



Islamic Shura Council
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

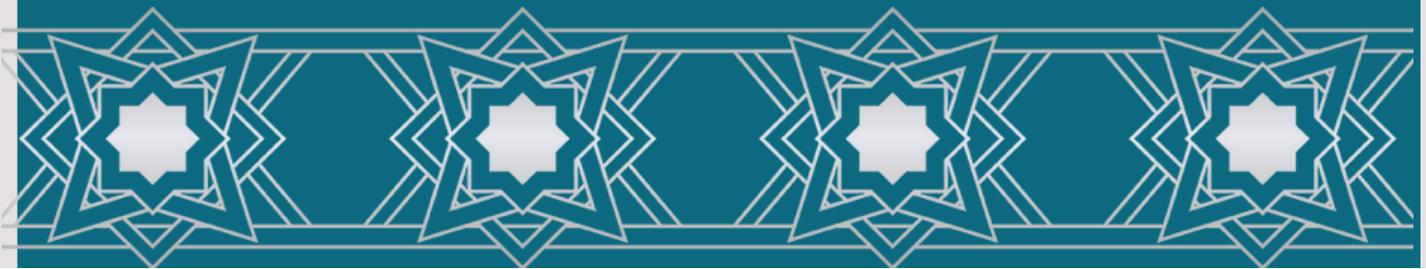


Ramadan

Resources

1444 H / 2023

shuracouncil.org



In the Name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

The Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, along with the Muslim community looks forward to the blessed month of Ramadan 1444AH/2023CE. We pray that Allah allows us to reach this blessed month and endows us with a chance to avail its mercy. We thank Allah for allowing us to gather together in Masajid to feel a greater sense of community, worshiping together in person.

In preparation for this blessed month, the following information is meant as a general guide for reference and educational purposes only. The State of California has issued the following guidelines named SMARTER which stands for:

- Shots - Vaccines are the most powerful weapon against hospitalization and serious illness.
- Masks - Properly worn masks with good filtration help slow the spread of COVID-19 or other respiratory viruses.
- Awareness - We will continue to stay aware of how COVID-19 is spreading, evolving variants, communicate clearly how people should protect themselves, and coordinate our state and local government response.
- Readiness - COVID-19 is not going away and we need to be ready with the tools, resources and supplies we will need to quickly respond and keep public health and the healthcare system well prepared.
- Testing - Getting the right type of tests—PCR or antigen—to where they are needed most. Testing will help California minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- Education - California will continue to work to keep schools open and children safely in classrooms for in-person instruction.
- Rx - Evolving and improving treatments will become increasingly available and critical as a tool to save lives.

The SMARTER Plan is not just for COVID-19. We can use these strategies and systems for future emergencies. We'll improve the SMARTER Plan as we learn what works.

Ultimate liability rests with each individual and organization. We urge each respective institution to do their due diligence and work with guidance from your local health department to ensure the safest environment for all who attend your facility during Ramadan.

The State of California ended the Covid-19 State of Emergency on March 1, 2023. It now offers the COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations for workplaces, this includes houses of worship. Following these guidelines will keep not only your staff and volunteers safer, but will benefit your congregation as well.

Best Practices in dealing with Protesters/Proselytizers:

As many of you are aware, there is an Evangelical Christian organization, Ministry to Muslims (M2M) which has been appearing at mosques to proselytize to Muslims. M2M is one of several organizations that may send their members to mosques or Islamic organizations to proselytize.

Given that these organizations continue to engage in these activities, CAIR-LA will be developing a more thorough outline of best practices and what to do in these situations. In the meantime, we wanted to provide some background on what these individuals can and cannot do and some quick best tips for masjid and Islamic organizations.

These individuals have the right to:

- Be on public sidewalks and areas even if in close proximity to the masjid.
- Hold signs and posters on public sidewalks as long as the material is not obscene.
- Distribute leaflets, flyers, or other literature on public sidewalks as long as the material is not obscene.
- Engage in loud speech that is not overly disruptive.
- Engage in speech that challenges the practices or beliefs of Muslims.

If these individuals are engaging in protected activity:

- Leave them alone and do not engage with them.
- Inform your community and congregation to not engage with them.
- Many of the individuals are looking to get a rise out of you. Ignoring them is the best practice
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These individuals do not have the right to:

- Disrupt the normal operations of the masjid.
- Block access to entryways or exits.
- Engage in speech that is likely to incite disruptive or dangerous behavior.
- Engage in loud disruptive behavior that is in violation of local noise ordinances. You can google your local county or city noise ordinances for more information.
- To enter the masjid or any other related private property without consent.
- Generally organize marches or large rallies outside the masjid without proper permits.

If the individuals are engaging in activity that is not protected:

- Ask them to leave.
- If they are aggressive or disruptive, do not engage with them and contact local law enforcement.
- Do not provoke the situation with inflammatory language or actions.

Some other best practices:

- If you are aware of these individuals coming to your masjid, inform your local police force to ensure a record of your concerns is documented. Internally document every time you contact local police.
- Develop internal policies and practices for dealing with outside visitors who are not congregants. For example, non-congregant visitors must sign in with the front office before visiting the masjid. Also, consider implementing policies that prohibit publicly expressive activity (e.g., flyering, holding signs, etc.) on masjid property that is not approved by the masjid or that is not directly related to masjid purposes.
- Post signs regarding these policies.
- Consider posting no trespassing signs around your facility.

Make sure your security and parking personnel are informed and trained on dealing with these individuals. Install security cameras and implement other security measures.

Contact CAIR-LA at (714) 776-1177 (#2) if individuals are engaging in an activity they do not have the right to engage in.

Green Masjid Initiative:

- “Zero Styrofoam” in our masjid
- Raise awareness about the importance of protecting our environment in our deen.
- Provide a framework for transitioning to greener practices in our masjid

Below are some useful resources for your Masjid:

- Sign the [Ramadan 2023 Pledge Form](#) either as an individual or organization.
- [Masjid Resources](#)
- [Environmental Practices according to the Quran and Sunnah.](#)
- [Educational Video on Styrofoam](#)
- [Zero Styrofoam Alternatives](#) cost breakdown
- [Sustainability Resource Page](#)
- [Get Zero Styrofoam Certified](#)

GREEN MASJID INITIATIVE

(Masjid name) is partnering with the Art & Wilderness Institute to GO GREEN and transition toward more sustainable and responsible practices in accordance with the Quran and Sunnah.

Add your masjid logo here

WHY GO GREEN?

1. To follow the Quran in all aspects of our life.
"He is the One Who has placed you as successors on earth and elevated some of you in rank over others, so He may test you with what He has given you. Surely your Lord is swift in punishment, but He is certainly All-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Quran 6:165)
2. To follow the environmental sunnah practices of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Our love for Allah SWT should be reflected in the way we show care and compassion for all of Allah's creation.
3. To renew our intentions to be Khalifahs of the earth and represent the true values of stewardship in Islam as Muslims living in the west.



CALL TO ACTION!



1. Styrofoam is toxic to us and the environment. Go Zero Styrofoam in our masjid by Ramadan 2022.
2. Reduce waste and BYO re-usable cups/plates to events.
3. Use re-usable water bottles instead of plastic water bottles.

Contact awigreenteam@gmail.com to learn more.