



# Welcome

YOUR TRIP STARTS HERE





WHERE SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS COLLIDE  
WITH LONG-TERM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## WELCOME

As you prepare for your trip, let us ask you a simple question: Why are you going on a mission trip? At Next Step we believe it's important to understand why you are serving and what your goals are.

**Here at Next Step Ministries it's pretty simple. We have two goals.**

Our first goal is to provide a trip experience that genuinely guides your students into the next step of their faith. Our prayer is that many would enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our second goal is to provide a bridge between your one-week trip and the long-term development of the community you are serving.

We believe in serving with a community, which is why we are thrilled to partner with you, your students, and the dynamic community leaders you will be working alongside.

It is our prayer that your trip is a glimpse of heaven on earth with people from all nations serving together to glorify Jesus' name. Serving each other, learning from each other, and worshiping together.

We are committed to making this the best trip experience you have ever had. If there is anything we can do to make your trip more special, please let us know day or night!

Thank you in advance for your hard work, sleepless nights, and servant hearts as you work alongside this community. We are honored to have your team serving as the hands and feet of Next Step and appreciate you representing our ministry and most importantly the Kingdom as you serve.



BARAK, ANDY, AND TODD  
*co-founders and directors*

# BACKGROUND

## MISSION STATEMENT

Next Step Ministries is committed to providing opportunities for students to explore their faith, experience God and extend service to those in need, all in the name of Jesus Christ.

## WHO WE ARE

As a faith-based nonprofit organization, it is the goal of Next Step Ministries to provide students with the opportunity to develop and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, while mobilizing them to make a real difference in the world. This is accomplished during life-changing, one-week mission trips to various places across the globe. It is also our goal for our short-term mission trips to collide with long-term community development. This is achieved through our full-time commitment to empowering the communities we serve alongside.

## HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The beauty of a short-term mission trip is that it provides an opportunity for long-term growth, both at the student level as well as the community level. At Next Step, we believe that week long mission trips are only effective if ministry continues beyond one week. That's why we are focused on providing the resources to continue student's growth beyond their week long mission trip through programs like MyStep, our 365 day online follow-up program. In the same way, we are committed to partnering with communities to empower them to thrive long after our teams are gone.

## OUR STORY

During the summer of 2002, two young college students and their passionate youth pastor decided to take a group of students overseas for a week long mission trip. It was here, behind the fancy hotels and sandy beaches, that we discovered a hidden world of mass poverty and fleeting hope. We returned home with heavy hearts, but at the same time, we were truly inspired by what we saw in our students. Something had changed in them. Over the course of one challenging week filled with sweat and tears, forty individuals learned how to work together as one, and in the process, began to learn what it really means to live for Christ. They returned to their families and friends with a newfound enthusiasm for Christ, excited to live their lives differently.

Over ten years and many mission trips later, we have had the privilege of watching thousands of students grow in their relationship with Christ while bonding together as one to accomplish seemingly impossible challenges. We have also seen city after city take a small helping hand and turn it into a radical movement of spiritual and physical growth for their community. God has called us, and in response, we have created Next Step Ministries.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

Next Step Ministries believes that there is one God in three distinct persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit. We believe that God is love and that He extends His love to all people. We believe that God has created us with the choice to love Him. However, as a result of humankind's original choice not to love God (i.e., sin) we became separated from Him. It is for this reason that the Father has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who was sinless, and was persecuted and died on the cross on our behalf. We believe that God has raised Jesus from death to life to mend our broken relationship with Himself. It is our goal to bring this good news to all people who will listen through our actions and words.

Next Step Ministries holds that the Bible is the inspired word of God and is thereby applicable and authoritative for our lives today. We believe that God is all-loving and all-powerful, and is therefore worthy of all our praise and reverence. We believe God encompasses the fullness of love and calls us to love Him and all those around us regardless of race, political belief, religion, or gender.

We believe that God has called every Christian to ministry to the physical and spiritual needs of those around us. To that end, Next Step Ministries strives to enable and prepare students to further God's Kingdom throughout the United States and around the world. It is our goal to give people the opportunity to take the next step in their lives and come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and experience the real life, the life that only God's true love can give!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Located in far-east Texas, the people of San Augustine County have united together with a vision of a community centered on Christ's love. A community that faces many economic and physical challenges—such as dilapidated homes and rising poverty—finds its hope in a strong base of church and community leaders that are committed to seeing their community thrive.

In 2014, Next Step was invited to be part of a community team to revitalize San Augustine County. The locally led team has aspirations to not only see the standard of living raised—through home repair and building—but also to see a community bond together. San Augustine County, like many, suffer with separation and isolation from neighborhood to neighborhood, which leads to pockets of poverty and hopelessness. It is the goal of the determined people of San Augustine County to unite their community through love and outreach based on the love of Christ.

Your students will join the residents of San Augustine County in many home repair projects such as roofing, siding, dry walling, wheel chair ramps, large remodels, and full builds.

## HELLO FROM THE COMMUNITY

# Welcome

to San Augustine!

We are honored and blessed to have you joining with us in serving the people and community of San Augustine County! While on your mission trip you will be experiencing Southern hospitality and the beauty of the Piney Woods of Deep East Texas. Towering Pines and majestic oak trees line the streets filled with beautiful historic homes. San Augustine is the oldest Anglo Saxon town in the state of Texas. The rural town of San Augustine is the county seat of San Augustine County with many small communities and also the town of Broaddus being included. San Augustine County borders Sam Rayburn Reservoir, which is the largest lake that lies within the boundaries of Texas. On the east side of San Augustine County is also Toledo Bend Lake. Both lakes offer many opportunities for recreation. Some of these include camping, hunting and fishing. I can personally vouch for the wonderful fishing!

San Augustine was formed in 1837, and has a population of over 8,000 residents spread over the 531 square miles of the county. The town is embedded with Texas history and has many historical sites including the Mission Dolores, The Lewiston Hotel , the El Camino Real and several historic home and Churches. However like many rural counties, San Augustine County has struggled with social issues related to poverty, drug abuse and lack of resources.

San Augustine County is a great place with many friendly and loving people that

need the help of your group. Many of the elderly and disabled residents were taught "you don't ask for help, you should take care of yourselves", but they now realize that they need the help and as we say in the south, they are "stealing our blessings" by not allowing God's people to help one another. You will join with other Next Step groups and local residents to make a great difference in the lives of the people of San Augustine County. Your group will join with our residents and experience the local feel of the small town. Each day you will have the opportunity to get to spend time with homeowners and their families. Racial barriers are still strong in the south. It is our prayer, that these barriers will be softened and erased by showing the love of Christ and the genuine love Christians have for each other. You will hear amazing stories of history and personal experiences of our residents. Be prepared to become the extended family of the people of San Augustine County. Though the county lacks the resources and ability to physically repair and rebuild, it has the complete support of the Churches and County officials and they will be there side by side working with your group and helping to meet any of your needs.

We can't wait to welcome your group to San Augustine. Many Blessings and safe travels!

Sincerely

*Sheldon Hardy*

**SHELDON HARDY**

*San Augustine Community Leader*

## LODGING

In line with the community vision in San Augustine County, we partner with two churches throughout the summer with lodging. We have found this to be a wonderful way to build relationships in two towns with a history of division. During the first part of the summer (June 3-June 23) we stay at First Baptist Church of Broaddus. The remainder of the summer we stay at White Rock Baptist Church (June 24-August 4).

**White Rock Baptist Church**  
3280 Farm 2785  
San Augustine, TX 75972

Teams will stay at the newly built White Rock Baptist Church. White Rock has been a strong partner and played an important role in bringing Next Step to San Augustine County. Located in San Augustine (city), the church built a large addition to their property in 2014 and has blessed Next Step teams with safe, clean and comfortable housing.

Teams will sleep on the floors of classrooms (participants will each need a TWIN size air mattress), worship in the sanctuary, and enjoy meals outside under a large tent.

The church does have A/C in all areas.

The Church is 5-30 minutes from all work projects. Many church members will be involved in serving along-side our teams.

**First Baptist Church of Broaddus**  
207 Buchanan Street  
Broaddus, TX 75929

Teams will stay at First Baptist Church of Broaddus. Depending on size of participants, teams will either stay in sunday school rooms or in the School gym next door to the church. All areas are air conditioned.

Participants will each need a twin sized air mattress. Meals will be eaten in the Fellowship Hall, and worship will be held in the sanctuary. Showers will be in a shower trailer with individual stalls on the church property.

As we are sure you will, please be mindful that we are guests staying at our partner churches. They are generously welcoming us into their home, so, please treat the facility and members with the ultimate amount of respect and love.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

For most summer dates, please see the standard mission trip schedule on the following page. Please plan on arriving on Sunday afternoon between 3-5PM and departing Saturday morning 8-9AM. Monday through Thursday are work days, and Friday will be a fun day!

For the week of July 5 — 10, please note the trip is scheduled to end Saturday morning between 8-9AM. This means you would arrive Monday afternoon between 3-5PM, Tuesday through Friday are work days, but the fun day is not included. The trip ends Saturday morning 8-9AM. This shorter schedule is to allow our on-site staff with one long weekend in the summer for rest.

### SUNDAY

**3 — 5PM** | Arrive to Mission Location

**6 — 7PM** | Dinner

**7 — 8:30PM** | Worship and Weekly Orientation

**8:30 — 11PM** | Church time, Small Groups & Free Time

**11PM** | Lights Out

## MONDAY – THURSDAY

**7AM** | Wake Up

**7:15AM** | Eat Breakfast and Lunch Preparation

**8AM** | Morning Devotion

**8:15AM** | Depart for Worksite and Begin Working

**12 – 1PM** | Lunch and Devotion

**1 – 3:30PM** | Resume Working

**3:30 – 4PM** | Clean Up Worksite and Return Home

**4 – 6PM** | Shower Time, Free Time & Adult Leader Meeting

**6 – 7PM** | Dinner

**7 – 8:30PM** | Worship

**8:30 – 11PM** | Church time, Small Groups & Free Time

**11PM** | Lights Out

## FRIDAY

**8AM** | Wake Up

**8:15AM** | Eat Breakfast and Lunch Preparation

**9AM** | Morning Devotion

**9:15AM** | Leave for Free Day Activity

**4 – 6PM** | Shower Time, Free Time & Adult Leader Meeting

**6 – 7PM** | Community Dinner

**7 – 8:30PM** | Worship

**8:30 – 11PM** | Church time, Small Groups & Free Time

**11PM** | Lights Out

# WHAT TO EXPECT

## WAKE UP

Rise and shine at 7AM! You'll have plenty of time to roll out of bed and head to the main area for breakfast. The Next Step staff will have a second table area set up for making lunches. You will have time to prepare your own lunch for the day and throw it into a cooler. Once everyone has finished eating breakfast and preparing lunch we will focus our attention on God while reading through a morning devotional Next Step will provide.

## WORK PROJECTS

You'll head out in a team of 8-10 students to your work project at about 8:30AM. The Next Step construction team will lead you in the work. Around noon your team will enjoy lunch and a group devotional. Soon after, it's back to work until site clean up at around 4PM.

## SHOWERS, FREE TIME, DINNER & CLEANUP

Once you arrive back at home base you'll have time to hang out with friends and enjoy some snacks while you take turns hitting the showers. Before you know it, dinner will be served by the Next Step staff at 6PM. Throughout the week, each work crew will take turns helping to set up and to clean up after meals. You will have a chance to help clean in the kitchen, take out the trash, and even clean the bathrooms! Don't worry—this cleanup time won't take long.

## WORSHIP

Get ready for an exciting evening with your Next Step band and worship team! We will take time to break into work crews each day to share how we saw God at work throughout the day. We will watch some videos, share some stories, and learn more about how to love and serve like Christ. Once evening programming wraps up, you will have time to meet with your youth group.

## FREE TIME & LIGHTS OUT

Bring some cards or games to play with friends. We'll have plenty of time for enjoying one another's company. Everyone will head to bed at 11PM to make sure we have enough energy for the next day full of hard work!

## WHAT TO BRING

This packing list is for all students and leaders attending the trip. These are important items that you don't want to go on your trip without! Please review the dress code listed on the next page to help while packing your bag. If you have any questions about what to pack, please contact our office at: [missions@nextstepministries.com](mailto:missions@nextstepministries.com).

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- Twin air mattress** | please no larger mattresses for space purposes
- Bedding** | sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket
- Pillow**
- Reusable water bottle**
- Sunglasses and/or hat**
- Sunscreen**
- Insect repellent**
- Personal snacks** | granola bars or trail mix
- Shower towel and swim suit** | ask your youth leader if you will need this for your free day
- Toiletries** | soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Closed-toe work shoes**
- Loose-fitting clothing**

### ELECTRONICS POLICY

Next Step asks students not to use electronics during the day while serving on the worksites (8-4PM) or in the evening during dinner and worship (6-9PM). Please talk with your youth leader as there may be other special electronics policies in place for your trip.

## ADDITIONAL COVID-RELATED ITEMS TO BRING

Because of COVID-19, we are asking students and leaders to bring additional items for everyone's safety and protection. Please make sure to bring these items on your mission trip. If you have any questions about what to pack, please contact our office at: missions@nextstepministries.com.

- Face masks** | Each person needs to have their own face mask that they can use for the duration of the trip. Next Step staff will have extra disposal masks if needed, but we ask that each person would bring at least one mask of their own to use during the trip.
- Hand Sanitizer** | If possible, please bring your own hand sanitizer, whether to use as an individual or to share with your team. We will have hand sanitizer available at our lodging facility and will be encouraging sanitizing very frequently, so the more sanitizer that is available to use throughout your trip the better.
- Cleaning wipes (Clorox, Lysol, etc)** | If possible, please bring cleaning wipes for your team to use. Next Step will have sanitizing wipes available to use throughout the week, but the more wipes that are available to clean throughout the week, the safer we all can be.
- Thermometer** | We ask that leaders check for symptoms of all participants on their teams each day during the trip, including taking temperatures. To cut down on the chances of passing germs from one group to the next, we ask that each group brings their own thermometers if possible. Here is a [no-touch thermometer](#) option if you are interested!

# DRESS CODE

## WHY IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

We will be working hard serving in the community so it is best to wear old, comfortable, and modest clothes that you don't mind sweating in! Please understand there may be different cultural norms in the community you are visiting for one week. While certain clothing may be acceptable to you, it might not be appropriate for the mission trip.

You may be serving on a trip with other youth groups too. This is one of our favorite things about serving on mission trips! There can be a unique opportunity to meet other youth groups from all across the country! We serve with churches from many different denominations, with a variety of backgrounds, traditions, cultures, and preferences.

Don't like the idea of a dress code? We get it! Remember this one week trip is a special opportunity to get outside your comfort zone, serve, and learn. If you have any questions, we are here to help! You may contact our office at [missions@nextstepministries.com](mailto:missions@nextstepministries.com).

## CLOTHES TO BRING ON THE TRIP

**Work Shoes:** An old pair of tennis shoes will work well! It's great to wear work boots if you have them, but they are not required. Come prepared to wear closed-toe shoes for the work day. You can wear sandals or other comfortable shoes at night.

**Longer Shorts or Pants:** Please bring longer shorts that are about mid-thigh in length to wear while serving during the day. To check, let your arms fall to your side and see where your fingertips land. If your fingertips are touching skin and longer than your shorts, please bring a different pair. It's a good idea to bring at least one pair of long pants in case you feel more comfortable wearing jeans at your worksite.

**Shirts with Sleeves:** Bring along some old t-shirts that you don't mind getting dirty on the trip! You can bring short and/or long sleeve shirts.

**Loose-Fitting Clothes:** You will be working hard during the trip! Bring clothes that you will feel comfortable serving in.

**Swimwear:** Guys, please follow the shorts policy listed above. Girls, please bring a one-piece swimsuit or wear a shirt over your two-piece swimsuit.

## CLOTHES NOT TO BRING ON THE TRIP

1. Tank tops or sleeveless shirts
2. Short shorts
3. Tight fitting clothing (spandex and yoga pants not allowed)

## TOOLS

Please make every effort to bring all the tools on this list. Next Step will contact you a few weeks prior to your trip if there are any changes to this list. Whatever you are unable to bring, Next Step will make sure to provide.

The tool list below is based on a group of 25 students. If your group is smaller/larger by more than 10 students, please contact Next Step for a revised list. Quantity of tool is in parenthesis.

Again, it is OK if you are unable to bring all tools. Next Step will make sure you have everything you need, please make sure to let us know.

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- 4' Levels [2]**
- Circular Saw [2]**
- Sawzall [2]**
- Cordless Drills [5]**
- Utility Knives [5]**
- Framing Square [1]**
- Hammer Staplers [2]**
- Extension Cords [5]**
- Pry Bars [4]**
- Carpenter Pencils**
- Spade Shovels [3]**

— Please note that nail guns are NOT allowed.

# TOOL SAFETY GUIDELINES

At Next Step Ministries safety is extremely important. This is our top priority while serving on the mission trip. To ensure safety at all times, we have created four classes of tools that may be used on construction projects.

## **CLASS ONE: Hand Tools**

These tools are operated by hand without electricity or other power. These can be operated by any approved Next Step volunteers. Examples: hammer, tape measure, level, hand saw etc.

## **CLASS TWO: Non-Cutting Power Tools**

These tools are powered by electricity, but do not have any rotating blades or cutting action. These can be operated by any approved Next Step volunteers. Examples: drill and impact driver, dander, etc.

## **CLASS THREE: Power Tools**

These tools are powered by electricity or battery, have a rotating blade, cutting action, or reciprocating action. They may only be used by approved Next Step volunteers that are age 16 or older. Examples: circular saw, reciprocating saw, angle grinder, etc.

## **CLASS FOUR: Specialty Tools**

These tools are not approved for volunteer use. They are rare on site and need additional training. If a Next Step staff notes a tool is in class four, please respect the rules that these may only be used by approved Next Step Staff. Examples: chainsaw, nail guns and other pneumatics, jack hammer, etc.

## **AGE REQUIREMENTS**

**Class One & Two:** Approved Next Step Volunteer (any age)

**Class Three:** Approved Next Step Volunteer over the age of 16

**Class Four:** Approved Next Step Volunteer over the age of 18 under special approval

*For more safety tips please check out our construction page on the website: <https://nextstepministries.com/construction/>*

# CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

At Next Step Ministries safety is extremely important. We believe safety begins with our mentality and attitude. There are four core values to guide all of our construction work to ensure our time together is safe, efficient, and effective:

- 1. Safety**
- 2. Relationship Building**
- 3. Quality**
- 4. Production Time**

## SAFETY

This is our top priority while serving on the mission trip. To help ensure safety at all times, the following rules have been established while working on construction projects:

**For certain projects, safety glasses will be required at all times.**

**For certain projects, hard hats will be required at all times.**

**For all projects, closed-toe shoes are required. We strongly suggest boots, but they are not mandatory.**

## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Home repairs and construction projects directly meet a physical need within a community. However, more importantly than this hands on work, the heart behind the mission is to connect with the community we are serving alongside. We will work hard to accomplish as much as possible while building and repairing homes, but there will also be

a strong emphasis on taking time to connect on a relational level with the residents. Furthermore, working together on construction projects offers a unique opportunity for students and leaders to continue to grow in their relationships as well.

## QUALITY

Next Step Ministries will make sure all work completed is of the highest quality possible. We will only begin work projects that we are confident can be completed well. Our construction staff will take the time to properly prepare projects, lead your team step-by-step in the building process, and follow-up with every project to ensure that it was completed with high quality!

## PRODUCTION TIME

While working together our goal is to take the time necessary to complete each project well. You may be working on a project that cannot be completed in just one week. Please understand that you are a part of a long-term partnership with the community and the project will be completed by Next Step Ministries. This will help ensure our work is safe, high quality, and allows for time to invest in relationships.

**Due to safety reasons, nail guns are not allowed on any Next Step Ministries mission trips.**

## DONATIONS

If you, or anyone from your church is seeking to donate various items to a community in which we work, please contact the office at [missions@nextstepministries.com](mailto:missions@nextstepministries.com). At that time, we will guide you through our donation process and explain what steps need to be taken in order to move forward.

### DONATION POLICY EXPLANATION

At Next Step, we want to be intentional in how we distribute donations. We believe donations pose an opportunity for families to receive the things they need. That being said, this process must deliberately foster dignity, as opposed to dependency.

### DONATION GUIDELINES

Below are guidelines we have created for all donations in order to receive, allocate, and distribute each item in a way that does just that: dignifies and empowers the community.

- All donations must be sent to the Next Step Ministries office. Next Step will then distribute the donations accordingly.
- We strongly encourage that every item donated is new. Lightly used donations are accepted as well.
- Please keep all tags on any new items.
- All lightly used clothing must be washed before being sent.
- All electronics must be tested and fully functioning before being sent.
- Donations must be organized in labeled boxes.
- We will not accept any item that is torn or damaged.

*Thank you in advance for the donations! You can trust that your donation will be handled responsibly and used effectively.*

## INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT FORMS

All students and leaders must complete the Individual Participant Form available online. To access the form please talk to your youth leader. We created a unique URL link to a form that is associated with just your group!

**| This form is due one week prior to your trip.**

Keep in mind Internet Explorer doesn't work well with the online form. It's best to use any other web browser such as Firefox, Chrome, Safari, etc.

Health insurance is required for every trip participant. Since insurance coverage is mandatory, any individuals without coverage are expected to purchase temporary health insurance. Next Step recommends the Volunteer Card, which is an inexpensive program. You can learn more about temporary coverage available at their website [www.volunteercard.com](http://www.volunteercard.com).

### SPECIAL NOTES FOR REGISTERED YOUTH LEADERS

You can login to your Trip Dashboard at anytime through the website to get more information about participant forms. If you go to the "participant forms" tab you can access the unique URL link to copy, paste, and send out to your team! Also, there is a feature on your Trip Dashboard for you to "print all forms" once all team members have completed their forms. Please bring a hard copy of all forms with you on the trip and hand into the Next Step staff upon arrival.

We hope this process will be as easy as possible for you! Please don't hesitate to contact our office if help is needed. You can reach us at [missions@nextstepministries.com](mailto:missions@nextstepministries.com).

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

We strive to offer your group the best mission trip experience you have ever had! We are available to answer your questions at any time. Please save the important contact information listed below and don't hesitate to reach out! You can also follow us on Facebook @nextstepmissiontrips or Instagram @nextstepbuzz.

**Next Step Ministries Office** | 866.534.2009  
[missions@nextstepministries.com](mailto:missions@nextstepministries.com)

**Missions Director** | 608.286.9534

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