

TRI-PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

HS MISSION TRIP: JULY 8-14

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE TRIP

Why go on a mission trip? Here's 5 Reasons:

1. **Break Away:** From your phone, from selfies, from work, from your comfort zone, and from the day-to-day.
2. **View the World Differently:** Spending 6 days focused completely on the needs of others who are less fortunate than you, will definitely change your perspective.
3. **Meet Jesus:** Mother Teresa often said that she could see Jesus most clearly in the people she served. *"Once we take our eyes away from ourselves, from our own interests, from our own rights, privileges, ambitions – then they will become clear to see Jesus around us."* St. Teresa of Calcutta
4. **You Can Bring Your Friends:** All are welcome, so sign up and bring your friends too!
5. **Jesus Asks You To:** Jesus specifically asks us to care for the poor, the hurting, and the forgotten. While you can do this in your neighborhood anytime (and you should!), there is something beautiful and inspiring about challenging yourself to do this for an entire week.

What does the week look like?

Monday: Travel to St. Louis, meet the organizations and people we will work with, learn about the work they need done, make game plan to complete project and get necessary supplies.

Tuesday-Friday: Worksite Service (see below for daily schedule).

Saturday: In the morning, we will have a fun activity for our group, possibly the St. Louis Zoo or the Arch. Then we will return to our home base for our conference/retreat day with a keynote speaker, prayer, Reconciliation, worship music, and Adoration.

Sunday: Closing Mass and Travel home.

What is a typical day on the mission trip?

6:45am - 8:00am	Breakfast
8:00am - 8:20am	Morning Session
8:30am	Depart for Worksite
9:00am - 3:30pm	Worksites
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Shower & Return to Homebase
4:00pm - 5:30pm	Free Time - Mass, Ultimate Frisbee, snack, etc.
5:45pm - 7:00pm	Dinner
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Evening Program
9:00pm - 10:00pm	Parish Small Group Time
10:00pm - 11:00pm	Free Time
11:00pm	Lights Out

What kind of work will we do?

Throughout the week we will partner with organizations who serve and work with the community throughout the year. Organizations may include homeless shelters, boys and girls clubs, adult day care centers, women's shelters, and others. Work will vary but will most likely be painting, simple building projects, cleaning up debris, landscaping, working with inner city youth, helping at a soup kitchen, etc. Remember to be open-minded, God sometimes has a plan that's different from ours, and all worksites are chosen based on real needs in the community. So no matter what project the group is assigned, know that you will make a difference.

What is Alive in You?

Alive in You is a Catholic organization dedicated to introducing teens to Jesus Christ through serving communities across the country. This organization will coordinate the lodging, meals, work, and evening programming throughout the week.

Where do we stay?

We will be staying at a local Catholic high school. Typical accommodations include an empty classroom for groups to room together by gender, a free-time area where we can keep snacks and games, a common meal area, and an auditorium for our evening program area. Participants will sleep on the floor and need to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows, and a twin-size air mattress. Showers will be available, and may be open, locker-room style or private shower stalls. All participants should bring a swimming suit so they're prepared for any showering situation. Facilities are air-conditioned, but you may want to consider bringing a small fan.

REGISTRATION

Who can attend?

This trip is open to students who are currently (2018-2019 school year) in 8th-12th grade. This is an incredible experience for anyone, whether you are already on fire for your faith or skeptical. All are welcome!

How do I register?

All students who wish to register should fill out the registration form [online here](#) with the \$99 payment. **Register by January 25.**

What if I need to drop out from going?

\$99 payments are non-refundable. Additionally, late drop outs may be liable for additional charges. View the "How do I go for \$99?" section for more details.

COST & PAYMENTS

What does the trip actually cost?

\$340 (registration)
+ \$79(chaperone)
+ \$50 (misc/group meals/2 group t-shirts)
+ \$156 (travel)
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\$625** TOTAL COST PER PERSON

How can I go for \$99?

As you can see, this trip costs about \$625 a person. But, we believe in the transformative power of these summer experiences, and that's why our parish is committed to sending every single teen on one for only \$99. This discount is reserved for the first 25 people who sign up!

- **Restrictions and Obligations:** All students receiving the \$99 price must commit to the following:
 - *Send out at least 7 sponsor letters to local businesses. You will be provided with a template and instructions on how to do this.*
 - *Participate in our spring parish appeal at the three parishes.*
 - *Attend all group meetings and gatherings (there will be 3-4).*
 - *Commit: In the event that you back out after we've already purchased your spot, you may be liable for the full \$625. Our sponsors and parishioners are generously donating to send someone on this trip, not for it to be wasted. Therefore, if we are unable to find someone to go in your stead and the spot goes empty, you will be liable for all the costs incurred. Exceptions may be made for family deaths, emergencies and unforeseen medical situations. Please understand that you are committing to attend, before you reserve your spot.*
- This offer is dependent on the giving of the parish and the success of fundraising each year. Therefore, while we intend to offer this price of \$99 every year, we cannot guarantee it beyond summer 2019.

When do I pay?

A nonrefundable payment of \$99 is required with registration to reserve your space on the trip.

What does the \$99 include?

- Transportation: Rental minivans to/from St. Louis and throughout the week
- Housing: See below
- Meals: See below.
- Supplies: construction, cleaning, and other supplies needed for our worksites
- Group T-Shirt: This will be designed and selected by our group in spring
- Alive in You T-Shirt, Waterbottle, Backpack, and Devotional
- Evening Programs: Each night at camp we'll have a keynote speaker, a band, and energetic activities
- Miscellaneous expenses: Pre-trip group bonding activity, free day activity and other expenses
- Chaperone Costs: see above

What about food?

Meals included in the \$99

- All meals between Monday, July 8 dinner through breakfast on Sunday, July 14, except for lunch on Saturday.

Meals not included in the \$99 cost (*Please bring money to pay for the following meals*)

- Lunch on Monday, July 8 (fast food stop while travelling)
- Lunch on Saturday, July 13 at the St. Louis Zoo
- Lunch on Sunday, July 14 (fast food stop while travelling)

Do I need to bring extra money on the trip?

You will need to bring money for 2 meals as we travel, and lunch on Saturday at the zoo. You may also want to bring spending money for souvenirs, or snacks throughout week, but that is optional.

What about fundraising?

We will help you write to and find sponsors willing to share in our mission by paying a part of your trip. Additionally, we will also ask our parish to support us in a parish appeal. All trip participants are expected to participate in the parish appeal and in the sponsorship program. I realize that writing sponsor letters can be uncomfortable. But writing partner letters makes this mission trip about more than just you – we're called to share this experience with others. When you write a support letter, you're doing way more than just asking for money and prayer – you're inviting someone to *participate* in your trip. That may sound cheesy, but when someone receives your letter, they'll learn where you're going, why you're going, how they can pray for you, and how they can support you. This is an incredibly important witness! Not everyone can travel with us, but they can still be a vital part of our trip.

Can I opt out of fundraising?

Yes. You can choose to pay the full amount of the trip and thus not participate in fundraising. However, if you want to go for \$99, participation is expected.

More Questions? Contact:

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