

# CAMP AFFLERBAUGH YOUTH TOUR SOFI STADIUM

## RAMS HOST A DAY OF FUN, HOPE, AND INSPIRATION.

On August 28th, heartfelt inspiration filled the air in the city of Inglewood as the NFL Rams organization hosted Camp Afflerbaugh youth and staff for a VIP tour of SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, CA. The youth's eyes lit up in awe as they approached the massive state-of-the-art stadium. Before entering the beautiful facility, Rams staff and Legends, Dexter Davis, Robert Delpino, Brandyn Harvey, and Jerry Wilkinson greeted the youth. Each Legend took a few moments to give a warm salutation, share some highlights from their careers and offer words of encouragement to the young men.

Afterward, the youth, staff, and Rams Legends entered the foyer and received personalized stadium lanyards. They then proceeded into the stadium and experienced their first look at its massive beauty.

"It's been great to be a part of this opportunity with the LA Rams as a Legend and to see Scott Budnick and ARCs vision come to fruition with LA County Probation Officers," Rams Legend Dexter Davis shared. "Programs like this are second to none, and they are giving a second chance opportunities for these young men to be assets to their families and communities. I'm elated!"

After the stadium tour guide educated all in attendance on some exciting specifications of the unique venue, they were also granted access to the stadium suites. "This is great! I've never experienced anything like this. It's a new stadium, and I like it," a youth shared.



SoFi Stadium, home of the Los Angeles Rams (and Chargers).



Rams Legends, Robert Delpino, Brandyn Harvey, Jerry Wilkinson, and Dexter Davis,

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As VIP guests, they were also invited to run through the stadium tunnel and onto the field, where they participated in short drills and activities. The youth, staff, and Legends were right at home tossing the football around, kicking field goals, and running sprints on the turf. At one point, they were all standing on the 50-yard line and exchanging stories. It was a sight to see, and motivation and hope permeated the football field.

The youth and staff were also invited to the player's locker room, where Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) Executive Director, Sam Lewis, moderated a heartfelt, inspirational, and interactive group chat. The panel featured Andrew Monuhano, Kenzo Sohoue, and Varden Phan, three young men who share similar experiences as the camp youth. The youth spoke of their experiences through incarceration, how they learned to trust those offering a helping hand, overcame their circumstances, and are currently college students, gainfully employed with ARC, and now serving as mentors for other young justice-involved individuals. Scott Budnick, ARC's Founder, also educated the youth on gaining services and employment with the organization upon returning to the community.



(l to r) SDPO Michael Hernandez, DPO Stanley Berry, DPO Eric Escorsia, DPO Omar Lopez, Sr. Probation Director Jesus Corral, DPO Jennifer Perez and Camp Afflerbaug Director Bertha Mendez



Anti Recidivism Coalition Program Participants Andrew Monuhano, Kenzo Sohoue and Varden Phan.

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"It's amazing to see you all here because I was just there too. But, seriously, this is not the end. You all are coming home. We all had our struggles, so don't feel like because you made a bad decision, that's who you are," Mr. Sohoue shared with emotion in his voice. "You are real human beings who have real potential. All it takes is being focused and taking advantage of opportunities. All these wonderful people want to be there for you. If you want it, we are here. I promise you we will be there."

"Today is good; I've never done anything like this, and listening to their stories inspired me to want to change," said a youth.

"I was excited to come and experience something different. Since I've been here, everyone's been talking, and if you want, if you listen, people are opening doors for you, and when we get out, we can change our whole life around if we want," another youth reflected.

Jesus Corral, Director of Probation Educational Services, expressed, "Today was not just a day for our young people to interact with Rams Legends and tour the Sofi Stadium. They also had a chance to find out about career paths available for them upon their transition back home. We are excited to provide young people in our care with opportunities for things like this."

The visit concluded with a complimentary concession stand lunch. The youth, staff, and Legends enjoyed their lunch with traditional stadium food while chatting, laughing, and reminiscing about the day's activities.

Touring Sofi Stadium in this capacity may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these youth, and they took in every moment of it. Enthusiasm saturated the tunnel walls as they ran through and onto the field. Their eyes and questions showed attentiveness as they listened to all the young speakers and engaged with the Rams Legends. Thank you to the Rams NFL organization for hosting a fantastic day of fun, hope, and inspiration. The sky is the limit for our youth. It's collaborations like this that make a difference in the lives of young people, ignite their dreams, and lay the foundation for goal setting. They will never forget the day they walked onto Sofi Stadium field, met Rams Legends, and took in motivational stories while sitting in the player's locker room. This positive experience will forever be embedded in their memories.

Probation News



DPO Eric Escorsia, DPO Jennifer Perez, SDPO Michael Hernandez