

# YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING AGENDA

## January 8, 2017

### TRAVEL INFORMATION - (Saturday, June 17, 2017 - Saturday, June 24, 2017)

- We will be travelling in several 15 passenger vans and have also secured a cargo van for luggage and supplies.
- You will be limited to one large bag and one small bag for the van. There is not a weight limit, as we are not flying, however, you will be carrying your own bag around, so don't overdo it.
- Our goal at this point is to leave sometime on Saturday, June 17, 2017 in the morning and drive to a hotel (with a pool) near the location that is also in close proximity to a White Water Rafting company, so that those that wish to can go rafting on Sunday morning, before we finish the trek to the mission site.
- Our goal to start the day on Sunday right after breakfast at the hotel and head right to rafting. We will find another activity for those that don't wish to go rafting as well.
- We will return home sometime Saturday afternoon on June 24th. Since we are in vans, arrival times may vary. We will have each van have their passengers call home to give estimates.

### EXTRA ACTIVITIES

- We are researching different options for cultural experiences that we will be able to offer during down times.
- The Annual Kickball game will be figured into one night's activities.
- Church (We will conduct our own church service either on Saturday Pm or Sunday PM)
- Wednesday is a scheduled 1/2 work day. We will be planning a picnic somewhere local, hopefully at a park with a lake for swimming.

### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- January 15, 2017 - second payment of \$200.00
- February 15, 2017 - third payment of \$200.00
- February 15, 2017 - Medical Authorization form **WITH CURRENT MEDICAL ID CARD** and a current wallet sized photo of the participant.
- May 25, 2017 - final\* payment (\$125 for FBBC Members and \$225 for non-members.)
- June, 4, 2017- **MANDATORY MEETING FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS AND PARENT/GUARDIAN. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE SURE YOU WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE. FAILURE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WILL REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE LIST AND YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE TRIP. (A refund will be issued for all monies paid minus the \$150 non refundable deposit.)**

This meeting will be in three stages. 5:00 for all participants and parents/guardians, followed by a participant meeting with some team building activities and then a

chaperone only meeting at the end. Most participants should be done around 8:00.

## **OTHER PAYMENT INFORMATION**

**Please understand the urgency of getting payments to us in a timely manner. Organizing this information takes an incredible amount of time. We cannot have it come in piecemeal. Payment deadlines will be strictly adhered to as well. If you are unable to stop by the church with your payments, you can mail them in to the following address.**

**First Congregational Church of Branford  
1009 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
Attention - Steve Cudgma - Youth Missions**

Please make the check out to FCCB and put "Youth Mission Payment" in the memo line with the participants name.

If there are special needs that must be addressed please communicate with us. We can work it out.

## **PAPERWORK TIMELINE**

With a group this size, it takes an incredible amount of time to put all the paperwork together.

We are asking that you have the Medical Authorization form to us by the February payment deadline. This should include the participants most current medical ID card, the date of their last tetanus shot (MUST BE WITHIN 5 YEARS OF THE DATES OF THE TRIP) and a current WALLET SIZED picture of the participant.

There is also a form from Reach Mission that will need to be filled out and sent in by April.

We also have a SKILL SHEET to be filled out.

This and any other information that is needed will be on the website in the next week or so. Please do not make us chase you down for it.

The trip covenant will be signed and recorded at the final meeting in June.

We are asking for sign-ups for the rafting tonight, so that we can get a rough idea how many to plan for. Payment will be due on the night of the final meeting as well.

## **OTHER NOTES**

**Cell phones** - Our group unplugs for the week we are gone. You will have your phones collected upon arrival at the hotel on Saturday night. IF TIME PERMITS, we will give you access for about 30 minutes each day. We will make sure everyone contacts home to let them know we got to the hotel safely.

**Work Hours** start early each day (8:00) and we work until about 4:00, with the exception of Wednesday, which is a 1/2 day of work and we have the afternoon planned for a picnic.

**Chore Groups** will be established so that we have teams available to assist at the camp with any tasks that may need to be handled. (Cleaning the common areas, bathrooms, preparing meals, cleaning the vans. etc. )

**MEALS** - will be together with other groups at the site. The medical authorization form has an area to note any food or prescription allergies that a participant may have. Please be detailed in this so that we can care for the needs at the start of the trip.

**SHAKE THE CAN** - We need someone to spearhead this initiative. Last year it raised about \$3000. This amount is included in our budget, so if we don't collect it, then we will be forced to reassess the cost and add to it at the last meeting.

Last year we ran three different locations on three different weekends. Different parents volunteered to run a site and make sure it was manned by youth. Running a site includes setting it up with the store (they are very accommodating) and then making sure you have people there to help ask for donations for the trip. We will have posters and cans made up in advance. We ran sites at Walmart, Stop & Shop and Caron's Corner. The shifts ran for two hours for each participant and it was very successful. Please see Steve after this meeting to volunteer to head this up.

## **YOUTH: Pilgrim Hall**

Establish groups of 8 and try to break up buddies and friends if possible.

Have each group talk amongst themselves about the following topics:

1. People in your life that you look up to and why?
2. What gives meaning to your life right now?
3. Name a person from history that you admire and why?
4. What would you do to make the school you attend a better place?
5. What are your expectations for this trip.

Stress and use past participants to begin the discussion and tell about their previous experiences. Then build on that with the following topics.

- Comfort Zone
- The whole experience (cultural, meeting new people, community atmosphere)
- Why a mission trip. (Try to get past participants to use their own words to wrap up the experience from the last trip.)
- What life lessons do they expect to gain from the experience.
- Have the past participants tell how they got out of it what they put into it.
- Have them explain what the community atmosphere is like.
- Explain the trust and respect issues that can arise.
- Encourage them to keep a journal of the experience to look back on in the future