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# 🔹 *SITE VISIT FAQs*

### 👤 *Who is incarcerated at San Quentin?*

*San Quentin is a **public prison** designated for **men and transgender women**.*

*more than **3,000 people incarcerated** in the **medium-security Mainline** population at San Quentin.*

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### 📵 *Why can't I exchange contact information with incarcerated people?*

*SkunkWorks has **structured communication protocols** to ensure **safe, rule-compliant, and mission-aligned interactions**.*

- ***Our members should not ask for your contact information, but other incarcerated people might.***
- ***Sharing contact details outside of approved channels can create security risks, expose our program to unnecessary scrutiny, and even cause conflicts among residents.***

*There are **limited exceptions** to this rule, such as if you **represent a service organization** (e.g., **reentry or prison education programs**) that serves incarcerated people. If you believe an exception applies, you **must seek permission** from the **Impact Team President (Kai) and your escort** before exchanging any contact information.*

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### 👕 *Why is there a dress code?*

*Incarcerated residents at San Quentin **wear shirts, pants, jackets, and jumpsuits** in **blue, gray, orange, and yellow**.*

- ***We are required to avoid these colors** to remain visually distinguishable from them.*
- ***The attire rules were not drafted by San Quentin SkunkWorks**—they are **California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation rules.***
- *🚪 **If you do not follow our guidelines, you will be unable to enter the prison.***

📌 ***Click here to see the attached SQ Rules for Visitors for more information on allowable and prohibited colors and other rules for attire.***

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### 🆔 *Can I bring any photo ID?*

❌ ***No.*** *You must bring the* ***state-issued photo identification document you were cleared with.***

- ***Example:*** *If you submitted your* ***driver's license*** *for clearance, you* ***will not be allowed*** *to enter the institution with your* ***passport****.*

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### 🚶 *What is the process to enter and exit the prison?*

*You will be* ***escorted*** *into the prison by a SkunkWorks staff member or designated escort.*

✅ ***Entry Process:***
1️⃣ ***Show your ID*** *at the* ***East Gate*** *and walk into the facility with your escort.*
2️⃣ *The staff member* ***collects all IDs*** *and gives them to the officer at the* ***Count Gate****.*
3️⃣ *The officer* ***verifies each ID*** *to ensure everyone is cleared.*
4️⃣ *Visitors* ***sign in, receive a visitor's badge, and an invisible ink stamp on the wrist.***
5️⃣ *The escort leads the group through a* ***double-gate checkpoint*** *(you will show your ID again at a plexiglass window).*
6️⃣ *You will proceed to our* ***meeting area****, usually the* ***chapel or education complex****.*

✅ ***Exit Process:***

- *You will be* ***escorted back to the gate****.*
- *Show your* ***ID and scan your wrist stamp*** *under blacklight.*
- ***Sign out****, then walk to the* ***East Gate*** *and show your* ***ID again****.*

🚨 ***Visitors may never walk anywhere inside the prison without an escort.***

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### ♿ *How long is the walk? Can I bring assistive devices or medication?*

- ***The process of walking into the prison takes about a half hour*** *and, depending on the meeting location, can involve a* ***half-mile walk each way*** *over* ***uneven terrain with a single steep incline/decline****.*
- ***Wheelchairs****,* ***canes, motorized mobility aids, and orthopedic boots*** *may be approved but* ***require additional approvals please let us know if you're using any of these devices****.*
- ***Medications****: If you* ***need to use any medications*** *during your visit,* ***please let us know****. You may need to* ***carry the Rx or a doctor's note****.*

📌 ***If you have other medical needs, please let us know.***

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### 🛑 *Will I be searched?*

✅ ***Yes.*** *You* ***may be searched*** *at the gate by a* ***pat-down or wand scan****.*

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### 🗣️ *How does SkunkWorks refer to incarcerated people?*

✅ ***We refer to our program participants as****:* ***Impact Team Members***
✅ ***Others as****:* ***Residents or Incarcerated People***
🚫 ***We avoid using****: "inmates," "convicts," or "prisoners."*
📌 ***CDCR now uses the term*** *San Quentin Residents.*

***We refer to people by the name they introduce themselves with****, though prison staff often refer to them* ***by last name only****.*

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### ⚠️ *Am I in danger in any way?*

❌ ***No.*** *We have* ***never had any incidents*** *involving* ***volunteer, visitor, or staff safety.***

📌 ***That said, please follow all instructions and defer to SkunkWorks Outside personnel.***

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### 🏛️ *Will I see where people eat and sleep?*

❌ ***No.*** *Our meetings mostly take place in*

- 📚 ***Classrooms***
- ⛪ ***The Chapel***

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### 💬 *How should I talk to the team members? What can I ask them?*

✅ ***We encourage you to interact with our team****—many members are glad to share:*

- *Their* ***experiences in SkunkWorks***
- ***Why they enrolled***
- ***What their goals are***

🚫 ***Please respect residents' privacy.*** *It is a* ***boundary violation*** *to ask about* ***personal topics*** *such as their* ***commitment offense or sentence length****.*

📌 ***The institution requires formal physical distance****—avoid physical contact beyond a brief handshake.*

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### 🎁 *Can I give or accept anything from residents?*

❌ ***No.*** *Do* ***not*** *exchange anything with residents outside of SkunkWorks.*

- *Even small items like a* ***pen or tissue*** *can be seen as* ***"overfamiliarity"*** *and may cause* ***serious consequences****.*
- ***If a resident offers you something, direct them to the Impact Team President (Kai) and your escort.***

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### 📩 *Can I give or accept anything from Impact Team Members?*

✅ ***Yes—but only if it is specifically approved for the program.***

📌 ***To ensure compliance, please show all materials you've been given to the Impact Team President (Kai) and your escort.***

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### 🚧 *Why are the rules about what I can bring inside so restrictive?*

🚨 ***Items considered contraband*** *include:*

- *Anything that* ***could be used as a weapon***
- *Items associated with* ***security threats***
- *Items restricted as* ***inmate property***

📌 ***Visitors who fail to comply with the rules may be denied entry, banned from future visits, and put the Impact Team at risk.***

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### 🥤 *Can I bring food and drinks inside?*

❌ ***No food is permitted.***
✅ ***You may bring a clear plastic water bottle.***

📌 ***If you have medical or dietary needs requiring food access, let us know so we can arrange accommodations.***

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### 🚻 *Will I be able to use the restroom inside?*

✅ ***Yes.*** *Restrooms are available in:*

- ⛪ ***The chapel area***
- 📚 ***The Education Department***

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