

Parents & Students,

We will be going with a new organization this summer (July 14th-19th) for youth mission trip. It's called Center for Student Missions (www.csm.org). I have included tons of information about the trip from CSM. Look this over, and feel free to reach out to me about questions you might have or concerns.

This week is one of the most important weeks that we do as a youth ministry. The impact we get to have is real. And even more, the impact on our students is character-forming and can be life-changing. So many of our students who have been on a youth mission trip before have said that this is their favorite and most meaningful trip they have been on.

I have high expectations for your students on this trip. It is not a week long vacation. It is not youth camp with all the glitz and glamour. It is not necessarily an easy trip. There will be alot expected of them.

The days will be full and the work will be hard. We will spend our whole time there serving and investing in different ministries around the city of Houston. It will be tiring and constant. If your student is not capable of being mature enough to do that with a smile, then I would rather them stay home. I don't say this because I don't love them, but the point of this trip is to serve and reach people with the gospel. I am only going to take those who feel called to do just that.

The cost of Youth Mission Trip is \$320 and that covers everything except for two meals on the road. They will need to bring about \$20 cash for those two meals. The \$320 needs to be paid in full before we leave on the Sunday Afternoon of July 14th. If you want to pay now or pay in installments, that is great! Or you can pay the day we leave.

I am pumped about this trip and am excited to see what God does in and through your students!

Byron

936.465.7616

byron@huntingtonfbc.org

Sample Schedule

Sunday (Day 1)	5:00 pm	Arrive at CSM housing, Orientation
	6:30 pm	Dinner at Indian Restaurant
	7:30 pm	Prayer Tour
	9:30 pm	Debrief
	11:00 pm	Lights Out
Monday (Day 2)	7:30 am	Breakfast and Devotions
	9:00 am	Serve at Men's Shelter
	1:30 pm	Serve at Kid's Summer Camp
	6:00 pm	Dinner at Puerto Rican Restaurant
	8:00 pm	Debrief
Tuesday (Day 3)	7:30 am	Breakfast and Devotions
	8:30 am	Serve at Food Pantry
	1:30 pm	Serve at Kid's Summer Camp
	6:00 pm	Dinner at Middle Eastern Restaurant
	7:00 pm	Hand out sack lunches to homeless community
Wednesday (Day 4)	9:00 pm	Debrief
	11:00 pm	Lights Out
	7:30 am	Breakfast and Devotions
	9:00 am	Serve meal at Soup Kitchen
	1:30 pm	Serve at Kid's Summer Camp
Thursday (Day 5)	6:00 pm	Dinner & Worship Night (available in most cities)
	11:00 pm	Lights Out
	7:30 am	Breakfast and Devotions
	8:30 am	Serve at Block Clean-up Ministry
	1:30 pm	Serve at Kid's Summer Camp
Friday (Day 6)	6:00 pm	Dinner at Thai Restaurant
	8:00 pm	Debrief
	11:00 pm	Lights Out
	7:30 am	Breakfast and Devotions
	9:00 am	Sort donations at Women's Shelter
Saturday (Day 7)	1:00 pm	Urban Plunge
	6:00 pm	Dinner at Malian Restaurant
	8:00 pm	Debrief
	11:00 pm	Lights Out
	8:30 am	Breakfast and Devotions
Saturday (Day 7)	9:00 am	Evaluations, cleaning, pack, load vans
	10:00 am	Depart for home!

Note: Because CSM wants to customize your trip for your group, not only will ministry sites vary every day, but scheduling can also accommodate special events that you may have arranged or that we may have arranged for you.

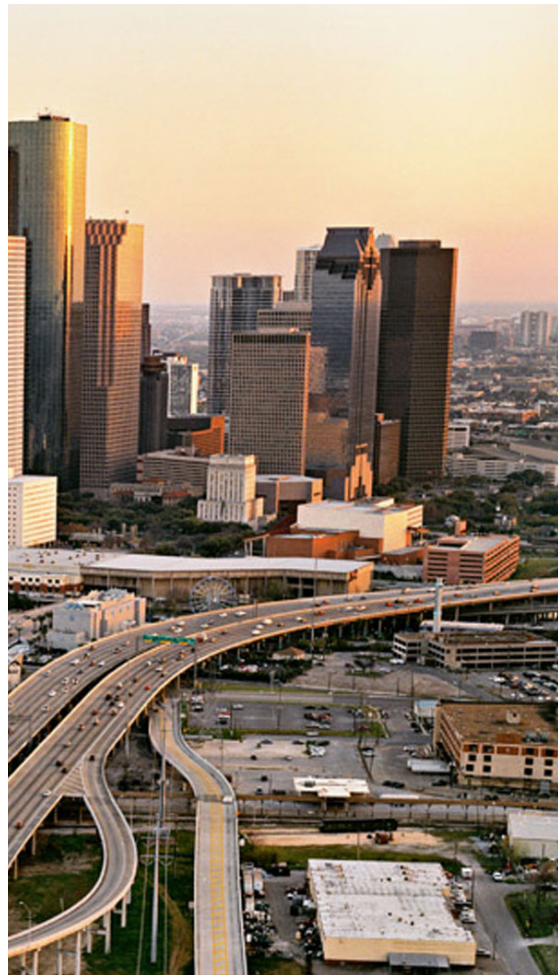
HOUSTON AT A GLANCE

Houston was founded more than 150 years ago by the Allen brothers, frontier explorers who stood on the grassy banks of Buffalo Bayou and dreamed of what today is modern Houston.

Houston is America's fourth-largest city, with a population of 2.09 million people located in an area more than twice the size of Rhode Island. There are almost 6 million people in the greater metropolitan area. More than 100 different ethnic groups reside in Houston's city limits, making it one of the world's great multi-cultural urban centers.

Houston possesses the third highest homeless population in the nation. An estimated 15,000 homeless individuals live in shelters, abandoned buildings, in encampments, and on the streets. Among these, 1,500 are children. In the greater Houston metropolitan area, one child out of every five lives at or below the poverty level. More than 760,000 Gulf Coast residents live in poverty. 150,000 are marginally homeless—taken in by friends or family because they have nowhere else to go. An additional 250,000 are only one paycheck away from being out on the streets.

CSM has the great privilege of partnering with multiple organization and ministries who striving to make a change in Houston.



10 WAYS TO HAVE A LIFE-CHANGING TRIP

- 10** Remember that your culture may differ from the people you are serving. Do not make fun of the dress, actions, food or music of those with whom you come in contact.
- 9** Remember that serving other includes both labor-intensive and relational ministry. Be open to both types of service.
- 8** Be willing to try new food, talk to different types of people and do things that you've never done before.
- 7** Set aside any group tension/ conflict before you come so that these issues do not interfere with your ability to love others.
- 6** Come ready to learn from those who you are serving. They have so much to teach us about life and faith.
- 5** Be Flexible. Your schedule is a guide for your week, but sometimes things change and adjustments need to be made. God is in control. We trust Him with details.
- 4** Bring a journal and record your experiences and feelings throughout the week so that you can take them home with you and share them with others.
- 3** Be willing to set aside all preconceptions about the inner city, and see the city with new eyes throughout the week.
- 2** Pray. James 5:16 says "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Dedicate the trip to God, and pray for your group and those you will come in contact with.
- 1** Expect God to do amazing things in your life and in the lives of your fellow group members.

TRIP LOGISTICS

- WHAT TO BRING**
- Personal toiletries (towels, soap, shower shoes, etc.)
 - Bible, pen and journal
 - Water bottle
 - Work clothes (see Dress Code)
 -
 - Rain jacket or poncho
 - See “Housing” section for bedding needs
 - Optional items
 - Backpack
 - Extension cords and power strips
 - Snacks for in-between meals
 - Money for CSM t-shirts

Come prepared for your sites. We will send you a document one month prior to your trip with more details about your service sites—read this thoroughly and plan accordingly.

- WHAT NOT TO BRING**
- iPods, iPads, electronic games, etc.
 - Anything that is not replaceable or has significant value (jewelry, etc.)
 - Large sums of money
 - Drugs, alcohol or tobacco products

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

Your group is responsible for bringing vehicles that can drive you to and from ministry sites. Be sure to have a spot open in the van for your City Host! We recommend 12 or 15 passenger vans. Mini buses are not permitted! Your driver(s) will be parallel parking.

There is a large parking lot at our housing site. Please budget up to \$7/ day/ vehicle in quarters for parking in the city.

CODE OF CONDUCT

GUIDELINES

- The key to inner-city ministry is flexibility. We have a schedule prepared for you, but God probably has something different in mind. If plans change, just accept it as God's guidance for your trip and go with it.
- You are an ambassador for Jesus Christ. You will want to behave well towards each other and strangers.
- Always be aware of what's going on around you.
- The people of the city work hard at preserving their cultures. Please respect that these may be different from your own.

DRESS CODE

- Bring attire that you are comfortable in and that you don't mind getting dirty.
- Pants and closed-toe shoes will be required when serving at all shelters or serving food.
- Shorts should be finger tip length.
- Tights/ leggings do not count as long pants.
- Long-sleeved shirt is recommended for yard work.
- No tight clothing, midriff shirts, short shorts, tank tops, etc outside of the housing site. If in doubt, don't wear it.
- If you will be attending a Sunday worship service, girls may wear skirts/ dresses below the knee or dress pants and guys may wear dress pants/nice jeans and a shirt.
- All sandals must have a back strap (no flip flops).

IN THE CITY/ MINISTRY SITES

- Nothing is to be left in the vans. Bring only what you want to carry with you. Not all ministry sites have a place to securely keep personal items.
- Never wander off on your own. Stick in pairs or in groups with a leader at all times and stay aware of your surroundings.
- Do not give out your home address or phone number.

CODE OF CONDUCT

IN THE CITY/ MINISTRY SITES

- If you think you have uncovered a legitimate need, report it to your CSM host and they will help you address the concern.
- Always ask your City Host before taking a picture of anyone who is not in your group.
- No public displays of affection between males and females.
- Respect all the cultures you will encounter by not telling racist jokes or reinforcing any stereotypes you may have.
- Do not wave, motion or shout out the van windows. Your actions could result in a misunderstanding, could be offensive to someone else, and may put your group in danger.

HOUSING

- We are guests here. We ask that you respect the building and property.
- It is a shared space so we ask that you leave it the way you left it.
- In the event that **any** part of the facility is lost or broken by someone in your group, your church will be expected to compensate our housing partner for the cost.
- Girls and guys will not be permitted to visit one another's rooms.
- All doors must remain locked, and no one is allowed outside without an adult.
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco products are not permitted on CSM premises.
- Everyone should be in their rooms and quiet by 10:30 p.m. and lights out by 11:00 p.m. – This enables everyone to get important rest so we can be focused during the day.
- Breakfast and lunch supplies are in the kitchen. These foods are only for breakfast and lunch.

CODE OF CONDUCT

RESTAURANT ETIQUETTE

- Try everything once. These are foods and customs from other cultures. Different isn't good or bad, it's just different.
- Be aware of noise levels. We want to be respectful to our restaurant partners and staff.
- Don't complain. The people of this city work hard to preserve their cultures.
- Please advise CSM staff about any allergies within your group BEFORE arriving to the city. Remind your staff upon arrival.

CELL PHONES

- No cell phones allowed out at ministry sites.
- Leaders should always keep their phones on them.
- Student cell phone usage outside of the ministry site is up to the discretion of the group leader.