



## Youth Short-Term Mission Trips - what to consider before signing up

God often uses short-term mission trips as a way for individuals to become engaged in God's kingdom here on earth. Short-term trips provide opportunities to be exposed to varying degrees of poverty, cultural diversity and community life. God uses these trips to not only work through us to share the love of Jesus, but also *in* us, so we can experience that love and grow as disciples of Jesus.

**If you sense God is saying "Go!" we suggest you go through the following steps. Taking time to discern is part of the journey to which God is calling you. This discernment will allow you to participate fully and faithfully grow as a follower of Jesus.**

- 1. Pray.** Pray for clarity as to whether God is calling you to go on this specific trip at this specific time.
- 2. Discuss this calling with family.** Family members will generally be significantly impacted, and the trip may require sacrifice on their part. Ask for their prayerful support and discernment.
- 3. Spend time in community** with your close friends and/or small group members. Ask them to pray with and for you, seeking truth and discernment as to whether your motivation to go is for the right reasons.
- 4. Become actively involved in research and preparation** for the short-term mission trip. Visit the applicable mission trip Facebook page, research the history of the mission, attend all training meetings, etc.
- 5. Be realistic about your current physical and mental health.** Mission trips are taxing physically and emotionally and require living in a group setting that may not have air conditioning, internet access, TV, or other comforts.
- 5. Pray.** Don't neglect prayer in the process of discerning if God is calling you to go in this season of your life. Ask God to give you and your family peace beyond all understanding regarding the decision.

- To Register go to <https://loc.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/1121/responses/new>
- Each person desiring to attend will need to complete their own registration form.
- A non-refundable deposit is required of \$100.00 per person.
- If not paying online, make checks payable to LOC with "Youth Mission Trip 2022" in the memo line and turn in to LOC Financial Secretary, Vicki Barmore, via her mailbox in the church mailroom next to the kitchen.
- Trip participation is subject to a potential interview with the Director of Youth Ministry, Kim Carrera.

## Cost

Short-term mission trips require a financial commitment. Participants are expected to pay for travel, lodging, food and other incidentals. These costs can range from several hundred to a few thousand dollars. For some individuals, the financial cost of the trip may be a hurdle that seems insurmountable.

However, **just because you do not have the financial resources available to participate in a short-term mission trip does not necessarily mean you are not being called.** Trusting God to supply the funds necessary for your short-term mission trip is a spiritual adventure of faith and may be a key part of your faith journey in preparation for the mission ahead.

**Payment for the short-term mission trip must be paid in full in advance of departure. Participants are personally responsible for the financial aspects of the trip, including payment of all amounts due in a timely manner.** We encourage participants to take the following steps in preparation:

1. **Pray** that God will lead you to resources for the trip.
2. **Examine your current financial status.** See if God reveals any unexpected resources, i.e., bonuses, tax returns, birthday gifts, extra income opportunities, garage sale, etc.
3. **Save for the trip.** Review how you are using your financial resources. God may be calling you to simplify your life and remove the excesses we have a tendency to accumulate. Or, there may be opportunities for you to temporarily consider working a second job.
4. **Ask your close friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors if they would help.** Your community may feel blessed to participate in your mission journey by funding part of the trip cost. By sharing your heart through updates and stories, you will be providing friends and relatives an opportunity to effectively participate in the trip.

## Sample Fundraising Letter

A sample fundraising letter that you can send to your friends and relatives will be provided at a pre-trip training meeting. Please revise the letter to reflect your own words and story of why you are participating in this mission trip.

Include the following instructions in your letter:

1. **Donations can be made by credit card or check.** The checks should be made payable to Light of Christ Lutheran Church. In the memo section of the check, they should indicate **both** the name of the trip and your name.
2. **Donations will go to support the cost of your participation in the mission trip** – no funds will be distributed to you directly. Any excess funds raised by you will go to support others or future trips.
3. **Explain in your letter how you will communicate** about your fundraising progress and your experience on the trip.

## Processing Donations

Include with your letter a self-addressed return envelope so donations are returned directly to you. This is preferable because you will want to keep track of who is helping to fund your trip, so you can thank them and keep them informed of what is happening. If the donation bypasses you and comes direct to LOC via credit card, an update will be provided at the two training meetings.

Submit checks you receive to the LOC Financial Secretary, Vicki Barmore via her church mailbox. Don't forget to send a personal thank-you note to each contributor. And, after your mission trip, send an update to each contributor telling them about your experience. You may want to include a picture or small token gift from the area where you served.