

ABOUT RUSSELL WALKER



The Department's Russell Walker WATER Program honors the late Assistant Chief Lifeguard who founded the program 1986. Inspired by his own journey as LA County's first Black lifeguard in 1965, he aimed to encourage youth from diverse backgrounds to pursue ocean-related careers. Since its inception, the program has expanded significantly, reaching up to 6,000 youth annually. It focuses on teaching ocean safety skills through engaging ocean activities catering to underserved, and special needs populations.



Connect with Us!

Complete our interest form to stay informed about future offerings or to be contacted about an Ocean Safety Day for your school or youth group.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our webpage

Beaches.lacounty.gov/waterprogram

Email Us

WATER@bh.lacounty.gov

Call

(424) 526-7888

**Proud Grantee of Los Angeles County
2016 Measure A**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**



Russell Walker

WATER YOUTH PROGRAM

Water Awareness, Training, Education, Recreation

*Experience Water,
Sand and Surf!*



ABOUT WATER

WATER provides youth in Los Angeles County with recreational and educational opportunities on the coast with an emphasis on ocean safety. It reaches all areas of the County, serving diverse youth ages 5-21, including those with mobility challenges, special needs, system-involved and from underserved communities.

Skilled LA County Ocean Lifeguards provide instruction through in-the-water activities in the Marina del Rey Harbor and on LA County Beaches!

Covered topics

- Beach safety
- Rip currents
- Sting rays
- Tidepools
- CPR & First Aid
- Rescue demonstrations
- Ocean-related career paths

Fun activities

- Kayaking
- Surfing/Boogie Boarding
- Stand Up Paddleboarding
- Sailing
- Beach games
- Coastal hikes
- Visits to natural coastal areas



Schools

OCEAN SAFETY DAYS

A one-day ocean education adventure for school classes. Students learn many aspects of ocean safety through a rotation of in-the-water activities and receive information about career opportunities as an LA County Lifeguard.

Mondays—Fridays during the school year.

Free to K-12 public schools in LA County!

Free transportation!



Parents

SAILING CAMPS

Students learn sailing terms, boat rigging, knot tying, tacking, docking, and ocean sailing instruction during five-day courses offered during summer, spring, and winter school breaks.

- Beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels.
- Swim test required for new participants.

For individual youth ages 11 -17.

Financial Aid available for those who qualify!



Youth Groups

ONE-DAY PROGRAMS

For first-time participants, single-day programs follow the Ocean Safety Day curriculum. Returning participants may engage in activities that emphasize skill building, career exploration, or a custom curriculum.

MULTI-DAY CAMPS

During summer and school breaks, multi-day programs offer a range of ocean education activities, including visits to coastal trails, aquariums, bluffs, tidepools, and piers along the LA County coast. These programs also feature demonstrations, tours, and guest speakers.

Benefits for youth

- Learn about ocean safety
- Try a new skill
- Visit new places
- Build confidence
- Make new friends
- Find out about exciting career opportunities
- Have fun at the beach!

