

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who can participate?

**Jr/Sr High trips:** Must be at least 11 years old OR entering the 6th grade in the fall of the same year as your trip.

## Is there a required adult to youth ratio?

Yes, you must have **1 adult (21 years of age or older) for every 5 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.

## Are background checks required?

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

## 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.)

## What's the schedule?

### Sunday

3-4 p.m. Check-in

4:30 p.m. Adult meeting

5:30 p.m. Dinner gathering

6:30 p.m. Kick-off program. Meet your crew and get project assignments

8:00 p.m. Chapel. Youth group devotions

11 p.m. Lights-out

### Monday

6:30 a.m. Breakfast crew begins

6:45 a.m. Wake-up call

7-7:45 a.m. Breakfast and pack lunches

8:45-3 p.m. Serve at project sites. Lunch and crew devotions

3:30 p.m. Return to lodging facility. Camp store is open

5 p.m. Dinner crew begins

5:30 p.m. Dinner gathering

6:30 p.m. Hospitality tasks

7:00 p.m. Chapel team practice  
8:00 p.m. Chapel. Youth group devotions  
10:30 p.m. Bedtime stories (optional)  
11 p.m. Lights-out

### **Tuesday**

6:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Same as Monday  
3:30 p.m. Check-in at lodging facility. Free time: dinner and devotions on your own  
8:00 p.m. Lodging facility is back open  
8:30 p.m. Movie night (optional)  
10:30 p.m. Bedtime stories (optional)  
11 p.m. Lights-out

### **Wednesday**

6:30 a.m.–11 p.m. Same as Monday

### **Thursday**

6:30 a.m. Breakfast crew begins.  
6:45 a.m. Wake-up call  
7–7:45 a.m. Breakfast and pack lunches  
8am. Morning program  
8:45–3 p.m. Serve at project sites. Lunch and crew devotions  
3:30 p.m. Return to lodging facility. Camp store is open  
5 p.m. Dinner crew begins  
5:30 p.m. Dinner gathering  
6:30 p.m. Hospitality tasks  
7:00 p.m. Chapel team practice  
8:00 p.m. Chapel. Youth group devotions  
9:30 p.m. Lip-Sync battle  
11 p.m. Lights-out

### **Friday**

7–8 a.m. Breakfast  
7–9 a.m. Room check-out. Groups depart

### **Where do we stay?**

A Week of Hope can hold up to 100 participants and we house them all typically at a local church. Group Mission Trips' 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, adequate bathrooms and showers, and a space for the programs.

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 youth groups, depending on the size of groups and the size of the room.

In Kenosha, our facility is fully air-conditioned and can get chilly in evenings. The facility does have indoor showers! They are not private so feel free to bring your swimsuit if you're worried about modesty.

### **What is the menu? What if there are special dietary needs?**

Meals will consist of hot breakfasts, picnic-style lunches, and hot dinners. All meals are prepared by participants on a rotating basis supervised by staff. Picnic-style lunches will be assembled in the mornings and brought to project sites. The first provided meal is dinner on Sunday and the last meal will be cold breakfast on Friday morning. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Dinner is NOT provided on Tuesday, youth groups have free time this day and dinner is on their own.

**For registered groups:** If you have a participant that has to eat gluten-free--please let us know. Participants with special diets or allergies are welcome to bring their own food items to fill in as needed during the week. Please know that we do have peanut butter on the menu. Group Mission Trips is unable to guarantee there will not be any cross-contamination during meal preparation by kitchen staff.

### **What will we be doing?**

Be ready to tackle any project and expect to interact each day with local residents from the community. **Crews typically serve at the same organization for the entire camp (or at the most 2 organizations), creating an environment where meaningful relationships develop.**

Projects could include working with children at a day camp, serving at a food bank or homeless shelter, leading a Vacation Bible School, improving the homes of people in need, assisting the elderly, tutoring struggling kids, working with disabled children, facilitating a sports camp, and/or serving churches and other human service organizations in different ways. If there are any minor repair projects, we may ask your group to bring a few small hand tools and paint brushes.

### **What about safety?**

Safety is our top priority!

- We require groups to bring 1 adult (21 or older) for every 5 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 they meet Group Mission Trips' requirements and that they are approved to attend.
- Every staff member has been screened, background-checked, and reference checked by Group Mission Trips.
- 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.
- Although we do serve in needy areas, we require 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.
- Group Mission Trips' staff visit the crews every day so they are aware of where a crew is working and any issues in the area.
- Every crew has the direct phone number to the GMT office 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.

### **What are the programs like?**

*Focused on Jesus.* Our goal is to point people to Jesus. Programs focus on Bible passages and daily themes that challenge us to respond to Jesus in ways we will never forget.

*Interactive.* People learn better by doing. Participants will be involved in sharing, speaking, acting, reflecting...not just sitting and watching.

*Relevant.* Through creative multimedia, thought provoking sound and video, our programs are designed to reach everyone.

*Fun.* Relationship-building activities, games and having fun are part of every program. Expect to have a great time!