Valley Oak Youth Academy (VOYA)

SECURE TRACK FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY

New Beginnings



- SB 823: closes the California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- DJJ housed and treated youth who had committed the most serious crimes.
- Now, those youth will be housed and treated locally (their county) to promote a more successful reintegration back into their community.
- DJJ stopped accepting juveniles July 1, 2021, and was completely closed in 2023.

Foundation of VOYA

- The Secure Track Youth Treatment Program for Sacramento County
- Ages to 16-25 years old
- Juveniles with a 707(b) WIC offense (murder, robbery, rape, etc.)



VOYA units

- HU02 – Male VOYA
- HU16 – Male VOYA
- HU17 – Male VOYA
- HU10 – Female (Currently houses one VOYA female)

Staff Break Down and Duties

- Probation Aides and Assistant Probation Officers (APO)
  - Supervise youth (safety and security)
- VOYA Senior Deputy Probation Officer (Sr. DPO)
  - Case manager
  - Writing Court Reports (Individualized Rehabilitation Plan / Six-Month VOYA Progress Reports)
  - Communicating with families and Community-Based Organizations
  - Facilitating Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings



Sr. DPO Case Managers

- Case Manager prepares for their commitment by…
  - *Getting familiar with their specific case*
  - *Read Social Studies Report / Intake Reports*
  - *Communicates with VOYA staff in preparation*
  - *Communicates with treatment provider about potential commitment (YAP/SBTP)*



First 30 Days

- Case Managers proactively keep track of the Court Calendar of youth with VOYA Recommendations (Juvenile Court) in preparation for possible commitments. (VOYA commitment spreadsheet).
- On the day of commitment, the resident is transferred to a VOYA unit and is issued new VOYA specific clothing.
- Resident participates in a formal orientation with their assigned VOYA Case Manager covering all aspects of the VOYA program.

First 30 Days…Continued

- Documents are forwarded to Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
- Resident completes an assessment with BHS clinician to formulate an individualized treatment and rehabilitation plan.
- Case manager interviews family and support people .
- Referrals are made to the programming unit (Horticulture, Culinary etc.)
- MDT Meeting hosted in Visitors Center.
- 30 Day Report is constructed with an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP).
- Resident attends Court for 30 Day Review Hearing.

Orientation Process

- Committed to VOYA/Transferred to VOYA Unit
- Meets with Sr. DPO Case Manager
- Review Minute Order/Terms and Conditions
- Resident will complete…
  - Orientation Check List
    - Rules & Expectations of VOYA
    - Answer Questions
  - Oak Tree Assignment
    - List People of Their Support System
    - List Goals They Have For Themselves





Treatment and Rehabilitation



- Sacramento County Behavioral Health (BHS)
- Address risks and needs
- 6-month treatment plan formulated
- Individual and group rehabilitation sessions
- Sac. County Behavioral Health program for JSOs is called Sexual Behavior Treatment program (SBTP).
- In addition to BHS, residents have 24/7 access to YDF Mental Health.

YDF vs. VOYA Residents



- S-1 status
- Behavioral System
  - Strike system
  - Good/Bad day
  - Level system
- Clothing
  - Purple shirts and sweaters
  - Tan pants
  - Boxers
- Movement Within the Unit / Positioning
- Amenities available to residents
- Commissary

Programs/Vocations

- Programs
  - Skills Training Enrichment Program (STEP)
  - ATV Capacity Changers
  - Leadership Education Athletic Program (LEAP)
  - Library (SCOE)
  - Mentor
  - Anti Recidivism Coalition (ARC)
  - Art (SCOE)
  - Poetry (SCOE)
  - Beautiful Evolutions
  - Boys and Girls Club
  - Substance Use Prevention Treatment (SUPT)
  - Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)



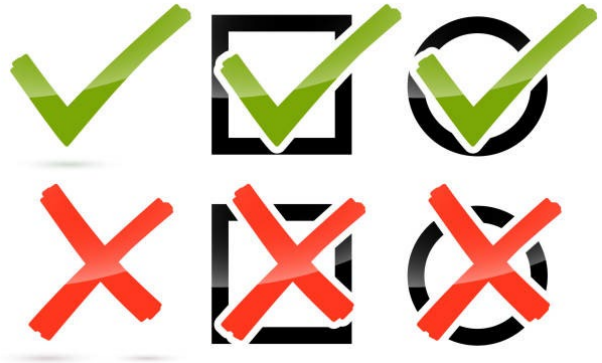




- Vocation / Education
  - SCOE Horticulture Program
  - SCOE Culinary Program
  - Scholars Obtaining Academic Reasonability (SOAR) College program with Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC)
  - SCOE Barbershop Program (pending)
  - SCOE Forklift Simulator Program (Pending)

Behavioral Management System

- Rule Infractions
  - 3 infractions = Failure to earn a Good Day
- Good/Failure to Earn Good Days
  - Used for incentives/ privileges and to show a pattern of behavior
    - Commissary, Bi-weekly Pizza, Unit Celebrations
- Level System
  - Level 1-4 (6,8,4+ months)
  - Increase incentive privileges with each promotion
  - Interviews / Essays required for promotion





Level System

- **4 Levels Total**: each level receiving more incentives
- *INCENTIVE EXAMPLES:*

1. Increase in Commissary
2. Access to Buck$ Store at Level 2+
3. Plush Shower Towel / Blanket
4. Sweatpants
5. Individual hygiene items

- **HOW ARE LEVELS EARNED?**

1. Hand write a two-page essay answering assigned prompts.
2. Thorough 30 Minute interview with VOYA Case manager and Supervisor.
3. Revising Essay (if needed)

LEVEL 1 GRADUATION ASSIGNMENT

Congratulations! You have made it Level 1 graduation. Before you may start receiving the privileges and incentives of a Level 2 VOYA resident the following must occur: you must write an essay answering questions specific to Level 1, participate in an interview with both the Unit Senior DPO and Case Manager, and make up any "Good Days" not earned.

Level 1 Graduation Assignment

WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

*Essay must be typed, double spaced, at least **2 pages**, and thoughtfully answered the questions below:*

1. Since your VOYA Commitment, name one way you have progressed toward a successful re-entry back into the community.

2. Explain a time you helped a peer get through a tough situation. What did you do and what was the result of the situation?

3. Explain an idea or lesson you have learned from a mandated unit program or Vocational Program. How do you plan to utilize it upon re-entry? (example: ATV, STEP, BeatWithin, NCCT, Culinary)

INTERVIEW:

Resident must have Level 1 essay completed in order to have an interview scheduled. Interview will last approximately 30 minutes. During the interview the essay will be reviewed, documented unit behaviors will be discussed, "Good Day" calculations will be confirmed, and an official graduation date will be set.

GOOD DAY COMPENSATION:

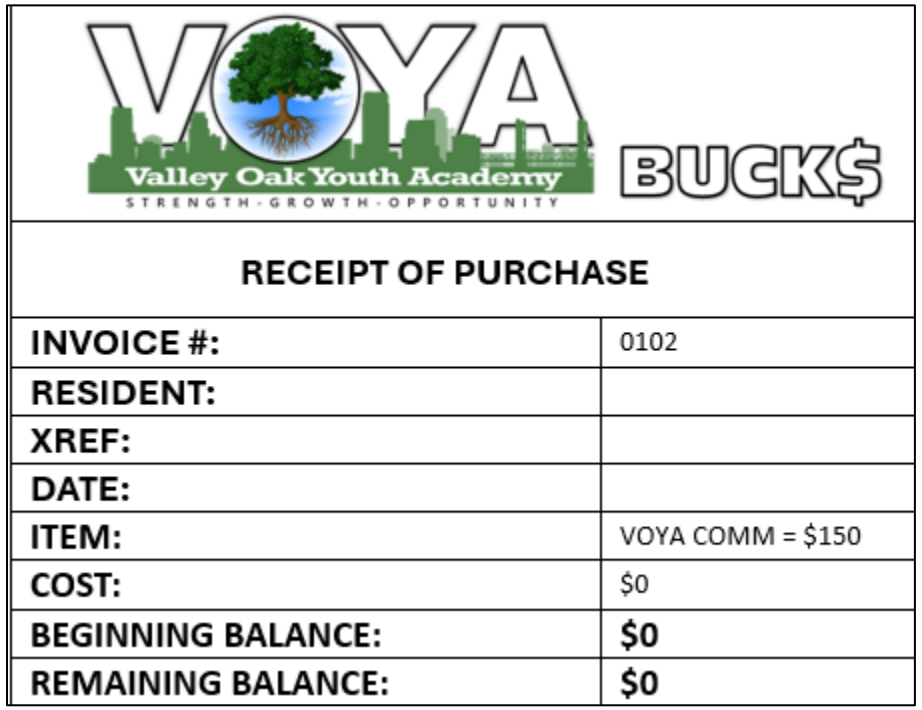
*VOYA residents must have accrued exactly **6 months** of "Good Days". If a resident fails to earn a good day, he must make the day up with an additional good day (1:1).*

In addition, a resident is also not earning time toward Level graduation when on 2 week restriction in the unit. (Example: 3 days spent in ISB, returns to unit 2 week privilege restriction = 17 days added to 6 month period)

BUCK$ STORE

- Residents start accumulating "Bucks" at **Level 2** promotion.
- 15 Bucks a day (1 infraction = -5 Bucks)
- Opportunities for extra Bucks through participation in the Youth Community Outreach Unit (YCOU).
- ***What Can be bought with VOYA Bucks?***
  - Additional Commissary and hygiene items. Outside food.

BUCK$



VOYA BUCKS STORE

Subject to change (Last updated: 12/16/2021)

FOOD INCENTIVE	OTHER
Piece of VOYA Commissary = 150 Bucks	Event entry*= *dependent on event*
VC Food Visit = 300 bucks	Picture to send home= 100 bucks
"Outside Food" = 1500 bucks	Calling Card= 100 bucks
Outside Food + Visit= 2000 bucks	20 minute ZOOM visit= 250 Bucks

Questions?