

## HS SRSM Mission trip details

Hello SRSM HS Mission trip families,

Our 2022 HS Mission trip is fast approaching. Please be sure to complete the medical release form attached and return it via email ASAP. Some of you have not made your support raising goals. We want to encourage you to continue to send letters and emails and also use the [t-shirt link](#) to sell t-shirts to raise some extra funds to make your goal, final balances are to be paid by June 1st. If you cannot financially pay the remaining balance of the trip, please email [srsm@sevenrivers.org](mailto:srsm@sevenrivers.org) or call Mikey if we have not already discussed your options. If you are unsure of your support total raised, please contact us via email.

**Departure information:** We are traveling together as a group on Southwest flight # 4818 departing from Tampa International Airport. **You will need to arrive at the Tampa airport at 5:00 pm on Saturday June 11th.** The group will not wait for you if you are late, if you are delayed, please call Mikey @ 407-637-9991 with ETA if you will be later than 5:00 pm. All students and leaders over 18 must have their photo ID with them to travel. Minors are not required to have photo identification to travel on a domestic flight. If you have any form of identification it is encouraged to have with you. (Student ID, driver's license, passport, Florida ID, Driving permit etc.) This is not required for minors, but it is helpful to have on hand. If your students name that you used at the time of sign up is an abbreviation for their legal name, please notify me ASAP. ie: AJ Rollman is actually Austin Rollman, Sam Beach is Samantha Beach etc. Each passenger's name needs to be correct and accurate on the airlines roster in order for you to travel with us. Passenger name must match their photo ID.

**You are responsible for your own transportation to and from the airport.** If you do not have any way to arrange transportation and cannot ride with another attendee, please be sure to contact Mikey Puckett at 407-637-9991 and we can see if you can carpool with another family or leader this is not a guaranteed option so please make every effort to make all arrangements needed. Our return flight will return to Tampa airport on Saturday June 18th @7:15 pm Southwest flight #3258 you must also arrange for transportation home from the airport. Allow some time for unexpected delays and baggage claim if you are having someone meet you at arrivals.

If your students name that you used at the time of sign up is an abbreviation for their legal name, please notify me ASAP. ie: AJ Rollman is actually Austin Rollman, Sam Beach is Samantha Beach etc. Each passenger's name needs to be correct and accurate on the airlines roster in order for you to travel with us. Passenger name must match their ID.

Attached is also the workday organizations rules, details and our schedule for the week. Please review this so you know what to expect for this trip. On the last page there is a packing list. Each attendee can bring 1 checked bag and 1 backpack (personal item). Please pack accordingly, any liquids if needed should be in the checked bag but in a sealable bag to prevent leaks. Your student is welcome to bring spending money if they would like. This will be for things like ice cream on select night our group goes out, Friday free day lunch and souvenirs. This is not required all needs are covered by the support that was raised. If the group decided to do an excursion on the free day the cost of entry will be covered as well.

We are excited to have a great group attending this trip this year and hope you are looking forward to this amazing opportunity to serve others. Please feel free to email us with any questions. This email will go out again with the final support raising totals on June 7th for any last-minute donations that have been received. Sincerely, SRSM Staff

## Introduction to Workday

The Workday ministry strives to manifest the glory of Christ by meeting physical needs and building relational bridges. We seek to manifest the love of Christ in places labeled “blighted” and to people deemed “undesirable” in our city. Whether it’s a skilled plumbing job to install a walk-in shower or a simple job of pulling weeds, we strive to provide servant hands and personal connections for “the least of these” in our neighborhood. We do this in a major way during the summers, when we host 8 weeks of summer volunteers from all over the U.S. to join us in work projects, tutoring, Bible clubs, and much more.

We believe that scripture is clear in calling us into seeking justice and reconciliation in our city. God commands us to care for those in need. Moreover, the Bible describes authentic religious practice as “visiting orphans and widows in their distress” (James 1:27, NASB). The need and distress in St. Louis is great.

Consequently, we (the local Church) ardently believe The Almighty calls us as His people to send the fullness and healing of Christ to people and places in deep want in and around the Gateway City.

During your week here, you will be attending morning devotions with our team leaders. The topics of these teachings will include an in-depth look at the hard racial history in St. Louis and how the Gospel applies to it, racial reconciliation through Christ, Sonship, and much more. We strongly believe these conversations and topics will help teams and students process their week here in St. Louis and learn how to further apply it in their own hometown.

Sincerely,

Andrew Stern

## Daily Schedule

### Saturday

7:00pm: Meet at New City Fellowship (1483 82nd Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132)

### Sunday

7:45-8:30am: Breakfast in Cafeteria + clean up

8:30- 9:30: Teaching time with Workday staff member

9:30- 10:20: Firm Foundation tutoring orientation (weeks 2-4, 6-8 only)

10:00-12:00: Worship service in Gym

12:15pm: Meet in Cafeteria to split into assigned lunch groups

12:30-2:45: Lunch off campus with New City family

3:30-4:30: Leader orientation

4:30-5:30: Workday and Bible Club Orientation

5:30-6:15: Dinner in Cafeteria + clean up

6:45-8:30: Bible Clubs at assigned site (Plan to leave by sunset for safety)

9:00-10:00: Debrief with team

10:30: Quiet hours (Please follow this out of respect for other teams/ interns!)

11:00pm: Lights out!

### Monday- Thursday

7:00-7:45am: Breakfast and pack lunches + clean up

8:00-9:00: Teaching time with Workday staff member

9:00am-4:00pm: Work projects (packed lunch on worksite) / Tutoring (weeks 2-4, 6-8)

4:00-5:30: Shower and rest

5:30-6:15: Dinner in Cafeteria [Debrief + Dinner out on Thursday!]

6:30-8:30: Bible Clubs at assigned site (Last day of club is Wednesday)

9:00-10:00: Debrief with team

10:30: Quiet hours (Please follow this out of respect for other teams/ interns!)

11:00pm: Lights out!

### Friday:

8:00am: Breakfast in cafeteria

Free day for your team to go sightseeing or do something fun!

If you choose to check out on Friday, please arrange this beforehand, and communicate with intern assigned to check-out prior to debrief on Thursday!

**Saturday:** Check out by 9:00am. Please communicate what time you plan to leave with assigned check-out intern prior to debrief on Thursday.

## **What to Expect**

Our ministry, and the ministries we partner with during your time here put a high focus on building relationships. We feel it is through these relationships that the reconciling love of Christ is truly able to be shown. In this way, we pray that you will be equally blessed by the people you encounter, as you hear their stories and are able to see how God is working in their lives as well.

## **Firm Foundation**

This is a ministry through Restore St. Louis we partner with throughout the summer.

The name "Firm Foundation" emphasizes the good academic foundation that children in our society need to be able to function well in our culture. Many of the children we help are not able to receive that foundation at school or home. The name also emphasizes the more important foundation we have in Jesus Christ who alone is the only sure foundation on which to build a life that is truly pleasing to God. During your week (if visiting weeks 2-4, 6-8), students on your team will be assigned to a classroom with a teacher. Their primary goal will be to build relationships with the students, work with them in various classes and activities throughout the day, and be of assistance to the teachers who will be leading the classes.

## **Work Projects**

Work projects will be throughout the day and have a variety of possibilities! We work primarily with widows and seniors in the St. Louis area who may not have access to minor home repairs, lawn services, or may just be lonely as they have little family in the area. Your students will be helping assist in these work projects which may include painting, mowing, assisting in building a wheelchair ramp, or anything in between. However, our primary goal is for your students to build relationships with these homeowners. We pray they are encouraged in their faith as they get to know these people and hear how the Lord has worked in their life.

## **Bible Clubs**

Bible clubs will be held in the evenings in various backyards and parks throughout the neighborhood. The primary goal, again, is to build relationships! These parks and backyards bring a diverse group of children, often refugees and immigrants from all over the world, as well as local St. Louis children. This will be the most planning your team will have to do for this trip as you will be in charge of preparing for these clubs. Be sure to bring any supplies needed for these clubs. Remember, these are just guidelines, and any plans you make may or may not work perfectly- that's the fun part!

## **Games**

Many times, games are a great way to gather a group of kids. You can attempt an "organized" game with rules, or simply starting a game of soccer will always draw a crowd! Activities such as bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and jump ropes are also fun to use.

## **Songs**

Many times, the children are relatively new to the country and therefore don't understand English well enough to follow directions. Songs are a great way to signal the start of your club. Please use songs that are sensitive to different backgrounds and cultures. For example, songs about being "Soldiers of the Lord", although may be Biblical and a fun song, may have a different connotation for children who are refugees of war, now living in an area with a high crime rate.

## **Stories**

We highly encourage your team to prepare some kind of story, whether it's being read from a Children's storybook Bible, written and told by your students, or even acted out in a skit! Use your imagination and plan stories according to the lesson on your assigned week (see table below). We ask that you do not include a direct "Gospel invitation" during these clubs, as many of our children come from non-Christian cultures and their families may feel uncomfortable letting their children come to the clubs, preventing both summer teams and New City church families from further building relationships with these children.

## **Theme: Beatitudes (Mathew 5)**

Week 1 The poor in Spirit

### **Week 2 Those who mourn – (SRSM WEEK)**

Week 3 The meek

Week 4 Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

Week 5 The merciful

Week 6 The pure in heart

Week 7 The peacemakers

Week 8 Those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake

We encourage you to find a story, or multiple stories, that illustrate the beatitude. These may be drawn from Jesus' life, from elsewhere in scripture, from history, or perhaps even from fiction.

Tell these stories or act them out in a skit. Try to engage the children in the story/skit as much as possible. And make the beatitude the memory verse for the week. By the end of summer, perhaps the children will be able to recite them all!

### **Snacks**

Snacks, as with anything, are totally optional and up to what your team decides! It's a great way to help encourage children to sit still during the story.

## **A Word About Immigrant and Refugee Children**

[Please go over this with your group; we believe that having the right attitude around these issues will enrich both your tutoring time and Bible clubs.]

Walking with immigrant and refugee children can be challenging, rewarding, frustrating and fun. Of course, walking with any children can be challenging, rewarding, frustrating and fun! In many ways, immigrant, and refugee kids are just like any other kids. They love candy; they get into fights: they enjoy playing games; they sometimes misbehave in order to get attention. To be sure, there are unique challenges: some may be struggling to learn English; other may be finding it difficult to adjust to a new culture; a few may even be suffering post-traumatic stress as a result of hardships their families have encountered. That being said, there are a couple of important things to keep in mind:

**1)** In terms of material possessions, these children are quite poor. It is tempting to equate this material poverty with other kinds of poverty: relational, emotional, or spiritual. On the one hand, some of the kids do come from broken homes; some are emotionally scarred; and some desperately need to meet Jesus. On the other hand, many of them have stable, loving families and know Jesus well—maybe better than you do!

**2)** It is important not to read too much into their behavior. They may cuddle or cling to you. From this, one might conclude that they're 'starved for love.' But it may just be that they think you're nice! They may chase after, try to get into, or even jump in front of your vehicle when you're leaving Bible clubs. From this, one might conclude that they want to escape their 'horrible' living conditions. But it may just be that they're trying to be funny and want to see what sort of reaction they can get out of you.

**3)** It is equally important not to excuse bad behavior. Regardless of the reason they are acting out, we should hold them to just as high a standard as we would our own children, and discourage inappropriate or dangerous behavior in any way we can. So why do we walk with immigrant and refugee children? Because we need each other! We can help them to navigate the challenges of learning a strange, new culture; they can teach us what it means to rely upon God as "aliens and exiles" (after all, according to 1 Peter 2, that's what all Christians are called to be)! Most importantly, we can encounter Jesus in one another—just as he told us we would.

## **Rules and Safety**

With anything we do throughout the week, especially Bible clubs and work projects leaders please use your intuition. If it doesn't "feel" right, leave, and contact a Workday Staff member.

## **Building Rules**

- Keep space tidy (pick up trash, take out trash, wipe surfaces down, etc. when needed)
- Report any problems immediately to Building Manager
- Shower curtains must stay inside the shower
- 5 minute showers! Be respectful of saving time (and water) for other teams.
- Bathrooms are shared, so please keep personal toiletries in your own rooms.
- No females in male rooms/ males in female rooms
- No running in the halls
- No pranks
- Please respect quiet hours [11pm-6am]
- Teams will be assisting in meal clean up after every meal
- If someone on your team has any food allergy, please notify us prior to your trip!

## **Worksite Rules**

- Be respectful! Some of the homes may be in disrepair (which is why volunteers like you are needed!), but refrain from making negative comments or even body language in order to show respect to the homeowner.
- No throwing items on job sites.
- No paint fights - this is someone's home, not a playground so please show respect
- Complete the job assigned and only the job assigned. If you see another repair that is needed in the home, communicate this with a Workday staff member.
- Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate! Summers in St. Louis are very hot, and your safety is one of our top priorities.
- Long pants! Especially if doing yard work to prevent poison ivy and bug bites.

## **Bible Club Rules**

- No direct Gospel invitation
- Hydrate!
- No tank tops or shorts - this is to respect the different cultural backgrounds we work with
- Plan to pack up and leave club sites by sunset
- Please wait until Tuesday or Wednesday before taking pictures or videos.

As always, if you have any questions or comments or concerns, please contact us!



## **Packing List**

- Bible
- Notebook
- Pen
- Work boots
- Work clothes
- Long pants
- Sleeping bag/ sheets and pillow
- Gloves
- At least one long-sleeved work shirt
- Modest clothing
- Hat
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen - be sure this is in your checked bag but secured in a Ziploc bag in case it leaks.
- Any toiletries needed (shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, etc.) -be sure this is in your checked bag but secured in a Ziploc bag in case it leaks.
- Any medications needed (especially allergies)
- Any spending \$ your student wants to bring (for things like ice cream or other treats, souvenirs, and Friday free day lunch- this is optional all meals and necessities are provided)

## **Teams please bring:**

- Any supplies needed for Bible Clubs including games, toys, and craft supplies
- First aid kit for every vehicle
- Cell phones (adult leaders only!)
- Complete roster of students
- Medical release form for EACH student and leader