



SHORT-TERM TRIP POLICIES & PROCEDURES

If you are interested in participating in a short-term trip with Southland Christian Church please read the following:

- You must submit a completed application (available online or print) prior to being considered for a Southland short-term team. All applicants will be scheduled to meet with Missions Ministry leaders to discuss the trip and answer questions. All applicants will be required to submit a non-refundable \$100 deposit at the time of the meeting.
- Application meetings (or Team Interviews) aren't intended to exclude anyone from going on their chosen trip; they serve to clarify the dynamics of the trip. Many of our destinations are physically strenuous and challenging, and others have travel restrictions which limit the size of our teams. On those occasions when we have more applicants than available spots or extreme conditions demand specific physical abilities, Missions leaders will provide recommendations for other options. Most importantly it provides an opportunity for you to meet the trip Team Leader.
- Participants must adhere to rules outlined in the team covenant and be prepared to respect and follow the Team Leader's requests. You are encouraged to thoroughly read and clarify all rules for which you will be held accountable.
- Short-term trips can be rewarding and life-changing; however, they also can be stressful. Please consider factors in your personal life at this time which could distract and prohibit you from fully committing to the trip and adapting to unusual conditions.
- All team members are asked to attend a series of team meetings. These meetings are mandatory, but we realize that unavoidable schedule conflicts sometimes occur. It's the responsibility of each team member to discuss these conflicts with their Team Leader prior to the scheduled team meeting.
- All trip costs are the team member's responsibility and expected payment schedules will be discussed with you. All payment schedules are determined by Missions Leaders based upon various factors, such as advanced travel payment requirements and the length of time to raise support.
- Your team leader will provide you with information about raising financial support; however, if full support is not raised, the balance is your responsibility. You should not begin to raise funds until you've been informed of Southland's fundraising procedures.
- If you are unable to participate in your trip, Southland's Missions Office must receive cancellation notice as soon as possible. You may be responsible for all trip costs. Monies put towards mission trips are contributions; the Internal Revenue Service prohibits refund of contributions.
- Team members will be advised of required travel documents and provided with sources to U.S. Government agencies which contain information regarding suggested inoculations/vaccinations. Passport and inoculations/vaccination costs are not included in the trip costs and are the responsibility of the team member. Team members assume the responsibility and liability for their personal health decisions and should consult their personal physicians prior to taking any vaccinations or medications.

FAQs

◆ **Where are upcoming mission trips going?**

Each year our missionary partners are contacted and asked about their need for a team. We also ask about the best time to bring a team and which skills and abilities would best meet the needs. Using that information we pray about where God wants to use our teams; then we formulate our list of trips for the year. Our destinations change year to year, but they're always to locations where we have partnering missionaries. The best current resource is the Mission Web page which lists the trips and their status.

◆ **What's the typical length for Southland's short-term mission trips?**

Many of our trips last seven days including travel; however, we also have trips that last as long as 21 days. The length of the trip is determined by travel factors, required time to complete our work, and the convenience of our missionaries. Trip length can also affect trip costs.

◆ **What's the typical cost for Southland's short-term mission trips?**

Many factors affect the price of our short-term trips, such as previous trip costs to the same location, economic conditions, length and time of year of travel, type of sleeping accommodations, and team size (group discounts, etc.). We make every effort to provide an accurate estimate when listing the trip; however, rare adjustments could be required as a result of unforeseen circumstances.

◆ **What's the minimum or maximum age limit for being on a short-term team?**

Although we're excited about parents who want to teach their young children the importance of the Great Commission, we can't accept children less than 10 years of age on any international trip. Children 10 or older would require at least one parent be on the trip to be considered. With most destinations the physical requirements and socio-economic conditions aren't conducive to a positive experience for the child, parent and especially our missionaries. While it's a good idea for children to learn "how blessed they are" or how "serving others demonstrates Christ's love," foreign mission fields aren't appropriate classrooms. Besides obvious risks a foreign trip places on a child, the parent also makes deliberate efforts to care for their child who disturbs their focus and energy. When considering a maximum age our prayer is that each person would carefully assess the physical challenges that some trips could place on their health. For example, several destinations are in very high altitudes where thin air could actually prove life-threatening.

**** The key point for age requirements is we will prayerfully consider each case individually given the above parameters.***

◆ **Where can I find more information or who can I contact with additional questions?**

The best source for updated information is the Southland Christian Missions Web page: <http://missions.southlandchristian.org>. However, if you still have questions, contact Andy at 859.224.1669 or anewton@southlandchristian.org.