challah Bake



Tuesday, September 16



7:30 PM



Private Home

▲ Spa for the Soul

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



Tuesday, February 16



7:00PM-10:00PM



Friendship Circle



Racheli@fcla.org

▲ Dad's Night Out



Tuesday, March 2



TBD



TBA



▲ *Just For Parents*

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.



Aug 30 | Jan 17 | May 24



1:45-2:15pm



yael@fcla.org

▲ *Parent's Night Out*

Mark your calendar and book the babysitter! Enjoy a night out, connect and take a break in a relaxing environment.



Tuesday, June 29



7:30PM-9:30PM



TBD





MVP!

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.

-  **FOR** Boys and Girls in 6th-8th Grade
-  **Sessions 1 & 2:** Thursdays
Session 3: Tuesdays
-  **7:00-8:00pm**

SESSION #1

TUESDAYS

Oct 20

Oct 27

Nov 3

Nov 10

SESSION #2

TUESDAYS

Jan 12

Jan 19

Feb 2

Feb 9

SESSION #3

THURSDAYS

Mar 9

Mar 16

Mar 30

Apr 6

Volunteer Experience

-  **Session #1:** Sun, Nov 15
Session #2: Sat, Feb 20
Session #3: Sun, April 1

-  Sessions 1 & 3: 9:45 -11:00 AM
Session 2: 7:00-9:30 PM

-  Friendship Circle

-  Isabel@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.*

 **FOR** Volunteers 8th Grade +



Dates:

Thursdays:

Aug 27

Feb 25

Sep 17

Mar 18

Oct 8

June 3

Nov 5

Jul 8

Dec 3

Aug 26

Jan 14



8:00PM-9:00PM



Friendship Circle



6 Fellowship Points



By RSVP ONLY



Scan to RSVP





▲ Volunteer Chanukah Parties



Wednesday, December 9



7:00PM-9:00PM



Girl Volunteers : The RavNoy Home

Boy Volunteers: Friendship Circle



liam@fcla.org

▲ Volunteer Educational Workshops



Sunday, October 11

Sunday, February 7

Sunday, April 4



Boy Volunteers 6:30-8:30PM

Girl Volunteers 7:00-9:00PM



liam@fcla.org



10 fellowship points

▲ Volunteer Mother Daughter Challah Bake



Thursday, May 6



7:00PM-9:00PM



Friendship Circle

Sushi & Shiur

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



Thursdays

SUSHI & SHIUR: Sep 17 | Oct 8 | Nov 5 |
Dec 3 | Jan 14 | Feb 25 | Mar 18 | Apr 8 |
Jun 3



7:30PM-8:30 PM



Friendship Circle



2 Fellowship Points



Yael@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 Rabbi Mendel @ 310.597.0967

The Garden Party

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



Wednesday, May 19



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
- Sign in at EVERY program as a record of your attendance.

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
Saturday Night Fun	4 pts
Girls Scene	2 pts
Kicks & Hoops	2 pts
Let's Play	2 pts
Royal-Tea	2 pts
Musical Minyan	3 pts



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