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1.844.258.9616

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WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Spring Break trips are available for anyone 12 or older. Sorry, no families/groups with kids under 12 years of age at this time.

IS THERE A REQUIRED ADULT TO YOUTH RATIO? CAN EXTRA ADULTS GO?

Yes, you must register 1 adult (21 years of age or older) for every 8 youth (20 years of age and under). If both boys and girls are registered in your group, you must have at least one male adult and one female adult registered for supervision at night.

- ▶ If you have extra adults over your 1-to-8 ratio, they are welcome to attend too.

ARE BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED?

Yes, Group Mission Trips requires that all participants 18 years of age or older be screened and background checked by your church prior to attending.

- Background checks must be national and no older than two (2) years from the start of the mission trip. You choose your background check organization vendor or we do have a recommendation.
- 18-20 year olds are not considered “adults” during camp, however because of our commitment to safety, we still ask them to go through your church’s screening process and have background checks run.
- Group Mission Trips requires a digital pastor signature on a Screening and Verification Form for every 18 participant who is 18 or older.
- You may use any organization to run your background checks, but if you are looking for a reliable one, we recommend Clear Investigative Advantage. Their basic background checks start at just \$12. They can be reached at 1.888.242.2503.

WHAT ABOUT TRANSPORTATION?

- ▶ Groups must provide transportation to and from the mission trip as well as daily to and from the sites. (Mileage or fuel costs are not reimbursed for any transportation costs.)
- ▶ Vehicles with a minimum capacity of six passengers are requested, with seat belts.
- ▶ Adults will be driving their own vehicles.
- ▶ Due to tight and narrow roads, there are some locations that are labeled “Not Bus Accessible”. If you are serving at one of these, you’ll need to plan on bringing smaller vehicles.

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WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

Our spring break mission experience is a great opportunity to serve community residents in need through meaningful community service projects. Projects vary by location but may include:

- ▶ Help with residents in an assisted living center
- ▶ General yard work at an organization or a resident home
- ▶ Help stock and serve meals in a local food kitchen
- ▶ Light home repairs
- ▶ Interact with low-income kids at a local kid's program
- ▶ Serve at a local homeless ministry

WHAT DO WE NEED TO BRING?

The full Packing List is located online for every registered group on their Group Page website, but it's pretty much what you'd expect. A twin-size air mattress and bedding for sleeping, work gloves, water jugs and coolers and modest swimsuits and clothing appropriate for a Christian mission trip.

WHAT ABOUT SAFETY?

Safety is our top priority!

- ▶ We require groups to bring 1 adult (21 or older) for every 8 participants that are under 21 years of age.
- ▶ We require participants that are 18 and older be screened and background-checked by their church. Their pastor signs off that the participants meet GMT's requirements and they are approved to attend.
- ▶ Every staff member has been screened, background-checked, and reference checked by GMT.
- ▶ For overall protection, we have separate shower times designated for participants that are 17 and younger from those that are 18 and older.
- ▶ We review safety procedures at camp.
- ▶ Participants are not required to do any work that they consider unsafe.
- ▶ Our staff visits each project site daily so they are aware of where a crew is working and any issues in the area.
- ▶ Although we do serve in needy areas, we require work crews to stay together at all times. No one should ever be left alone and all participants are back at the lodging facility by their designated check in time.
- ▶ Every crew has the direct phone number to the GMT staff and directions to the closest hospital. If an injury occurs on the project site, and is not serious, GMT staff will contact the youth leader and coordinate any transportation needed. If the injury is serious, the adult on site will call 911 and GMT staff will offer support and ensure needed medical forms are delivered to hospital.
- ▶ Each crew will have a small first aid kit and a bigger one for every vehicle.

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WHERE DO WE STAY?

Varies by location, but typically at a local church. Our staff transforms the facility into a home away from home—there will be a separate boy's hall and girl's hall, a space for meals, and adequate bathrooms and showers.

Participants need to bring twin-size air mattresses, pillows, sleeping bags or other bedding to sleep on floors. Youth groups are assigned to sleeping rooms together, gender separate. Sleeping rooms may be shared with other groups.

Registered groups will receive more information about their lodging facility online on their Group Page website. Trip Leaders are given the lodging facility's address.

WHAT IS THE MENU? WHAT IF THERE ARE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

Meals will consist of hot breakfasts, picnic-style lunches, and hot dinners. Picnic-style lunches will be assembled in the mornings and brought to project sites.

For registered groups: If you have a participant that has to eat gluten-free--please let us know. We can have a few gluten free options at camp but need to have an accurate number to plan for. Participants with special diets or allergies are welcome to bring their own food items to fill in as needed during the trip. Please know that we do have peanut butter on the menu. GMT is unable to guarantee there will not be any cross-contamination during meal preparation by kitchen staff. There will be a staff member available during the trip who will be able to answer any questions about food.

WHAT ARE THE EVENINGS LIKE?

Relaxed! We'll talk about where participants saw God during the day either during or after dinner, but other than that, it's up to you how you want to spend this time. You can lead your group in your own devotions and/or worship singing or go out and do something fun in the community.

WHEN ARE THE PAYMENT DATES?

After you register by paying \$50 (non-refundable) per space, the final amount is due 30 days before your trip.

WHAT IF I NEED TO ADD OR CANCEL A SPACE?

Call us! If there's space available, we'll ask for necessary payment. If you have a cancellation, and you've exhausted all efforts to re-fill spaces, call us to make cancellations. We'll adjust your balance accordingly. If you cancel a space prior to 30 days before your trip starts, you'll just lose the \$50 deposit. We're sorry, but there are no refunds for any cancellations made within 30 days of your trip start.

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WHAT IF I NEED TO CANCEL MY ENTIRE GROUP?

Cancellations have a huge effect on the people we serve, it is devastating news to them when we have to cancel. Based on the number of registered participants, we plan for lodging, food orders, supplies and staffing—just for starters.

We also recognize that unexpected events happen that can pull participants away from their original commitment. Please give us a call, we are happy to talk through ideas to recruit other participants and keeping your group intact.

If there is no other option but to cancel your group, call us to cancel. If you cancel prior to 30 days before your trip starts, you'll just lose the \$50 deposit per spot. We're sorry, but there are no refunds for any cancellations made within 30 days of your trip start.

IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

We request modest clothing choices in our Code of Conduct. While Group Mission Trips doesn't have a formal dress code, we serve organizations that do have specific requirements for volunteers. Don't be turned away from your assigned project due to inappropriate dress!

- ▶ Pack plenty of t-shirts, longer shorts, capris or pants, and close toe shoes.
- ▶ Please have your females bring a one-piece swimsuit in case they are assigned to a project site teaching a resident how to swim.
- ▶ Many of our partner organizations don't allow volunteers to wear spaghetti straps, shirts that reveal the midriff, short shorts or flip flops. And, of course, no clothing with offensive language or images.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION FEE?

- ▶ Lodging during the camp.
- ▶ All meals on the days your group is serving.
- ▶ Site selection and organization.
- ▶ Supplies and project materials for each project site.
- ▶ Staff to handle all the details.
- ▶ An online Group Page full of resources to help prepare you and your group.
- ▶ Unlimited customer support from professional and courteous staff.
- ▶ T-shirt for each participant.

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DO PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO HAVE INSURANCE?

- ▶ Personal health insurance is not required to attend, although highly recommended.
- ▶ If you carry personal health insurance, bring the appropriate information. It is needed if treated at any health-care facility.
- ▶ All health-care costs are the responsibility of the participants or his or her parent/guardian.
- ▶ If you have participants without adequate medical insurance and/or you desire to purchase trip protection insurance, you can purchase low-cost domestic and international insurance from any insurance provider of your choice.

DO YOU HAVE REFERENCES?

Absolutely! Don't just take our word for it. Give us a call (844.258.9616) and we'd be happy to connect you with other youth leaders who have served with us.

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