

North Carolina Mission Trip 2021

Application for Students & Parents

DUE: JANUARY 24, 2021 BY 7 PM

(No late applications will be accepted!)

Trip Dates: March 27 - April 3, 2021

This application is complete when:
(check when completed)

- € you have prayerfully considered participating in this trip
 - € the letter from Gia and Eric has been read and discussed
 - € you have at least \$200 "on account" (this includes "roll over" money from past trips)
 - € all information has been filled in
 - € all questions have been thoughtfully answered
 - € students & parents have signed/initialed where specified
 - € you have handed in this application in hard copy form
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Dear Prospective 2021 Mission Team Students and Parents,

We are very excited that you are interested in applying to join the mission team this year! Despite the challenges of COVID, we are committed to offering students an opportunity to serve in the mission field. With the recent FDA approval of a COVID vaccine, we are encouraged that risks associated with COVID will decrease. However, the mission is only four months away so we must prepare by taking in consideration the current and constantly changing environment.

We have spent countless hours researching best practices and speaking to physicians to learn how best to mitigate risks related to COVID. Our COVID mitigation plan will be finalized closer to the trip but will include considerations such as maximizing the use of outdoor spaces, monitoring students' symptoms, wearing face coverings when appropriate, and sanitizing commonly used surfaces. The health and safety of our students is paramount.

We will be able to better mitigate risks by having a domestic trip. We will be driving to our destination so we will not have to go to an airport or fly on a plane. Students will be less likely to be near large groups of people.

We understand that it is difficult to make a firm commitment to a mission trip given the current circumstances, but we ask you to spend several days as a family to think it over and prayerfully consider what is best for your student and your family. Parents are just as much team members as the students.

This is an advanced mission trip. We are going to wholeheartedly serve wherever God places us in North Carolina. During the preparation of the trip, and during our service on the actual trip itself, we will focus on immersing ourselves in the Word, making our faith lives a priority, being the light of the world, and being the salt of the earth. We pray that God will continue to use us as His servants when we return home.

Team Size - We are anticipating a smaller group this year but will cap the size at 25 students. Adult mentor/chaperones will be commensurate with the number of students.

Time Commitment - This mission (the prep and the actual traveling) is a BIG time commitment- but well worth it. We understand that homework takes a *lot* of time, that sports schedules aren't given in advance, and that there are many other activities that take up your time. Please understand that if you decide to apply and possibly be part of this team, you will also need to make time to properly prepare yourself for this mission with the team. This includes Sunday afternoon meetings, day team work time, and regular youth group.

Team Meetings - The full team meeting dates/times that are included in this application are mandatory for students. It is extremely important to attend all meetings in order to get all of the information and to be able to collaborate with your teammates. Students will be given the opportunity to attend any meeting virtually if they feel sick, have been in contact with someone with COVID, or are waiting for COVID test results. Students should never feel they need to compromise their health just to attend a meeting in person. Students will be required to wear masks during all team meetings and small group work sessions.

Please give this entire application, including the typed portion, to us in hard copy form. Please **do not** send this application, or parts of this application, via email or electronically. **This application is due to us on or before Sunday, January 24, 2021 by 7 PM.**

This year more than ever, please do not hesitate to talk with us about anything that you might need. Communication is key! We would love to have a dialogue with you (both students and parents!) regarding ideas and concerns. Feel free to call, text or email. We are here to support your family. It is better to apply even if you have concerns, and schedule a time to talk with us, rather than not to apply at all. We cannot accept late application under any circumstances! We have released this application three weeks before the due date so you will have ample time to talk as a family and with us, if need be.

Prayerfully consider this application. Think about how God might use you through this unique opportunity. We are praying for you as well.

Gods blessings,

Gia Scheidt
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Email:
gscheidt@redeemerbirmingham.org

Eric Wisniewski
Cell #: (248) 854-8152
Email:
ewisniewski@redeemerbirmingham.org

As a family, we have read, discussed, and understood this letter.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Information

**"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."
- 1 Timothy 4:12**

Students, please write neatly:

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Age (during trip): _____ Sex: Male Female

Cell #: _____

Email Address: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code):

Students, please initial the following if true:

1) I have prayerfully considered my participation in this trip. _____

2) I understand that all full team meetings are mandatory. I will make time to participate in all meetings. _____

3) I have read and understood the schedule and expense information in this application.

4) I understand that I am responsible for fundraising my share of the trip's cost.

5) I understand that I will be signing a Covenant if joining the team. This Covenant outlines expectations for my behavior and attitude and I am expected to uphold them.

Student Questions

These questions are for the students to answer but students can collaborate with parents while answering them. Please type your answers to these questions, print out the document, and attach it to this application. Each student, returning or new, has 5 questions to answer.

All students:

- 1) Every year, our mission team focuses on a Bible verse to help us stay grounded in God's Word and highlight important aspects of mission work. Choose a Bible verse that you think encompasses the important aspects of our trip and explain why it is important.
- 2) Please list any activities, besides school, in which you plan to participate during the months of January 2021- March 2021. For example □ jobs, sports, clubs, theater, or anything else. Please indicate how much time in your schedule that these activities fill up.

First time mission participants only:

- 3) Why do you want to serve on this trip?
- 4) What God-given gifts do you have that could benefit this trip both during mission preparation and while in the North Carolina? Please explain specifically.
- 5) Describe the effect that serving others has on your faith. How is serving others a way to serve Christ?

Returning students only:

- 3) 2020 has been full of disappointments, uncertainty, and challenges. It was very difficult not being able to serve the Dominican Republic last year. Considering the uncertainty that we have experienced this year, how will you be able to put in your best effort if you cannot be 100% certain that we will be able to reach our intended destination?
- 4) A large part of mission trip preparations and serving is teamwork. How can you help unify the team and support the newer mission team members?
- 5) This year's mission is domestic ie, in the United States. What are some unique benefits to serving in the US versus out of the country?

Parent Information

**"Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6**

Parents, please complete:

Father's Name: _____
Cell #: _____
Email Address: _____

Mother's Name: _____
Cell #: _____
Email Address: _____

Who will be the primary contact parent? If your teen is accepted on the team, this parent will be added to the team e-mail list and be informed with all information for this mission.

FATHER

MOTHER

BOTH

Who is filling out this application with your teen and taking responsibility for his/her participation?

FATHER

MOTHER

BOTH

Would you be able to assist and support the mission team? If so, please briefly describe some volunteering that would interest you. (helping with or leading fundraisers, donating supplies, outside fundraisers, mission team dinners, etc.)

The Student/Parent Orientation Meeting is on January 31st from 3:30-5:30pm. Both parents are required to attend (if applicable). This year, we are allowing parents to attend via Zoom or in person. Parents and students attending in person will be required to wear masks and will be able to social distance. Please note that attending the meeting virtually will require parents to get paperwork notarized on their own. Zoom information will be given the week of January 24th.

Please indicate if you would like to attend the meeting virtually or in person.

VIRTUALLY

IN PERSON

EITHER

I give my teen permission to apply for the North Carolina Mission 2021 Team.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents, please initial the following if true:

- 1) I have prayerfully considered my teen's participation in this trip and I am fully aware in his/her reasons for wanting to be a member of the team. _____
- 2) I understand that all full team meetings are mandatory for my teen either in person or virtually. I will help my teen make time to participate in these meetings. _____
- 3) I have read and understood the schedule and expense information provided in this application. _____
- 4) I understand that I am responsible for providing any funds that are not earned by my teen, by the specified due dates in the expense information. _____
- 5) I am willing to accept responsibility for my teen's behavior. He/she will be signing a Covenant if joining the team. This Covenant outlines expectations for my teen's behavior and attitude. _____

Schedule Information

All starred full team meetings are mandatory for students. The exception for missing one of these meetings is family. Family comes first. Please talk to Gia and Eric in advance if you need to miss a meeting due to family, so that a makeup meeting can be scheduled. Meetings that are not starred are optional, but families are highly encouraged to participate.

Remove this page from your application and keep for reference!

****Sunday, January 31st 3:30 PM - 7 PM** Orientation Meeting, **BOTH parents/guardians must attend from 3:30pm - 5:30 PM, students stay until 7 PM**

****Sunday, February 7 3 PM - 6 PM** Full Team Meeting #1
(moved up one hour to accommodate Super Bowl Party - dinner not provided during meeting)

****Sunday, February 21 4 PM - 7 PM** Full Team Meeting #2

****Sunday, February 28 4 PM - 7 PM** Full Team Meeting #3

****Sunday, March 7 4 PM - 7 PM** Full Team Meeting #4

****Sunday, March 14 4 PM - 7 PM** Full Team Meeting #5

****Sunday, March 21 4 PM - 7 PM** Full Team Meeting #6

****Friday, March 26th 6 PM** Meet in the Youth Room to pack

****Trip Dates! Saturday, March 27th - Saturday, April 3rd**

Wednesday, April 7 6 PM - 8 PM Mission Team Dinner (for students and their parents!)

Things to Remember:

In addition to these meetings, students will need to make time to get together with their "Day Teams" throughout January - March to practice skits, prepare craft supplies, etc. Students will also need to make time to fundraise the cost of their trip.

Expense Information

This is ***not finalized***. The expenses could change because of the final number of participants or cost changes. A finalized expense sheet will be given out at the Orientation Meeting.

Remove this page from your application and keep for reference!

Transportation	\$275
Meals During Travel	\$60 (\$30 spending money for each travel day)
Meals and Housing	\$465
Mission Expenses	\$50
T-Shirt & Sweatshirt	\$35
Cost of Mentors	\$70
Total	\$955** not final

Things to Remember:

*Students are responsible for providing the supplies for their team's craft projects. "The Giving Tree" is a good way to receive some or all of your craft supplies.

**It is recommended to bring no more than \$50 of spending money for the trip. There may be souvenirs that students will want to purchase. All other expenses are included in the trip's total.

Deposit Due Dates:

\$200 on account. due January 24th (application due date)
\$400 on account. due February 7th (full team meeting #1)
\$500 on account. due February 28th (full team meeting #3)
\$700 on account. due March 14th (full team meeting #5)
\$955 (total) on account. due March 21st (last full team meeting!)