

General Information & Expectations for Student Ministry Mission Experiences

Middle School

Why a mission experience for middle school students? Because we know it is important to provide fun and meaningful experiences! Being part of the Middle School Mission Experience will be a profound and life-changing experience. The opportunity to give of yourself physically, emotionally and spiritually is unique, and to do so to improve the quality of life for other human beings, or communities, is immeasurably rewarding. To serve in this way allows each person to more fully understand the love that is asked of each of us as Christians, and shown to us through the example and teaching of Jesus.

A word about safety. I would not lead people on this trip unless I was absolutely sure it was safe. It is our first goal to ensure the physical, emotional and spiritual safety of all participants. All individuals are held to the self expectations and rules to ensure the safety of all involved and the overall success of the trip. If you have questions or concerns, I would be happy to address them. Please do not hesitate to email me at tim.bayer@stmarkschurch.church.

Adult Leaders

We believe life-change and safety exists through a well-planned trip. In addition to Pastor Tim, our anticipated Student Ministry Intern and other college-age young adults will provide leadership during the trip. Additional adults will be needed based on the size of the team.

With that said, we want to encourage any adults who want to be a part of this trip to join our team for the Middle School Mission Trip. Having able adults on the trip is essential for safety and enhances the experience for everyone involved. If you are interested in serving the needs of our middle school students on this trip, **please see Pastor Tim before February 3.**

Location

We will be serving in Knox, Indiana. Just 125 miles from St. Charles, and 40 minutes east of Valparaiso University, Knox is home to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (where we will be staying). 24/7 Wall St.com reported on June 5, 2015 that Knox is the poorest town in Indiana. Just 5.5% of adults have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the statewide rate of 23.2% and the national rate of 28.8%. *Fun facts: Beth Bayer (Pastor Tim's wife) grew up in Knox and Mike and Michelle Albers (St. Mark's members) have a cabin just south of Knox!*

Cost

\$180 per student – includes all transportation, gas, food, activity costs, programming, serving supplies, journals, t-shirt, and fringe mission experience materials. *Literally, everything... no need for your student to bring cash on this experience.* **Partial scholarships are available – see Pastor Tim.**

Payments

A deposit of \$50 is due February 23, 2019. The remaining \$130 balance is due on or before May 5, 2019.

Fundraising

There will be no fundraising for this mission experience.

Team Gatherings (for Students and Parents)

There will be two team gatherings prior to the trip for both students and parents. Dates will be decided by participants between February 23 and March 2, after the team is finalized.

Transportation

We will be driving mini-vans to and from Knox. Only drivers over the age of 25 will operate vehicles.

Schedules

Everyone is expected to adhere to the mission experience schedule and participate in all activities. We believe that each part of the experience is an important part of growing in our relationship with Jesus. This includes time spent on the serving site, devotions, bible study and worship, hang out, and journal/reflections. The experience begins Thursday, June 13 at 10:30 a.m. and ends when students are released to their parents or authorized adults on Sunday, June 16.

Partner Church

Please respect our partner church, Our Redeemer in Knox, Indiana by keeping it clean and not damaging anything in the church, classrooms, or other parts of the building. If property is damaged, you will be responsible for the necessary repairs and/or costs to replace.

Meals

The team will eat three meals, each day and will have plenty of healthy snacks in between meals. You may bring your own snacks to eat during free time, but do not plan to bring in food for meals or eat out (with the exception of food sensitivities and allergies). *The team will stop for lunch at the South Holland Oasis at Exit 1 on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) en route on Thursday, June 13. This cost is covered in the mission experience fee.*

Sleeping Arrangements

Where we sleep is a private matter. Each gender will be assigned specific sleeping areas in designated areas of the facility. Sleeping areas are off-limits to the opposite gender at all times. It is expected, in general, to only be in sleeping areas at bedtime.

Lights Out

For security and rest purposes, everyone is expected to be in bed and quiet by 10:30 PM each night. People require different amounts of sleep. Please respect those who require more than you, both at night and early in the morning. The facility will be locked each evening to ensure security. With this in mind, it is important that each participant respect the lights out timing.

Illegal Stuff

To enhance the interaction of all those involved, the following are not permitted at the school, in vehicles, or at the worksite: swearing, alcohol, drugs, fireworks, and tobacco. St. Mark's team leaders will not dispense medication (including over the counter medications). *Taking medication without a prescription is actually breaking the law.* These are serious matters and can be reason to be sent home (at your own expense.)

Technology

Because St. Mark's Student Ministry is committed to building relationships and meeting new people, we ask that all cell phones and tablets remain OFF during the serving experience. Music players (ipods, mp3 players, walkmans, etc.) may be used after Lights Out through Wake-Up Music.

Groups of 3

Students are asked to stay in groups of 3 or more at all times when not engaged in programmed activities (i.e.: free time, explore Knox, etc.).

Secured Items

We encourage you to leave all expensive and unnecessary items at home. We will not be responsible for your valued items.

Conduct

We are representing Jesus in the community this week. We may be the only "Jesus" some of our neighbors will ever see. Your attitude and behavior should reflect this at all times. Verbal, physical, or emotional bullying will not be tolerated. Inappropriate public displays of affection are not permitted under any circumstance.

Dress

PLEASE be modest in your dress. Your choice of clothing makes a statement about you, our student ministry, and our ministry as a whole. Undergarments/cleavage should not be showing at any time. Short shorts and cut off shirts are not appropriate for serving. (Cutoff shirts include midriff and deep cuts around the armpits and neckline.) Please do not bring these items on the mission experience. Monitoring this is considered to be the responsibility of the adult leaders. Please know that if something is viewed as inappropriate, an adult leader or St. Mark's staff will ask you to change. Sharing pictures of the day at evening devotions are a fun part of the experience. Modesty will be considered in what is put on the St. Mark's website and the future slideshows. By participating in a St. Mark's Mission Experience, you give St. Mark's permission to use pictures in all programming and marketing media.

Showers

Shower time is a very private time. During showers, only those who are taking showers should be in the bathroom or shower stall. Private showers will be provided for both genders.

Tentative Middle School Mission Experience Schedule

June 13-16, 2019
Knox, Indiana

Thursday

10:30 a.m. Depart St. Mark's
Lunch on the road

1:30 p.m. Arrive at Our Redeemer – Knox
Unload and Settle In

2:00 p.m. Student Orientation
Adult Meeting

2:30 p.m. Large Group Games

3:00 p.m. Large Group Bible Study

3:30 p.m. Small Group Breakouts

4:30 p.m. Free Time

5:00 p.m. Dinner

6:00 p.m. Teams and Projects REVEALED!

6:30 p.m. Explore Knox and Ice Cream

8:30 p.m. Journal, Reflections & Last Word

10:30 p.m. Lights Out

Friday

6:45 a.m. Wake Up Music

7:00 a.m. First Word

7:15 a.m. Breakfast
Make Sack Lunches

8:00 a.m. PTWG

8:30 a.m. Leave for Serving Sites
Lunch & Devo at Serving Sites

3:00 p.m. Return to Our Redeemer
Student Free Time
Adult Meeting (3:30-4:00)

5:00 p.m. Dinner

6:00 p.m. Large Group Games

6:30 p.m. Large Group Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Small Group Breakouts
Journal & Reflections

8:00 p.m. Surprise!

9:30 p.m. Last Word

10:30 p.m. Lights Out

Saturday

6:45 a.m. Wake Up Music

7:00 a.m. First Word

7:15 a.m. Breakfast
Make Sack Lunches

8:00 a.m. Morning Huddle in Teams

8:15 a.m. Leave for Serving Sites
Lunch & Devo at Serving Sites

3:00 p.m. Return to Our Redeemer

3:30 p.m. Saturday Fun Night

9:30 p.m. Last Word

10:30 p.m. Lights Out

Sunday

6:34 a.m. Wake Up Music

6:45 a.m. Breakfast

7:00 a.m. Leave for Melody Theatre

8:00 a.m. Serve @ Drive-In Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Serve at Our Redeemer Service

11:30 a.m. Lunch and Clean Up

1:00 p.m. Depart Knox

3:30 p.m. Arrive at St. Mark's

Sleep.

What to Pack for My Mission Experience

Middle School

Bedding

Sleeping Bag
Air Mattress (optional)
Pillow

Toiletries

Soap and Shampoo
Toothbrush and Toothpaste
Towel and Washcloth
Shower Shoes (optional)
Deodorant
Hairbrush

Clothing

Hangout clothes (gym shorts, t-shirts, etc.)
Work clothes (grubbies)
Sweatshirt or jacket (for evenings)
Swimsuit
Tennis Shoes
Work Shoes
Flip-Flops
Work gloves

Misc.

Bible
Water Bottle
Pen/Pencil
Hat
Insect Repellent
Lip Protection
Sunglasses
Sunscreen

Fun Stuff

Tall Socks (Tall Sock Friday)
Plaid Shorts (Plaid Short Saturday)

Optional

Camera (if you don't use your phone)
Sports Equipment (i.e.: baseball glove)
Spending Money (\$20 is more than enough)

Adults

Cooler for lunches

What Will My Mission Experience Be Like?

Middle School

Arrival

We will arrive at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Knox, Indiana around 1:30 pm on Thursday, June 13. After we check-in, you'll be assigned sleeping quarters. You'll carry all of your belongings to your sleeping quarters and settle into your "home" for the week. You may feel out of your comfort zone at this point, but believe us, it will all be worth it in the end! Christ has called us to lay down our lives for His glory! What's a couple of nights air mattresses and sleeping bags, right!? You'll have time to explore the church and area, play volleyball or basketball in the gym, hang out, and meet other students before afternoon activities.

Activities

Activities will include large group games, worship, bible study, small group discussions, and so much more.

Serving teams will be formed on Thursday evening. Teams will consist of at least 4 students and 1 adult. At the very least, there will be two adults (1 from the team and 1 host) on each worksite. You will work on your project with the same team on Friday and Saturday.

Each Morning...

You'll meet for First Word. It's a quick devotion to start your day! Then, we will enjoy a hearty breakfast and pack a sack lunch for the road. After breakfast, you will have 30 minutes of PTWG (Personal Time with God). You will have a journal, your Bible, and a whole lot of Jesus.

At the Serving Site...

Once you arrive at your serving site, you'll introduce yourself to your host and then begin working on the projects assigned to your team. Your site may involve scraping and painting, repair projects. It may also include crafting, games, or a bunch of other fun things to do with other people. We do want to remind you that it's important to start building a relationship with your host and others around your site from the beginning! In the world, greatness is determined by how many people serve you, but, in God's kingdom, greatness is determined by how many people you serve. Let's put that to practice on the serving site! We will provide daily On-Site Devotions to help you focus on our theme for the experience.

End of the Serving Day

You'll return to the church around 3:00 pm to get cleaned up and enjoy some free time before dinner.

Each Evening

Evening Programming will bring everyone together for some fun activities, worship, community building, sharing and a time for spiritual inspiration and challenge. You will have time to journal and reflect on what God is showing you through serving. There is a fun activity after Evening Programming (ice cream, surprises, etc.). Following all of this, you will have free time until lights out at 10:30 pm.

Free Time

Free time will give you a chance to make new friends, play basketball, volleyball, write care cards, take a nap or whatever else. Board games, basketballs, cards, fun games etc. will be available onsite. Any two students together in an unseen or less easily viewed area will be redirected to another (more open) area and encouraged to stay in groups of three.

Last Day

On the last morning (Sunday), you'll celebrate your week of Christian service at two worship services. One is at the Melody Drive-In at Bass Lake at 8:00 a.m.. You will be asked to serve during worship and maybe even sing a group song! The other service is back at church which begins at 10:00 a.m. During this service, we will sing a group song and share how we served.

After the services, we will have lunch, pack up, and head back to St. Charles.

Student Ministry Mission Experience Registration Form

General Information

Student's Name _____ **Gender:** Male ____ Female ____

School Name _____ **Birth date** ____/____/____ **Age** (as of June 1, 2019) ____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip code** ____ **Best Phone** _____

Parent/Guardian #1 Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip code** ____ **Best Phone** _____

Best Email(s) _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip code** ____ **Best Phone** _____

Best Email(s) _____

Emergency Contact Information – Alternate Pickup/Release

Emergency Contact #1 _____ **Authorized to Pick-up/Release?:** Yes ____ No ____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip code** ____ **Best Phone** _____

Relation to Student) _____

Emergency Contact #2 _____ **Authorized to Pick-up/Release?:** Yes ____ No ____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip code** ____ **Best Phone** _____

Relation to Student) _____

Student Ministry Mission Experience Registration Form

Medical Release Information

Health Insurance Policy Number _____ Provider _____

Primary Physician _____

Physician's Phone _____

Please list any medical problems, including any requiring maintenance medication (i.e. Diabetic, Asthma, Seizures).

<u>Medical Problem</u>	<u>Required Treatment</u>	<u>Should paramedic be called?</u>
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_____	_____	Yes / No
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_____	_____	Yes / No
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_____	_____	Yes / No
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Is your student presently being treated for an injury or sickness, or taking any form of medication for any reason?

Yes__ No__ If yes, please explain: _____

Is your student allergic to any type of food or medication?

Yes__ No__ If yes, please explain: _____

Does your student require a special diet?

Yes__ No__ If yes, please explain: _____

The purpose of the above listed information is to ensure that medical personnel have details of any medical problem which may interfere with or alter treatment.

I understand that I will be notified in the case of a medical emergency involving my student. In the event that I cannot be reached, I authorize the calling of a doctor and the providing of necessary medical services in the event my student is injured or becomes ill.

Parent's/Guardian's Initials _____

I understand that St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, their staff and leaders, and other associated parties will not be responsible for the medical expenses incurred, but that such expenses will be my responsibility as parent/guardian.

Parent's/Guardian's Initials _____

Student Ministry Mission Experience Registration Form

Photo/Video Release

I hereby give permission for my student to be photographed and video recorded during the mission experience and related events. I understand the photos and videos will be used to keep a journal of activities, to share during presentations, and for promotional purposes including flyers, brochures, newspaper and on the internet. I understand that although my student's photograph and/or video may be used for advertising, his or her identity will not be disclosed. I do not expect compensation and that all photos and videos are the property of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Parent's/Guardian's Initials _____

Transportation Release

I hereby give permission for the transportation of my student for St. Mark's Student Ministry Mission Trip Experiences by modes of transportation agreed to by the ministry's organizers.

Parent's/Guardian's Initials _____

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is not responsible for lost or damaged personal property. All scheduled events are subject to change. I understand that no fees will be refunded or transferred unless a student is unable to participate due to an accident or illness per physician orders. Student photos, videos, and quotes may be used for publicity purposes. In case of an emergency, and if a family physician cannot be reached, I hereby authorize my student to be treated by Certified Emergency Personnel (i.e. EMT, First Responder, and/or Physician).

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

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Sleeping Bag
Air Mattress (optional)
Pillow

Toiletries

Soap and Shampoo
Toothbrush and Toothpaste
Towel and Washcloth
Shower Shoes (optional)
Deodorant
Hairbrush

Clothing

Hangout clothes (gym shorts, t-shirts, etc.)
Work clothes (grubbies)
Sweatshirt or jacket (for evenings)
Swimsuit
Tennis Shoes
Work Shoes
Flip-Flops
Work gloves

Misc.

Bible
Water Bottle
Pen/Pencil
Hat
Insect Repellent
Lip Protection
Sunglasses
Sunscreen

Fun Stuff

Tall Socks (Tall Sock Friday)
Plaid Shorts (Plaid Short Saturday)

Optional

Camera (if you don't use your phone)
Sports Equipment (i.e.: baseball glove)
Spending Money (\$20 is more than enough)

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Cooler for lunches

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