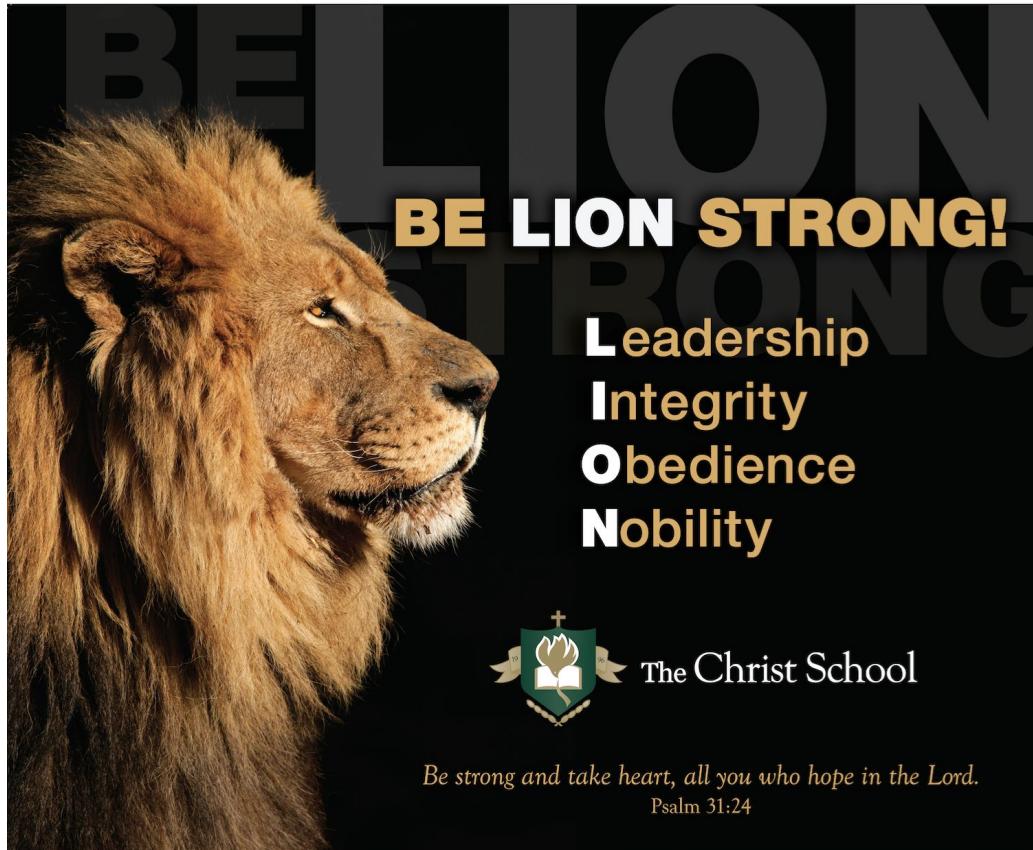


The Christ School

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS TRIPS 2017

LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE



The Christ School vision is to provide a Christ-centered academic experience which shapes the hearts and minds of our children for the kingdom of God, while establishing a strong spiritual foundation for life. Our **Middle School Class Trips** are intended to be an extension of the academic experience through real-life, extra-curricular encounters with our community and the world. Each grade level trip is intentionally planned to build upon the experience from the previous year. The culminating experience is the 8th grade mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Our middle school class trips are designed to build an understanding of the value of service in our community and abroad. While the purpose of each trip is universal in service, each one is unique in location and provides a meaningful experience for our students while providing them the opportunity to form strong bonds of friendship with their peers and teachers.

6th Grade Class Trip (3 days/2 nights)

Our 6th grade students travel by bus to **Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center**. A densely wooded upland oak hammock on 160 acres east of Tampa, this camp & conference center can host 130 people.

The Christ School has contracted with **Pathfinder, Inc.** to facilitate the 6th Grade Class Trip to Cedarkirk and works closely with them to design a program for our students that promotes unity and team-building as the foundation for serving others and the community. The program helps our youngest middle school students to:

- Strengthen peer and teacher relationships and help each other achieve common goals
- Gain a better sense of self-identity and independence
- Foster attitudes of inquiry and openness to challenge
- Readily accept responsibility
- Gain a better understanding of the environment and their relationship to it
- Build communication skills
- Glorify God through working together



"My favorite part of the trip was Tree Climbing and learning to build fires. It was really fun being with my classmates and team-building."

~ Kiyah Costin, Class of 2016

"The Underground Railroad was really fun and exciting. My favorite part was the lifelike and spooky house that was part of our journey to freedom. Celebrating in 'Jubilee' was an awesome celebration. The whole simulation taught us important historical lessons in a meaningful way."

~ Anabel Zimmerman, Class of 2016

Facilities and Lodging

Cedarkirk provides a variety of lodging including climate-controlled lodges & cabins, rustic cabins and camping; family-style dining; desserts made daily; low and high challenge course; swimming pool. It is located on the spring-fed Alafia River. www.cedarkirk.com



The facilities where our students stay include both restrooms and showers. Students are divided into small boy or girl groups and assigned to a room with at least one faculty or staff chaperone. The class trip faculty planning team creates the room assignments. Students receive their room assignment when they arrive at the camp.

Daily Schedule & Activities

Our 6th grade students spend time together participating in activities that build community, promote problem solving,



communication skills and cooperation.

Some of the activities involve teaching awareness of the environment. Others integrate social studies concepts like the Underground Railroad. In addition, there are outdoor activities including a *Low Ropes Initiatives Challenge Course* and tree-climbing. Evening activities are designed to review and reinforce concepts developed during the day.



A typical day's schedule:

8:30 AM - Breakfast

9:30-12:30 PM - Small group activities

12:30 PM - Lunch

1:30-4:30 PM - Small group activities

4:30-6:00 PM - Free time with swimming

6:00-9:00 PM - Dinner & Evening activities (end with time around the campfire)

9:00 PM - Quiet/reflection time back in cabins

10:00-11:00 PM - Lights out

Meals



Cedarkirk offers full food service, providing delicious, home-cooked meals to suit our group.

Meals are served family style with a volunteer from each table picking up the tray of hot food from the serving hall. Meals are served in the upstairs and downstairs dining rooms of Cedar Lodge. The Cedarkirk staff is happy to accommodate most dietary requests such as Gluten Free, Lactose Free, Vegan/Vegetarian and most allergies, with advance notice.

Supervision

TCS teachers will serve as the TCS chaperones for the 6th grade class trip. One teacher will be designated as the Trip Leader. Student safety and supervision is the foremost priority for any off campus activity. Parents attending as chaperones are asked to review and sign **The Christ School Guidelines for Chaperones** policy. Pathfinder Inc. fully trained staff facilitate camp team-building activities and are assisted by our TCS chaperons. Students are under adult supervision at all times, day and night.

Transportation

Mears Transportation will be used to transport our students, teachers and chaperones by bus to and from Cedarkirk Camp. The bus will drop us off on Wednesday and pick us up for the return

trip home on Friday. The bus is a 55-passenger bus. Some parents may be asked to drive themselves independently if we reach bus capacity.

Parent Chaperon Information

Parents who wish to volunteer to serve as a chaperon for the 6th grade class trip may do so during the registration process. Chaperones are asked to follow all TCS policies for parent volunteers. The Christ School policy for parent volunteers includes the following statement,

"all volunteers who participate in any off-campus activities with students are required to have submitted to and successfully passed a Level 2 Background Check. This policy applies to any person attending a field trip, or anyone who may drive or ride in transportation to or from a field trip."

Any parent who desires to volunteer as a chaperon and attend the class trip must follow the policy stated above. In addition, TCS has a policy that chaperones must adhere to during the course of the trip (see last page). All parents who choose to submit a request to serve as a chaperon are asked to review and sign this policy in advance. The number of chaperones needed is determined on the supervision needs of the school and the activity. Parents selected to serve as a chaperon for the class trip will be notified following the registration deadline.

Location, Dates and Cost

Our 6th grade students, teachers and chaperones will depart **Wednesday, May 3rd** and return to TCS on **Friday, May 5th**. Details for departure, packing list and other specific information will be provided closer to the trip date. The address and contact information for Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center is 1920 Streetman Drive, Lithia, FL 33547 (813) 685-4224.

The total cost for the 6th grade class trip is:

- \$395** for students
- \$200** for parent chaperones

You may begin registering for the 6th grade trip on **October 13th**. Registration forms will be accepted until **November 11th**.

Payment for the trip will be divided into equal, monthly FACTS payments that start the month after your child is registered and extend into March. For example, if you register for the trip in

October, the payment will be divided into five monthly FACTS payments starting in November and ending in March.

Use of Electronic Devices and Communication

We understand that students are very connected to their mobile devices and parents often want their child to have access to a personal cell phone when away from home. An important goal of the Middle School Class trips are for students to focus on building relationships with their peers and with teachers, therefore we encourage them to take time to disconnect from their electronic devices. Our preference is that mobile devices are left at home, however students will be allowed to bring a cell phone or mobile device but we expect them to follow the direction of the teachers and staff and put them away when asked. Students must not post pictures of the trip activities to social media without permission. All adult staff will have cell phones and parents will be provided with their contact information. In the event a parent needs to contact their child due to an emergency, they are asked to first contact a TCS teacher or administrator. TCS will not be responsible for lost or stolen personal electronic devices.

Submission of Forms

The 6th Grade Class Trip Permission form, Pathfinder Liability Waiver and Medical Information form, and Behavior Contract will be handed out at the parent meeting on October 12th and also posted on Renweb in the Resource Document section. These forms need to be completed and returned no later than **November 11th**. Please use the permission form to indicate if you are available to chaperon for the class trip. Parents who are selected to chaperon will be contacted following the registration deadline.

"Pathfinder was a truly awesome experience for all of us. The best part was seeing the students work together using problem-solving and creative thinking to accomplish a task that was not centered on competition, but everyone combining their skills and efforts to achieve a united goal as one team."
~ Nicole Kleinstuber, 6th grade Teacher

7th Grade Class Trip (4 days/3 nights)

Our 7th grade students travel to Asheville, North Carolina to participate in a Home Repair Mission experience organized by ReCreation Experiences. This trip provides a great foundation for the 8th grade capstone trip to the Dominican Republic.



Based in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, our students enjoy the opportunity to experience the mission of assisting low income, fixed income, elderly and handicapped area residents. This trip is both challenging and rewarding as our students reach out to help others through tangible expressions of their faith. ***"The main goal is simple but profound: To touch lives through hammers, paint and hard work."***



This mission experience provides our students the opportunity to:

- Share Christ through service to others
- Strengthen peer and teacher relationships while working side by side to achieve a common goal
- Strengthen their commitment to service and missions
- Readily accept responsibility and the challenge of hard work

Facilities and Lodging

"Comfortable yet simplistic" best describes the living environment that ReCreation seeks to create for each group experience. *"Our clients, whom we serve, live very simply, and while in service*

to them we seek to foster a climate that embraces the mission of the experience."

Our students will stay in the Red Oak School complex. This 1920's 2-story building



has been renovated and includes administrative offices, a worship center/multi-purpose area for morning devotionals, group meeting spaces, sleeping areas, kitchen/dining area, bathrooms and showers. Boys and girls stay on separate floors. A parent last year described their experience as "indoor camping!" ReCreation provides an ample supply of foam mats ; students may bring their own air mattress. The students will receive their room assignments when we arrive. The complex also includes a ball field and and basketball court.

www.recreationexperiences.org

Daily Schedule & Activities

ReCreation works with students middle school age and above. The ReCreation staff will assign our group a service and work project that is appropriate for 7th grade students. A typical project includes cleaning, painting, gardening and other specific yardwork. Our students work hard during the day so the schedule is appropriately balanced with ample time for play and relaxation. We devote one night for a visit to the Fun Depot - the

Asheville version of Fun Spot. During the trip we set aside time for a "surprise" excursion to a local attraction. While at the ReCreation complex, our students have planned "free time" - they may use the large sport field to play soccer, football, wiffle ball, kickball, or frisbee.

We will begin each morning with a time for group worship, led by the ReCreation staff, that prepares us for the day's activities. Each evening ends with a time of reflection, devotion and prayer for the work accomplished to help capture the importance of the mission experience.

A typical day at ReCreation Experiences:

7:30 AM - Breakfast

8:00-8:45 AM - Morning worship

9:00-3:30 PM - Work location (lunch provided on site)

4:00-5:30 PM - Free time at ReCreation

5:30-9:00 PM - Dinner & Evening activities

9:00 PM - Evening worship

9:30-11:00 PM - Free time and Lights Out



Meals

The ReCreation staff prepare the meals and serve up wholesome and kid friendly food in a cafeteria-style dining area. Our group eats together and takes part in clean up after each meal before moving on to the scheduled activities. Meals are also provided on the job site and consist of freshly made sandwiches, snack/dessert, fruit and drinks.

Supervision and Parent Chaperon Information

Parents who wish to volunteer to serve as a chaperon for the 6th grade class trip may do so during the registration process. Chaperones are asked to follow all TCS policies for parent volunteers. The TCS policy for parent volunteers includes the following statement,

“all volunteers who participate in any off-campus activities with students are required to have submitted to and successfully passed a Level 2 Background Check. This policy applies to any person attending a field trip, or anyone who may drive or ride in transportation to or from a field trip.”

Any parent who desires to volunteer as a chaperon and attend the class trip must follow the policy stated above. In addition, TCS has a policy that chaperones must adhere to during the course of the trip (see last page). All parents who choose to submit a request to serve as a chaperon are asked to review and sign this policy in advance. The number of chaperones needed is determined on the supervision needs of the school and the activity. Parents selected to serve as a chaperon for the class trip will be notified following the registration deadline.

TCS teachers will serve as the TCS chaperons for the 7th grade class trip. One teacher will be designated as the Trip Leader. Student safety and supervision is the foremost priority for any off campus activity. Parents attending as chaperones are asked to review and sign **The Christ School Guidelines for Chaperones** policy.

Transportation

Mears buses will be used to transport students, teachers and parent chaperones to Weaverville, North Carolina and back. The bus and driver stays with our group the entire time and transport our group to the job site and all off site activities.

Location, Dates and Cost

Our 7th grade students, teachers and chaperones will depart **Tuesday, May 2nd** and return **Friday, May 5th**. Details for departure, packing list and other specific information will be provided closer to the trip date. The address and contact information for ReCreation Experiences is **53 Red Oak School Road, Weaverville, NC 28787 (828) 645-4800**. The total cost for the 7th grade class trip is:

- \$495** for students and
- \$495** for chaperones

Registration for the 7th grade trip begins **October 13th**. The registration deadline is **November 11th**. Payment for the trip will be divided into equal, monthly FACTS payments that start the month after your child is registered and extend into March. For example, if you register for the trip in October, the payment will be divided into five monthly FACTS payments starting in November and ending in March.

Use of Electronic Devices and Communication

We understand that students are very connected to their mobile devices and parents often want their child to have access to a personal cell phone when away from home. An important goal of the Middle School Class trips are for students to focus on building relationships with their peers and with teachers, therefore we encourage them to take time to disconnect from their electronic devices. Our preference is that mobile devices are left at home, however students will be allowed to bring a cell phone or mobile device but we expect them to follow the direction of the teachers and staff and put them away when asked. Students must not post pictures of the trip activities to social media without permission. All adult staff will have cell phones and parents will be provided with their contact information. In the event a parent needs to contact their child due to an emergency, they are asked to first contact a TCS teacher or administrator. TCS will not be responsible for lost or stolen personal electronic devices.

Submission of Forms

7th Grade Class Trip Permission form, ReCreation Experiences Registration form, Activities Consent and Medical Treatment Consent form, and Covenant of Behavior form will be given to parents at the meeting on October 12th and also posted on Renweb in the Resource Document section. These forms need to be completed and returned no later than **November 11th**. Please

use the permission form to indicate if you are available to chaperon for the class trip. Parents who are selected to chaperon will be contacted following the registration deadline.

8th Grade Class Trip (5 days/4 nights)

The 8th grade trip to the **Dominican Republic** is a capstone experience for our students. This trip provides them with an experience unlike any other they may have had at this age. TCS 8th grade students will experience and explore a foreign country, serve others from a completely different walk of life, and exemplify Christ through their service, alongside their friends, family, and teachers.



Mission Emanuel is a dream that began more than 30 years ago. Short-term mission trips like the one your child will experience helps to support the important work this ministry provides to the Dominican community. "This ministry, Mission Emanuel, is a remarkable partnership of Dominicans and Americans. It is a true testimony of God bringing together people from all walks of life, rich and poor, different churches, different gifts and backgrounds, all to move together in one direction to serve Christ in whatever capacity He calls us to serve. The overwhelming majority of the support work to make all this happen is through dedicated volunteers who have given countless hours behind the scenes and raise awareness of God's work in the community." The Christ School considers it a privilege to offer this opportunity to our graduating 8th grade students each year. www.missionemanuel.org



Facilities and Lodging

Our group will be staying at the Dominican Fiesta Hotel. This is a luxury hotel with accommodations intended to allow our students and chaperones adequate comfort and rest

following a hard day's work. Children accompanied by their parent will sleep in the same room. Those without a parent, will be paired up with another family that knows them well. Students and chaperones are assigned to both bus groups and travel groups to allow for better management when moving between the locations on the island. Bus groups and travel groups will be announced prior to departure.

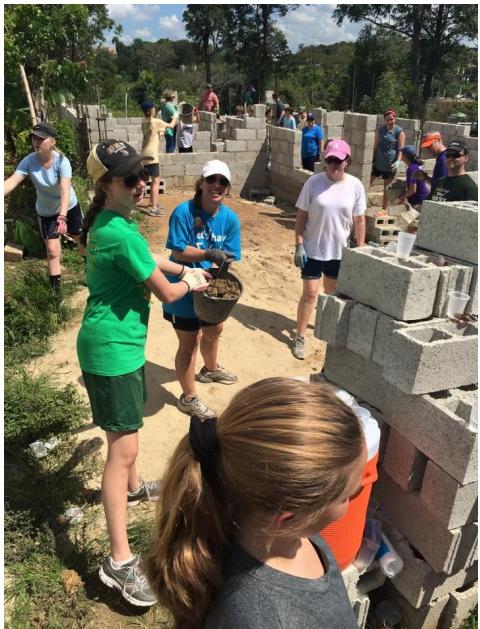
Meals

A hot/cold buffet breakfast is served at the hotel each morning. Lunch is served daily at Mission Emanuel in Cielo. Dinner on the first evening will be pizza in the hotel meeting room. Tuesday through Thursday will be a different dining adventure every evening. Tuesday and Thursday will be at a local, Santo Domingo restaurant and Wednesday will be a traditional Fiesta at Mission Emanuel before the evening worship service.

Daily Schedule and Activities

Every morning, following breakfast, our group will travel by buses from the hotel to the small community of Cielo where Mission Emanuel is located. Mission Emanuel has a specific focus on

this community and another nearby called Nazaret. Our group will be assigned a specific construction project for the week. Mission Emanuel has a staff person who travels with the group and manages the on site work which is in walking distance from Mission Emanuel. Lunch is back at Mission Emanuel. On most days, after lunch our students will have the opportunity to meet and interact with the villagers in the local community. Students are encouraged to "live in the moment"; to take advantage of opportunities to interact with the children of Cielo. This is where our students really shine and enjoy playing games, singing and having fun with the children eager to receive the attention.



Our students are an integral part of the village-wide evening worship service on Wednesday. We also visit a local village school where our 8th grade students present Bibles to their 8th grade students. Special bonds are formed as they see how much they have in common. A Thursday visit to the Old Town Santo Domingo Market gives our travelers an opportunity to bring a little bit of the DR back home.

One of the most touching moments of the trip is our visit to the leprosarium in San Cristobal. Our group will step out of our comfort zone to bring the Lord's love to the residents. Students will sing songs and spend time visiting with the residents who are in need of love and attention. Each year, we are the ones who receive more of a blessing than what we give.

Flight and Transportation Information

Transportation to and from Santo Domingo will be on a commercial airline. Jet Blue has been used the past few years. Flight details will be confirmed once we know the number traveling with our group.

All travelers will need a valid passport with an expiration date no earlier than 6 months prior to departure. Keep in mind that if you do not have a valid passport it can take up to six weeks to process and receive a new one. Travelers will also be required to purchase travel insurance from Seven Corners, a vendor that works with Mission Emanuel. A link to the insurer will be provided in November. All travelers will need to purchase a \$10 travel card while going through customs in the Las Americas Airport in Santo Domingo. All travelers will need to go through customs upon returning home or in San Juan, Puerto Rico if the flight has a layover there.

Once in the DR, ground transportation will be by bus and arranged by the Mission Emanuel staff. Travel groups will be assigned to a bus and will stay in their groups while being transported by bus.

Dates, Location and Cost of the Trip

Our students, teachers, administrative staff and parent chaperones will depart Orlando and travel to Santo Domingo, DR, on **Monday, February 20th** and return on **Friday, February 24th**. The Mission Emanuel staff will arrange transportation from the airport to the hotel. Mission Emanuel is located in Cielo, Dominican Republic. Our group will be staying at the Dominican Fiesta Hotel, C/Avenida Anacaona, Santo Domingo, Tel: 809-562-8222.

The school makes every effort to enable all of our 8th grade students to attend this trip and uses the proceeds raised this year from our alternative lunch program sales to offset the total cost of the trip and reduce the individual cost per family. In addition, students are encouraged to find ways to raise money for the trip such as babysitting, dog walking, lawn mowing, etc. We provide examples of fundraising letters that may be sent to family members, friends and

organizations that may want to contribute to the cost of their trip. This is a common practice with many groups that coordinate mission trips.

The estimated total cost for the trip is **\$1475 for each student and each parent.** This amount includes airfare, lodging, meals, and ground transportation. Funds raised to offset the cost of the trip will be divided among the students attending and the final payment may be less than the previous payments. For example, last year we were able to discount every student's trip cost by about \$400.

A signed Intent form must be returned to the Academic Office by **October 19th** so that we can secure the best rate and keep the total cost as low as possible. A non-refundable deposit of \$150 will be drawn on the FACTS account on October 19th. Payment for the remainder of the trip will be divided equally into three monthly FACTS drafts to insure the balance is paid by **January 20, 2017.**

Class Trip Chaperones

TCS administrators and teachers will serve as chaperones for the Dominican Republic class trip. A teacher will be designated as the Trip Leader. Parent chaperones are asked to review and follow **The Christ School Guidelines for Chaperones** policy that addresses overnight trips. A signed copy must be turned into the Academic Office once the chaperones are confirmed.

Mission Emanuel's Dress Code Policies

Clothing and fashion styles in the DR are both similar to and different from those in the US - many men and women wear very revealing clothing, while others wear very conservative clothing. As representatives of Christ and guests to the Dominican Republic, Mission Emanuel requests that our entire team dress honorably and respectfully at all times. As representatives of TCS and our community, we want to make every effort to be respectful of our hosts. Therefore, it is important that teachers, students and parents bring appropriate clothing to the DR. Please take the following issues into consideration as you help your child pack for the DR, dress for worship, work, and play while they are on the trip.

Shorts- Shorts must be longer than fingertip length. This is a general guideline, and some exceptions may apply. For example, people with especially long legs (or short arms) may need to wear shorts considerably longer than fingertip length. Capri pants or hospital scrubs are an

excellent alternative to shorts on the worksite. Men must wear pants, not shorts, to the Wednesday evening church service.

Skirts- Women/girls are required to wear skirts to Wednesday evening church. Skirts must fall below the knee.

Tops- Tops must fully cover shoulders, bellies and cleavage. Men must always wear a shirt on the worksite. Men should wear collared shirts to the church service.

Earrings- For cultural reasons, we request that no men wear earrings while in the DR. Men will be asked to remove their earrings if they have not done so prior to arrival.

Bathing Suits- Women/girls just wear one-piece bathing suits. Men/boys are required to wear traditional bathing suits or board shorts; Speedo-style suits are not permitted.

Tights, leggings or yoga pants- Tight-fitting garments are considered inappropriate outerwear for the DR culture. Please leave them home.

Health and Safety

We will be ever mindful of potential health concerns throughout our trip. Our hotel and the facilities at Mission Emanuel have safe, clean water to drink. In areas where the drinking water is in question, bottled drinking water will be provided for our group. Students and adults are cautioned against drinking water not provided to them when they are outside of the hotel or Mission Emanuel.

As in Florida, the Zika virus is of concern in the DR. The hotel and the village work diligently to implement preventative measures to stop the breeding of the mosquitos. All travelers are encouraged to use mosquito repellent when outside, especially at night. Mission Emanuel provides health alerts on their website: www.missionemanuel.org

Use of Electronic Devices and Communication

We understand that students are very connected to their mobile devices and parents often want their child to have access to a personal cell phone when away from home. An important goal of the Middle School Class trips are for students to focus on building relationships with their peers and with teachers, therefore we encourage them to take time to disconnect from their electronic devices. Our preference is for students to leave their mobile devices at home, however students will be allowed to bring a cell phone or mobile device but we expect them to follow the direction of the teachers and staff and put them away when asked. Students must not post pictures of the trip activities to social media without permission. **Cell service is limited**

and an international data plan is required for mobile devices. Therefore, communication with our group is through Mission Emanuel. In the event a parent needs to contact their child due to an emergency, they are asked to first contact a TCS teacher or administrator in Orlando who will contact Mission Emanuel. TCS will not be responsible for lost or stolen personal electronic devices.

Submission of Forms

The 8th Grade Class Trip Dominican Republic Intent Form, Mission Emanuel Participation Release and Medical Authorization Form and Dominican Class Trip Chaperone Policy will be given to parents at the meeting on October 12th and also posted on Renweb in the Resource Document section. The Christ School Intent Form must be completed and returned by the **October 19th**. Please use the Intent Form to indicate if you are available to chaperon for the class trip. The ME Participation Release and Medical Authorization form must be completed and returned no later than **November 11th**. Mission Emanuel requires parents to complete an online registration for your child and yourself, if attending. The link to the ME Registration form is <http://bit.ly/MEtripapp2017>. Copies of passport and travel insurance will need to be submitted no later than **December 16th**.

Checklist of Forms Due

- TCS 8th Grade Class Trip Intent form (due Oct. 19)
- Mission Emanuel Participation Release and Medical Authorization (due Nov. 11)
- TCS Guidelines for Chaperone policy (due upon selection as a chaperon)
- Mission Emanuel 2017 Short-term Trip Registration form (online)
- Passport (expiration date no earlier than 6 months prior to departure)
- Travel Insurance (Seven Corners)

The Christ School Guidelines for Chaperones

Thank you for volunteering to chaperone our trip. Below are some guidelines to ensure the safety and good behavior of the students so that we may have a successful trip. All chaperones for TCS field trips must have a Level 2 Background Check on file with the school. Please read over this material carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Lail, Director of Academics and Student Programs.

1. Your first responsibility is the safety of ALL students.
2. Chaperones and students may be put together in groups while traveling, touring or working. Please keep your group together and take a “headcount” frequently, especially when we are in crowded situations.
3. Though the students have been addressed regarding behavior, it might be necessary to “remind” them about their manners. If a student is in violation of the behavior contract, notify the teachers immediately so that appropriate measures can be taken.
4. If a student needs to use the restroom, an adult is to accompany him/her to the facility. Let another chaperon know you are going to leave the group so someone will be watching the remaining students.
5. Please keep your students with the group at all times.
6. In the hotel, students are NOT to make phone calls to students in other rooms.
7. Students are not allowed to be on a cell phone for any reason unless an adult has given them permission to do so. Cell phones should only be used to communicate with parents.
8. Chaperones should not use cell phones while supervising students.
9. Students may only leave their rooms when accompanied by an adult. There will be NO room-to-room visitations.
10. There may be opportunities for shopping. This does not mean the students are unsupervised. It is absolutely essential that you do not leave them alone during this time. You may form your own shopping/sight-seeing groups as you wish, but there must be adults with the students. We must be able to account for all students at all times.
11. The teachers are The Christ School’s representatives on this trip. Please defer to their decision in all matters.

12. Please be aware that if a student becomes ill or must be returned home for disciplinary reasons, you may be asked to stay with that student until other arrangements are made.

13. Per The Christ School Parent and Student handbook: chaperones are required to refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages while on field trips with The Christ School.

Chaperone's Signature

Chaperone's Printed Name

Date