

B4 Dream Center Missions Trip Director's Letter



First & foremost, we want to say how excited we are for your Junior/Senior to be able to go on an amazing Missions trip to the LA Dream Center. This is not only an opportunity to serve like Jesus, but an opportunity to experience what full, sacrificial service to others can do to a student's faith. Our heart and vision is that this would be a trip that would open the eyes of students to what serving others like Jesus can do for their faith. In a world that is built around building ourselves up, self-fulfillment, and consumption, it's not a surprise that often times the same thinking can be applied to a student's faith in Jesus. More often than not, faith can only be extended the thought "what can I get out of this?" or "what is this going to do for me and my faith?"

When Jesus came to earth, he not only showed the full extent of his love for us, but he also set an example of what it means to be a part of God's kingdom; this was shown greatest in the way he served and laid down his life for others. Jesus even said himself that he came not to be served, but to serve others (Matthew 20:28). Not only that, but the Bible would even go as far as to say if you want to value others above yourselves, the best way to do that is to have the exact same attitude and mindset of Jesus (Philippians 2:3-5) This leads us to our Mission trip at hand. Our heart is that being missional would become a staple in developing student's faith, which begins when we give students something to serve and work for in their faith. We pray that the work that they see Jesus do through their service would simply be the catalyst in their faith to serve and love others with all their heart in every circumstance. We are so excited for it and are glad you get to be a part of it.

Below we have included more information about the trip as a whole and a tentative schedule for the week. There will be more information to come once you have registered.

Schedule:

Monday, March 25th:

Early Morning: Meet at airport to depart for LA

1-3:30pm: Arrive at Dream Center

3:30pm: Orientation

5pm: Dinner

6pm: Hollywood Hike/Prayer

Tuesday, March 26th:

7am: Breakfast

7:30am-12pm: Ministry Assignments

12:00pm: Lunch break

12:30-5pm: Ministry Assignments

5pm: Dinner

6pm: Recreation

Wednesday, March 27th:

7am: Breakfast

7:30am-12pm: Ministry Assignments

12:00pm: Lunch break

12:30-5pm: Ministry Assignments

5pm: Dinner

6pm: Santa Monica Beach

Thursday, March 28th:

7am: Breakfast

7:30am-12pm: Ministry Assignments

12:00pm: Lunch break

12:30-5pm: Ministry Assignments

5pm: Dinner

7pm: Angelus Temple Service

Friday, March 29th:

7am: Breakfast

8am-10am: Ministry Assignments

12:00pm: Lunch break

1:00pm: Pack up/ head to airport

Evening: Flight arrives at PDX for pickup

All of the meals will be at the dream center and because we have time in our afternoon, after we have served, we have added in fun activities to our evenings!

Outreaches:

Below is a note from The Dream Center about their different outreaches that we will be serving with throughout our week there. Not everyone will do be doing every assignment, but we will be assigned to the areas that they need the most for when we are there.

Adopt a Block

Adopt a Block is the heartbeat ministry of The Dream Center. Adopt a Block goes out and serves the community in any way possible. This ministry exists to build relationships and stay consistent in the community. Volunteers with Adopt a Block have the chance to help with the hot dog cart, which goes into areas where people are experiencing homelessness and intense poverty. This ministry also does random acts of kindness in the community as well as picking up trash, painting, sweeping the streets, basically anyway that we can help change the atmosphere of the community.

Dream Center Discipleship

Volunteers will be working alongside our Discipleship Program serving the community by cleaning up the neighborhood and engaging in various work projects on campus.

Food Bank

Throughout all of our food ministries, we process over 6,200,000 pounds of donated food per year. Serving in the food bank includes bagging up unprepared groceries and handing them out to the approximate 600 local community members.

Food Truck

The main goal of Food Truck is to provide relief to low-income families in at-risk neighborhoods. We go to 32 distribution sites and in a typical month serve more than 40,000 people! Handing out unprepared groceries to the community members opens doors to share the help available through other aspects of The Dream Center and Angelus Temple. We are able to connect them to other resources that they may need such as free GED tutoring, His Hands Extended, free medical programs, etc.

Dream Center Kitchen

Kitchen duty begins early in the morning and gives volunteers the opportunity to help serve breakfast and prepare lunch for the short term missions teams and our discipleship program.

Kid's Jam

Our Kid's Ministry team runs Kid's Jam. Volunteers will have the chance to help them in hosting a sidewalk Sunday school for the children at the site. You will be doing mini Bible lessons, painting faces, dancing and playing with the kids! Volunteers are also able to help clean the Kid's Zone Building and help the Kid's Ministry prepare for serves.

Foster Care Intervention

Here at The Dream Center, we believe that no child should be taken away from loving parents because of poverty. Foster care Intervention provides food, clothing, diapers, cleaning supplies, appliances and furniture to ensure that homes with minor children meet the requirements of Los Angeles County's Department of Children and Family Services. In some cases, the simple addition of a bed or safe crib is all a home needs to welcome back their child. We have the privilege of going into the homes, meeting with the families, and bringing them the items they need as well as connecting them to other services from The Dream Center and the community and ultimately, introducing them to Jesus.

Pricing and Fundraising

We will fundraise as a team and individually in order to reach our total goal. We are open to hear about your ideas and know that it will be a team effort!

The trip's total cost - \$800 per person

Team website use:

- Making donations (for team member and other supporters)
- Tracking progress singularly and as a team
- Keeping team up to date with information

Fundraising Ideas:

- Write Letters to family and friends
- Hosting Bingo Night (Charge entry fee)
- Hosting Movie Night (Charge entry fee)
- Parents Night out (Charge per child)
- Applebee's Pancake Breakfast (Percentage of income)
- Bottle Deposit (collect and get change)
- Sell Poinsettias and wreaths
- Part-time job/saving money
- Christmas present-idea

Payment Deadlines:

- \$200 by January 1, 2019
- \$400 by February 5, 2019
- \$600 by March 1, 2019
- \$800 by March 23, 2019

Packing List:

- 1. Donations** – Shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, feminine products, men hygienic, diapers, baby wipes, baby product, socks, underwear, shoes, clothing, hair brushes, fans, blankets, sleeping bags, and anything else you would like to donate.
- 2. Personal Hygiene Items** - We **will** provide 1 towel per person and bedding set (sheets, 1 blanket and 1 pillow) per person. But Please bring anything else you might need.
- 3. Daily Clothing** – Shorts, (please make sure they are a modest length), jeans, sweatshirt or jacket, (it may get cold at night) and T-shirts. Also, bring a pair of closed toe shoes for the ministry and flip flops for the showers.
- 4. Bible, pen & note paper** – You will have the opportunity to participate in our services.
- 5. Bathing Suit** – Remember you're coming to California! The weather is always perfect for the beach!
- 6. Spending Money** – We have a café at church that sells coffee, snacks and more coffee. As well as a fitness gym (equipped ...with) treadmills, free weights, etc which is \$10 for the week.
- 7. Willing hearts** – Be prepared to give of yourself and serve others.

Dress Code:

The Dream Center sends outreach teams into the neediest areas of Los Angeles. While you are here you are representing The Dream Center and a Christian lifestyle. It is very important that all volunteers/visiting team members dress modestly and in such a way that does not draw attention to themselves.

- 1. No spaghetti strapped, midriff, or low cut tops.**
- 2. Shorts or skirts MUST be at modest length. Basketball shorts are fine.**
- 3. Closed toe shoes must be worn on outreaches and campus work assignments.**

Accommodations:

During your stay at The Dream Center you will share our dormitory rooms with 6 to 18 people. None of the rooms have showers but most of them have bathrooms. A community shower, which is 3 shower stalls (one shower room for men and one shower room for women), is located on the floor you are housed. During Spring and Summer we have a large number of people visiting on a weekly basis, you most likely will need to share a room with people from other teams. There is also no wifi available on campus.

Facilities:

- 24 Hour Security Included
- Common Room
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- Vending Machines (Refrigerator and microwave available)
- Housekeeping
- Gym (\$10 for the whole week)
- Bed sheets, blankets, and Towels

Policies:

- Non Smoking
- No weapons
- Age Restriction (16 and older)
- No Alcohol
- No drugs

What should I do next if I want to go on the trip?

To register your son or daughter, you will want to do the following:

1. Register online on the B4 Church site or the link provided in the parent email, this will include a \$30 deposit.
2. Once registered, you will be a part of the Dream Center Trip Page in our church database.
3. Save the page & login information and keep it on your bookmarks so you can check in regularly for team updates.

Meetings leading up to Trip

There will be a few meetings in the next few months regarding the trip; most of the meetings will happen closer to the actual trip itself in March giving info about how to prepare, etc. Here are the dates and times of the meetings...

Sunday, December 2nd, 1-2pm: Information/Interest Meeting

Sunday, January 6th, 1-2:30pm: First Team Lunch & Meeting

Sunday, February 3rd, 1-2:30pm: Team Lunch and Fundraiser Event Planning

Sunday, March 25th, 1-3pm: Team Lunch & Prep Meeting

We will continue to get more information to you over the coming months, but for now, the greatest preparation you can make is prayer. We know that Jesus is going to do a mighty work while we are there, and with all the preparation we could ever do, all that matters is that God is present and moving.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Hayden Crook or Cassandra Dieterich.

Take care & God bless,

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