

Self-Realization Fellowship Temple

Encinitas

Welcome to the Self-Realization Fellowship Encinitas Temple Sunday School and Teen Group.



Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing Self-Realization Fellowship Encinitas Sunday School and Teen Group for your child. It is a great privilege and joy to have your family join us. We look forward to sharing with your children the teachings of our Guru, Paramahansa Yogananda, founder of Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF). Your child will be under the supervision of trained volunteer SRF Sunday School teachers or Teen Group leaders who are supported by Encinitas Temple monastics.

Registration

All students, including visitors, are welcome to attend our programs. We require all students who regularly attend our Sunday School, Teen Group, and Family Room to register yearly to update their information. This occurs in mid-June right after the regular school year has ended. Visitors do not need to register, but please introduce yourselves to the Sunday School staff and teachers.

There are two ways to register:

1) Go to the [Encinitas Temple website](http://enicinitastemple.org) (enicinitastemple.org):

- Click **Activities**
- Scroll down to **Sunday School**
- Click on the **registration form**

2) Use the QR code on the card displayed in the Sunday School Office to access the registration form.

Arrival

Teachers are prepared to greet their children with a pre-activity at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. **Sunday School/Teen Group classes begin at 9:30 a.m.** It is very helpful to have children arrive before the beginning of class so the teachers can properly welcome them. This will also give your child time to meet with their friends and use the restroom. Your child is always welcome to arrive at 9:15 a.m. and participate in the pre-class activity. This will also give you ample time to get comfortably seated before the service.

Class Content

Our teachers present aspects of the “How-To-Live” principles taught by Paramahansa Yogananda in a way that children can understand and enjoy. Our goal is to inspire your child to love God and the Gurus, to help them realize that finding God is the highest goal of life and the only way to achieve lasting happiness.

Meditation is the cornerstone of our teachings. Therefore, all classes are taught age-appropriate basic concepts of meditation. We include energization exercises, devotional chanting, a prayer for world peace, and an offering.

Our classes incorporate a spiritual topic supported by various crafts, stories, discussions, games, plays, and service projects. Through these activities, your child will experience how what we practice and talk about in Sunday School/Teen Group is not limited to one hour alone, but can be applied the rest of the week in their daily lives. We also commemorate the SRF line of Gurus with special devotional services.

Consideration for Others

In order to maintain a healthy environment, children who are ill should not be brought to Sunday School or to teen classes. Children who exhibit any of the following symptoms should stay at home: fever, diarrhea, or vomiting within the past 48 hours; cold or flu symptoms; eye or skin infections. As a rule, a child with any communicable disease should remain at home. We ask that all children dress comfortably and modestly. Your child’s enthusiasm, consideration for others, and sincere desire to love and find attunement with God will create an environment of harmony and spiritual benefit for all.

Classroom Assignments

Your child has been assigned to a Sunday School class according to his or her grade. Classes are also divided by gender. We allow some flexibility for children, especially for children in Kindergarten and 7th grade who may be ready to be transitioned to the next higher class. We officially have children move up to their new class on the second Sunday of JUNE.

Teen Group

Your child may start attending the Teen Group at the age of 13 years and continue through their high school graduation. Both boys and girls learn together. The Teen Group meets at the J Street Chapel, located at 1105 2nd Street, Encinitas, which is two blocks south of the Temple, on the corner of J Street and 2nd Street (additional parking is available at this location). Please contact the Teen Group coordinators to discuss activities and schedule.

Where To Pick Up Your Child After The Service

After Sunday School, please wait for your children near their pick-up area (see below). When you arrive at your child's pick-up area, please make eye contact with his or her teacher, who will be wearing a name tag, so that he/she is aware that you are picking up your child. This helps the teachers to distinguish between those of you who are there to pick up your child and those who are simply there to attend the 11 a.m. service. Teachers are not permitted to walk your child away from the pick-up area or to release them to friends or siblings. The teachers will stay with your child until your arrival.

Student Pick-up Areas

Pre-School – Kindergarten Boys and Girls: Kindly pick up your child INSIDE the Temple's Special Events/Overflow room. Please be aware that ushers will be helping the attendees of the first service to leave before we bring the children into this room. Your child will wait for you inside the room with their teacher.

1st - 2nd - 3rd Grade Boys and Girls, 4th - 5th, 6th - 7th Grade Boys: Please pick up your child at the entrance to the breezeway. Please be aware that this area could be crowded for a short time with parents and children or those in line to use the restroom.

4th - 5th, 6th - 7th Grade Girls: Please pick up your child at the doorway between the Temple and the Special Events/Overflow Room (near the entrance to the Flower Room).

Teen Group: Please discuss with your teen how best to meet you after their class has concluded.

Volunteering

If you want to volunteer for the SRF Encinitas Temple Youth Committee, go to the [Encinitas Temple website](#):

- Click **About**
- Scroll down to **Volunteer Opportunities**
- Click on the **registration form**

Sunday School/Teen Group Consent And Photo Release

Families and friends enjoy seeing what the young people in the Encinitas Temple Sunday School and Teen Group youth are doing. Visit [Instagram.com/SRFEncinitas YouthPrograms](https://www.instagram.com/SRFEncinitas>YouthPrograms) to see photos of our Encinitas Temple events. Teachers may also use photographs of students for various projects. Additionally, a photo may be published in an SRF publication, or a photo or video may be displayed on the SRF website or at the annual SRF Convocation. You may sign a photo release for your child when you register online.

Special Events

The SRF Encinitas Temple Sunday School and Teen Group are places for children to meet and make spiritual friends. Throughout the year, there are special events for children at Easter, Halloween, Christmas, Picnic in the Park, India Night, and Paramahansa Yogananda's birthday. We also conduct special ceremonies: the Hong Sau Technique for students 10 years and older every October, and the Aum Technique for students 13 years and older every November.