

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[CEO Hotline](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/
Library](#)[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)[Org Chart](#) (pdf)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

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Five-member teams from Benjamin Franklin, Locke, North Hollywood and Woodrow Wilson High Schools competed against each other to have the best one-day "vacation" within Los Angeles County using the new Metro Day Pass.



PHOTOS: JUAN OCAMPO

See L.A. for 3 Bucks a Day? High School Teams Say 'Yes!'

By DAVE SOTERO

(March 31, 2004) Can you really visit Los Angeles' best destinations in a single day for only three bucks?

That's what teams from four local high schools found out in the "Discover L.A. Via Metro: the \$3 Vacation" competition conducted earlier this month by Metro.

Five-member teams from Benjamin Franklin, Locke, North Hollywood and Woodrow Wilson High Schools competed against each other to have the best one-day "vacation" within Los Angeles County using the new Metro Day Pass.

The Locke High School team won the competition with the best mix of Metro Bus and Metro Rail and an itinerary that took them to the Disney Concert Hall, Universal Studios, City Hall, the Peterson Auto Museum and other destinations.

"We saw in one day – less than five hours – with a few people...virtually all of what Los Angeles has to

offer," the team wrote in an essay.

In second place was Woodrow Wilson High, followed by North Hollywood High and Benjamin Franklin High School. All four schools participate in the Transportation Career Academy Program (TCAP).

'Interesting and fun places'

"Our goal was to see how many interesting and fun places we could visit relying solely on MTA for transportation," the Woodrow Wilson team wrote, "and we were not disappointed. We went from Universal Studios to La Brea Tar Pits in one day."

Although the North Hollywood High team ranked third, the group achieved the longest one-day journey, racking up a total of 102 miles visiting destinations between Long Beach and Pasadena.

Community Relations staffers Valarie Harrison, Victoria Woods, Eric Rapp and Cathy Manzo accompanied the teams on their \$3 vacations.

Teams took site photos, wrote essays and gave oral presentations on their itineraries, detailing why theirs was the best for taking a one-day vacation with the Metro Day Pass.

Contest entries were judged on a point scale with such criteria as greatest number of sites visited, best use of Metro Bus and Rail connections, and best location representing the essence of Los Angeles. Prizes included monthly Metro passes, movie tickets, and Metro merchandize.



\$3 Vacation: North Hollywood High School students, from left, Otto Hovsepian, Jesus del Val, Linda Nunez, Leonela Colque and Victor Sotero, reach Metro Gold Line Memorial Park Station in Pasadena on a quest for best itinerary.