



Fast Facts About the Watts Bears

- The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Watts Bears is a charity organization and after school program and football team for children from the city of Watts, Los Angeles.
- Watts is one of the poorest areas of Los Angeles. It is also known to have a very high number of youth gangs. Watts Bears was created to keep youths off the streets and put them into a productive after school program.
- The Watts Bears are coached by four LAPD officers in their spare time. Officers Goosby, Thompson, Holliman and Swift are volunteers. When they are not on active patrol for the LAPD, they are coaching.
- The Watts Bears are comprised of young men ages eight to 13. This year they welcomed the first female Watts Bear, a left tackle, age 11.
- The Bears were the 2014 Southern California DIII champions.
- Officers Thompson, Goosby, Holliman and Swift pride themselves in stressing strong positive values such as academic excellence, personal responsibility, team work, discipline, structure and positive competition.
- Bears must maintain a minimum GPA 3.0. - In the summer, the athletes attend the Watts Bears Summer Academy where they maintain their school work and are taught by highly qualified volunteers.