



2024 SH SERVICE TRIP

INFO PACKET



Biloxi, MS JUNE 9–17, 2024

 @waypointym

December 13, 2023

Dear Possibly Interested in Going on This Trip Teenager!

Are you ready to be forever changed as a person? Are you ready to step out of your comfort zones, embrace the awkwardness, be extremely flexible, and be pushed to your limits mentally, physically and spiritually? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then you are ready to embark on our 2024 SH Service Trip.

This June a caravan of 65+ teenagers, 25+ adults, 8 vans, 2 cargo vans and a TON of food and gear will be heading to the Gulf Coast for an epic week of serving Jesus. We will be working with the crew at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. For over 100 years this organization has been serving the people in this region through a variety of ways and impacting the lives of thousands of people.

It's hard to explain why these trips are so...awesome. You kind of just have to experience it. I don't know if it's the fact that we all are forced to do life together for a week or the sweat equity we all pour into helping the people in this community or maybe it's the crazy, off-the-wall games we play or the powerful worship services every night or maybe it's the incredible food we are fed all week long. I don't know what exactly it is, but somewhere in the midst of this week something magical, something spiritual and radical and unexplainable happens. The light bulb comes on, we realize our purpose for being in this place at this time and God starts changing our hearts and our souls and we leave forever changed.

You may have doubts and I get it. All I can tell you is to ask those who have gone before, take a risk, pack your bags and join us on this once-in-a-lifetime, award-winning, Trip Advisor recommended, FDA approved adventure. I have absolutely zero doubt that you will be blowing up your Instagram feed with massive overloads of fun and awesomeness during and after this life-changing trip.

I want to thank you for even considering this trip. It takes courage to serve and it takes endurance and patience and determination to do it for an entire week in the middle of the summer. In this packet you will find everything you need to know to be a part of our team next summer. Don't delay in turning everything in before our March 1st deadline. We have limited space and spots will fill extremely fast.

If you have any questions, I am always available and more than willing to talk to you about the trip and help you prepare for this experience. In the meantime I will be praying that you join our team and that this summer's trip will be as beneficial to you and your growth as a person as it is to the people in Pennsylvania.

All the Best,

Nate Taylor
Director of Youth Ministries, Avon Lake U.C.C.
440.503.2549
nate@avonlakeucc.org



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Biloxi, MS JUNE 9–17, 2024

 @waypointym

2024 SH SERVICE TRIP INFORMATION SHEET

It's SH Service Trip time. We are excited to open registration for this summer's trip to Biloxi, MS with Back Bay Mission. This sheet is designed to provide you with a LOT of solid, helpful information that you need to know in order to participate in next summer's trip. DON'T LOSE THIS PAPER. Things change often and we do our best to keep you updated on any of those changes. Please be sure to read our weekly Waypoint Youth Ministries email for all the latest information on next summer's trip and follow us on social media @waypointym to stay as updated as possible.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Back Bay Mission is located in Biloxi, MS.

Their mission is simple: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives. We **strengthen neighborhoods** through ministries like our education and empowerment programs and our housing rehabilitation program.

These vital ministries help the people we serve be a part of, and build, their communities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As volunteers take what they learn at Back Bay Mission home with them, they have the opportunity to strengthen their own neighborhoods. We **seek justice** by helping the people we serve become more involved in their communities, educating people about the realities of poverty, and advocating on behalf of marginalized people in our community. All of our programs **transform lives**. Whether we're helping a homeowner keep their home, mentoring a single mother as she plans her path out of poverty, or working with an intern who is thinking about a career in social work, we're making the lives of the people we serve better. You can read more about Back Bay Mission at <https://thebackbaymission.org>.



WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

We will be doing all sorts of construction work – big and small - to help those in this community. It could be anything from framing to painting, siding to roofing, laying carpet, installing windows, removing debris, fixing, tweaking, building, dismantling, creating and so much more. We will also be working with several of their other ministries including their food pantry and the Micah Day Center among others. You will be challenged and if you've never touched a hammer in your life...don't worry – we have something for everyone.

WHERE WILL BE STAYING?

While we are in Biloxi we will be staying at Seashore Assembly. Seashore Assembly is a United Methodist conference and retreat center located just a few miles from Back Bay Mission. We will be staying in bunk rooms at the retreat center and will have access to most the center's facilities including access to the beach and an outdoor pavilion for our evening worship services.

WILL THERE BE ANYTHING FUN TO DO?

This trip is packed with FUN. Top to bottom. There will be more fun than you know what to do with. We believe that serving others is allowed to be enjoyable. Our goal is to provide an element of fun in everything we do from the van ride to the music we play at meals, to the games we play, to the way our leaders interact and of course all of the unforeseen really, really funny, snapchat worthy hilarity that always ensues. On top of all of this we have some other things planned like our highly-competitive ping pong and euchre tournament, airboat touring through the swamplands and so, so, so much more.

WHO CAN GO ON THE TRIP?

Our Sr. High Service Trip at Avon Lake U.C.C. is open to all youth currently in grades 9-12. You do NOT have to be a member of our church or a member of any church to attend this trip.

WHEN IS THE TRIP?

The trip is scheduled for Sunday, June 9, 2024 to Monday, June 17, 2024. We will leave at 9:00AM on Sunday and return around 5:00PM on Monday.

HOW MUCH WILL THE TRIP COST?

This year's trip will cost \$450.00 per person for ALUCC members. For non-members the trip will cost \$550.00. This includes travel, lodging, t-shirt, airboat tour, construction materials, tools, equipment and food. Meals during travel days, souvenirs and similar items are additional expenses for each participant. We have scholarships and financial aid available for ANYONE who cannot afford the cost of our trip. A \$100, non-refundable deposit is due by February 1, 2024 to secure your spot. All balances must be paid in FULL by May 1, 2024. Checks may be made payable to *Avon Lake United Church of Christ*. DO NOT let cost affect your decision to go on this trip or not. If you are concerned about the cost, please contact Nate privately and we can discuss your concerns.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

We will be traveling to Mississippi via 12-passenger vans from Enterprise.

WHAT WILL WE DO FOR FOOD?

While we are in Mississippi we will be responsible for the purchasing, preparation, cooking and cleaning of our breakfast, lunch and dinner each day. Katie Schulz & Jim Kotora will be heading up the ALUCC Food Crew. This team of adults from our church will be traveling with us all week and preparing our meals every day. Two things I can guarantee – you will not go hungry and you will be amazed at the talents of our Food Crew. Meals on the road back will consist of your favorite fast food fare.

WHO WILL CHAPERON THE TRIP?

Our trip to Mississippi will be fully chaperoned by members of our ALUCC Adult Volunteer Team, other parents of youth going on the trip, our youth ministries summer assistant, and myself.

WHAT FORMS DO I NEED TO FILL OUT TO GO ON THIS YEAR'S TRIP?

You must have the following forms completed to participate:

- 2024 ALUCC SH Service Trip Registration Form – NOTE: This form officially registers you for the trip
- 2023-24 ALUCC Registration & Waiver/Release Form
- 2024 ALUCC Sr. High Service Trip Medication Form – NOTE: Please wait until May to complete
- Back Bay Mission Individual Volunteer Form
- Airboat Tour Waiver
- Avon Lake U.C.C. SH Service Trip Roofing Waiver

*****PLEASE NOTE:** When you fill out these forms, you can NOT save them and finish them later. You must complete them and click submit. Most of these forms will send an email confirmation of the form's completion to the email address you provide.

WHAT ABOUT FUNDRAISING?

At this point we are estimating that a trip of this size is going to cost us approximately \$60,000. With your registration costs we are still left with nearly \$20,000 to make up. In order to make up this gap we utilize a number of avenues. The Mission Team at Avon Lake U.C.C. supports us immensely every year and we have two fundraisers that require EVERYONE's help and participation:

EVENT: Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser

WHEN: TBD

HELP NEEDED: Tell every single human you know to eat-in or carry out at Buffalo Wild Wings in Avon Lake on this day, all day, three times a day. THEY MUST PRESENT one of coupons (coming soon) at the time of ordering to ensure we get credit for their meal. We will receive 20% of the total. Super easy. Super awesome.

EVENT: 15th Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament

WHEN: Saturday, May 11, 2024

HELP NEEDED: Everyone going on the trip is required to sign-up (2) teams for the tournament. The cost for a team to participate in the tournament is \$50. For every team that you do NOT sign-up, you will owe an additional \$100 to go on the Service Trip. If you are not playing in the tournament, you will be asked to volunteer for a shift at the tournament, donate silent auction items or concession goods, or help with the set-up and tear down of the event. This is our biggest fundraiser we do every year and it requires all hands on deck. Follow us on Instagram @cabinfevercornhole.

EVENT: Valet Car Wash

WHEN: Sunday, May 19, 2024 8AM – 12PM

HELP NEEDED: This one day fundraiser usually nets us close to \$1,200. Church members arrive for church, leave us their keys at the front door, adults move the cars to the washing stations and when church is over, church members pick up their keys, make a donation and enjoy their clean car. It's simple, it's easy and it requires everyone's help. We will have two shifts for people to help out during this fundraiser.

ARE THERE ANY MEETINGS OR EVENTS I WILL NEED TO ATTEND BEFORE THE TRIP?

Below you will find a list of all the MANDATORY events that you need to attend in order to participate in our trip next summer. We have implemented an attendance policy for our SH Summer Service Trip. Everyone is required to:

A) Attend and participate in all of our mandatory meetings and events or

B) If you are going to miss ANY of the mandatory events for ANY reason, make-up the missed mandatory event by volunteering at the church. For each missed mandatory event, a student is required to make up 2 hours of volunteer work at any of a number of church related opportunities. See opportunities listed below. When you complete your make-up work, you must fill out a Service Trip Make-Up Work Form, have it signed by the work supervisor, and turn it in to Nate BEFORE June 1st. This form will be available in early January. Anyone who fails to make-up their missed mandatory events by June 1st will NOT be permitted to attend our SH Summer Service Trip and will forfeit their deposit.

ACCEPTABLE MAKE-UP WORK OPPORTUNITIES:

Good Neighbor Thrift Shop - located at 158 Lear Rd. Avon Lake, OH 44012 440.933.8627 *open six days a week

Saturday Morning Work Crew - 8:30AM - 12:00PM every Saturday at the church.

SH Service Trip prep work - as needed. Contact Nate.

Buoy work - as needed. Contact Nate.

MANDATORY DATES:

Saturday, May 11, 2024 – 15th Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 TEAM MEETING 6:30PM

Trip Commissioning Service – Sunday, June 2, 2024 @ 10AM

Post-Trip Reunion & Worship Planning – Monday, July 1, 2024 @ 7:30PM

2024 Service Trip Worship Service – Sunday, July 14, 2024 @ 10AM

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Sunday, April 28, 2024 Church Property Clean-Up 12:30PM – 3:30PM
 Sunday, May 19, 2024 Car Wash 8AM – 12PM

SKILL SESSIONS:

*must attend AT LEAST ONE if you have NEVER attended an ALUCC SH Service Trip

Saturday, April 13, 2024 9AM – 11AM
 Saturday, May 4, 2024 9AM – 11AM

*all dates are tentative & subject to change

*pro tip: it's a really good idea to join us on Wednesday night SH Youth Group when you can.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GO ON THE TRIP?

There a number of things you need to do to go on this summer's trip. The first and most important is to pray about this opportunity. Are you ready and willing to serve God and the people in Mississippi? Next you will need to do the following:

1. Secure your spot beginning on Sunday, January 7, 2024 by completing the Service Trip registration form and paying your \$100, non-refundable deposit. Remember...if you register in the first week you will be entered for a chance to win a pass to eat FIRST at ALL of our meals during our trip this June.
2. Sign-up a minimum of 2 teams for our Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament
3. Volunteer at all of our fundraisers.
4. Put the entire list of MANDATORY dates on your calendar and don't overbook yourself
5. Attend church and Sr. High on a regular basis
6. Attend ALL of the MANDATORY meetings and/or fundraising events

We are so excited to have you join us on this adventure next summer. It will be life-changing, inspiring, transformational and a reallllllly, reallllllly good time.

If you have any questions between now and June, please don't hesitate to contact me at nate@avonlakeucc.org or 440.503.2549. Please read our weekly youth ministries email that will have a special section for SH Service Trip Updates. There will be lots and lots of things you need to know before we get out of here. Be on the lookout and start getting ready. This will be the #bestweekever.

STAY IN TOUCH:

Weekly Email

Follow us on Instagram:

Follow us on Facebook:

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Back Bay Mission
1012 Division St.
Biloxi, MS 39530
228.432.0301
Thebackbaymission.org
CONTACT: Craig Steenkamp

Seashore Assembly
1410 Leggett Dr.
Biloxi, MS 39530
228.436.6767
seashoreassembly.org
CONTACT: Opie Hughes

New Orleans Airboat Tours
4757 Orleans Way
Marrero, LA 70072
504.262.8887
neworleansairboattours.com
CONTACT: Captain Russell

Avon Lake U.C.C.
32801 Electric Blvd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012
440.503.2549
avonlakeucc.org
CONTACT: Nate Taylor



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2024 SH Service TRIP
15th Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament

On Saturday, May 11, 2024 we will be hosting our 15th Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament. The event is a one-day fundraiser that brings in over \$12,000 for our SH Service Trip each year. The tournament has grown to one of the largest tournaments in NE Ohio. In order for this event's continued success we rely on the help of our service trip students and families. This help comes in many shapes and forms including, but not limited, to the following:



PLAY: The best and easiest way to help make this event a success is to play in the tournament and get others to play in the tournament. Every team that plays is a big help to the overall outcome of this fundraiser. Every student going on this summer's trip is required to have two teams play in the tournament. Registration for this year's event opens on Saturday, May 23, 2024 [HERE](#).

DONATE: There are two types of donations we need specifically – items for our concession stand and items for our silent auction. Our silent auction depends on the donations of tickets to events, goods, services, items of value, autographs, rentals, etc. in order to generate the money they do every year. If you have something that you would like to donate to our silent auction please contact – Kim Kramhoeller at kawtoon@aol.com. We have sponsorship & donation packets available that have everything you should need for someone interested in making a donation. Regarding our concession stand we are in need of an assortment of items that can be found on our Sign-Up Genius page. You can find the link further down on this sheet. For more information please contact Katie Schulz at schulz311@hotmail.com.

SPONSOR: Another stream of income for this event is our invitation to local businesses and organizations to be a part of this event through our event sponsorship program. There are several different opportunities for your company to be a part of this year's event. You can sponsor a playing court, an entire room of playing courts, the team number bibs, and the World Record Shot, among many others. Sponsorships range in cost from \$250 - \$1,500. For more information on how you can become an event sponsor, please contact Nate Taylor at nate@avonlakeucc.org or you can purchase one [HERE](#).

VOLUNTEER: In order to run an event of this size it requires a lot of volunteers. Another opportunity for you to help out at this year's event is to sign-up to volunteer. We have several different volunteer opportunities including; concessions, registration, tournament central, set-up and tear down, game wardens, runners, texting team, world record shot, greeters, silent auction, 50/50 raffle team and more. For more information please sign up [HERE](#). For more information about volunteering opportunities, please contact Beth Gee at bfische1@yahoo.com.

IMPORTANT DATES:

March 23, 2024	Registration Opens
April 21, 2024	Earlybird Registration Deadline – price goes up \$10 after this date
May 5, 2024	Tournament Registration Deadline
May 11, 2024	15 th Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.avonlakeucc.org/cornhole
@cabinfevercornhole
nate@avonlakeucc.org



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Avon Lake U.C.C.
SH Service Trip Roofing Waiver

It will be the policy of Avon Lake U.C.C. to allow students to work on roofing projects subject to rules, limitations, and discretion as set forth below. Roofing projects means any instance on which a student may be upon a roof at the direction of a member of the adult leadership team to do any type of work, including but not limited to patching, shingle removal, shingle replacement, cleaning gutters, or debris removal.

The following rules apply to all roofing projects:

- Home or building must not be more than one story on any side, nor shall the roof have a pitch greater than 4/12.
- A member of the adult leadership team must first survey the roof to ensure it is structurally sound and free of any hazards such as electrical lines.
- To work on a roof a student must be a current junior or senior in high school.
- Must have specific parental permission to participate.
- Must receive safety education and training before participating.
- Must have approval of Avon Lake U.C.C. Director of Youth Ministries and the student's team leader.
- Student must adhere to the clothing requirements as directed by the adult leadership
- The number of students must be limited to the maximum number to safely accomplish the work.
- 15 minutes breaks in which the student must leave the roof at the direction of the team leader
- Horseplay or any violation of the instruction of the adult leadership will cause the student to be removed from the roof for the balance of the trip
- If possible, scaffolding should be used.
- The team leader and/or a representative from the organization we are serving with may instruct a student to remove themselves from the roof at any time for any reason.

I recognize that there are risks involved in participating in all aspects of roofing and hereby assume all risk of injury, harm, damage, or death in connection with my participation in it. I understand and agree that neither **Avon Lake U.C.C.** nor its trustees, officers, directors, employees, agents or representatives may be held liable in any way for any injury, harm, damage, or death that may occur to me as a result of my participation in this service trip and hereby release **Avon Lake U.C.C.**, its trustees, officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives from any injury, harm, damage or death, which may occur while I am participating in any aspect of a roofing project. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I agree to save and hold harmless **Avon Lake U.C.C.**, its trustees, officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives from any claim by myself, my estate, heirs, successors, assigns or other persons arising out of my participation in a roofing project on the 2023 SH Service Trip.



This waiver can be found at:

2024 SH SERVICE TRIP
PACKING LIST

We have put this packing list together as a recommendation for what you will need to ensure that you have a great week. Please read through this carefully.

WORK BOOTS: An absolute MUST! No tennis shoes will be permitted on the worksites. The worksites can be very muddy and may be dangerous if proper foot attire is not being worn.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING: Construction work has a potential for danger and all workers need to be clothed properly. Long pants (work pants or jeans) must be worn at all times. Inappropriate clothing for the worksite includes athletic pants, capri pants, sweatpants, shorts, tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, sandals, etc. 5-6 work shirts and 2-3 pairs of work pants/jeans should be plenty. Don't forget good work socks.

TOOLS: If you bring tools (it is not necessary that you do), please mark them with your identification. Back Bay Mission cannot accept responsibility for your own tools.

WORK GLOVES

FACE MASK(S)

WATER BOTTLE – A MUST!

SUNGASSES

SUNSCREEN

RAIN COAT (we work in all weather)

TOWEL(s)

TOILETRIES & PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

DEODORANT – Avon Lake U.C.C. Service Trip Law Section 3-D4368

SLEEPING BAG, PILLOW, TWIN FITTED SHEET

CHANGES OF CLOTHING FOR EVENINGS (shorts, tshirts, sandals, tennis shoes)

SWEATSHIRT or LIGHT JACKET

TENNIS SHOES

SANDALS

GUITAR OR OTHER MUSIC INSTRUMENTS (drum sets, tubas excluded...sorry!)

INSECT REPELLENT

HAND SANITIZER

SPORTS EQUIPMENT (baseball glove, lacrosse stick) *at own risk

BIBLE

BOOK

CELL PHONE/CAMERA/CHARGER

SPENDING MONEY (you will be responsible for some meals during travel and any souvenirs)

SWIMWEAR

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

-Live Animals	-Weapons of Any Kind	-Illegal Drugs, Alcohol or any controlled substances
-Bad Attitude	-Jet Ski	-Any hope of winning the ping pong tournament

NOTE: Per my policy, I will not comment on possible weather conditions, temperatures, traditional June weather, fronts, systems or any other form of meteorology. For your assistance I recommend weather.com and just know...active weather has traditionally followed me...well...everywhere.



2024 SH SERVICE TRIP ITINERARY

Sunday, June 9, 2024

8:00AM	Check-in (Buoy)
9:00AM	Welcome/Prayer/Photo/Depart
9:15PM	Depart Avon Lake, OH
6:30PM	Arrive in Nashville, TN
7:00PM	Dinner
9:00PM	Worship
10:00PM	Small Groups
11:00PM	Lights OUT

Monday, June 10, 2024

6:30AM	Wake-UP Call
7:00AM	Breakfast, Pack-Up
8:00AM	Depart Nashville
5:30PM	Arrive in Biloxi, MS
6:30PM	Dinner
7:30PM	Orientation
9:00PM	Worship
10:00PM	Small Groups
11:00PM	Lights Out

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

6:45AM	Wake-UP Call
7:00AM	Breakfast, Make Lunches, Fill Water
7:30AM	Depart for jobsites
5:00PM	End of workday
5:30PM	Arrive back from jobsites
6:30PM	Dinner
7:30PM	FREE TIME
9:00PM	Worship
10:00PM	Small Groups
11:00PM	Lights Out

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

6:45AM	Wake-UP Call
7:00AM	Breakfast, Make Lunches, Fill Water
7:30AM	Depart for jobsites
5:00PM	End of workday
5:30PM	Arrive back from jobsites
6:30PM	Dinner
7:30PM	FREE TIME
9:00PM	Worship
10:00PM	Small Groups
11:00PM	Lights Out

Thursday, June 13, 2024

6:45AM	Wake-UP Call
7:00AM	Breakfast, Make Lunches, Fill Water
7:30AM	Depart for jobsites
5:00PM	End of workday
5:30PM	Arrive back from jobsites
6:30PM	Dinner
7:30PM	FREE TIME
9:00PM	Worship
10:00PM	Small Groups
11:00PM	Lights Out

Friday, June 14, 2024

6:45AM	Wake-UP Call
7:00AM	Breakfast, Make Lunches, Fill Water
7:30AM	Depart for jobsites
5:00PM	End of workday
5:30PM	Arrive back from jobsites
6:30PM	Dinner
7:30PM	FREE TIME
9:00PM	Worship
10:00PM	Small Groups
11:00PM	Lights Out

Saturday, June 15, 2024

6:45AM	Wake-UP Call
7:00AM	Breakfast, Make Lunches, Fill Water
8:30AM	Depart for Swamp Boat Tour
11:00AM	Swamp Boat Tour
2:00PM	Depart for Biloxi
4:00PM	Arrive in Biloxi
5:30PM	Dinner
6:30PM	Free Time/Pack
8:30PM	Worship
10:00PM	Small Groups
11:00PM	Lights Out

Sunday, June 16, 2024

7:00AM	Wake-UP Call
8:00AM	Breakfast, Clean & Pack-UP
8:30AM	Depart Biloxi, MS
5:30PM	Arrive in Nashville, TN
7:00PM	Dinner – Hattie B's
9:00PM	Karaoke
11:00PM	Lights Out



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2024 SH SERVICE TRIP GOALS & COVENANT

GOALS:

1. Grow – Our hope is that over the course of this trip you will be able to grow as a person and as a Christian. We hope that this trip will provide you with more clarity on this thing we call life and how you are a vital part of the picture and how you fit into God's big, awesome design.
2. Serve – This is not a vacation. Our number one priority while we are here is to help the people of Biloxi, MS in any way we possibly can. This requires a change in mindset and a realization that first and foremost we are here to serve and secondly to have a ridiculously good time.
3. Connect – There are 90 of us from our church here this week. One of our goals is that each of you would be able to connect with others from our church, that you would step out of your comfort zones to make some new friends, and that you would develop a network of connections of other awesome people who enjoy serving Jesus.
4. Seek – Each and every night we are going to provide you with a chance to participate in a worship experience. During this dedicated time, when we pray before meals, when we pray at the start of a new workday, and countless other times during the week we hope that you will make it a point to thank God for making all of this possible.
5. Have Fun – Finally we want to destroy the stereotype that serving Jesus and having fun are two completely different things. We hope that you will make a point to laugh a lot, to sing, to whistle while you work and enjoy yourselves and your time in Mississippi immensely. We take pride in ensuring that among the very few things we can guarantee, you having fun is one of the most important.

COVENANT:

1. I will respect everyone & everyone's belongings. I will respect their views, their privacy, their space, & their right to be here.
2. I will refrain from using any drugs, alcohol, or illegal substances.
3. I will not use undesirable or foul language.
4. I will respect the places we visit and leave them in better shape than when I arrived.
5. I will be respectful of the people we meet, their way of life, and their beliefs.
6. I will make time daily for God.
7. I will participate in all activities, work projects, and daily chores.
8. I will use discretion and common sense in my attire. I understand that shirts must be worn at all times. I will refrain from wearing clothing that expresses alcohol/beer slogans or obscenities.
9. I will avoid gossiping, criticizing, or starting rumors.
10. I will not engage in gambling, betting or wagering on anything throughout the duration of the trip.
11. I understand that on a trip like this, things can change often. I will be flexible, understanding and willing to "go with the flow." Semper Gumby.™
12. I will do my best to represent myself, my church, my community, my family and Jesus in the best way possible.
13. I will be aware of our schedule and will be on time.
14. I will have a large, ridiculous amount of fun!
15. I will do everything possible to attend all meetings, fundraisers, and other events required for my participation in this trip.
16. I understand that failure to comply with this covenant will result in disciplinary action that does not exclude being sent home from the trip at my own expense.



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2024 SH Mission Trip PREPARING TO SERVE & DAILY THEMES

#1 – Rest – There is nothing more important than taking care of your body. Staying out until 4AM the night before the trip is the exact opposite of rest. I know you think you need to listen to Midnights one more time but your posse of Swifties will still be there in a week. Turn off your Spotify and get some rest.

#2 – Research – Take a few moments to Google Back Bay Mission and the impact they have had on the Greater Biloxi community for the past century. Familiarize yourself with the region of the country we are going to be serving. Contrary to popular belief not everyone in the Gulf Coast is a shrimp boat captain, talks funny & loves the blues.

#3 – Be Fat – Faithful. Available. Teachable. Come to this trip willing to serve and willing to do whatever we need you to do and willing to learn. Having an open heart and desire to serve in whatever way you can will make your experience better and will make the people we are serving feel more comfortable. I hate painting. Hate it. But if we are asked to paint, you won't find a happier painter in all of Mississippi.

#4 – Be there – I know that there may be some major drama developing back in Avon Lake while you're gone. So and so drove so and so's dad's car in their pool at their graduation party. Believe me people will still be talking about it when you get back. There is a time to be online and there is a time to be offline. Prepare your soul to be without social media for large chunks of time for several days in a row.

#5 – Embrace the Awkwardness – We are going to completely remove you from your comfort zones and drop you in the middle of a new town, with a lot of people you probably don't know all that well and we are going to ask you to do life together for a week. We are going to challenge you to be a family. Families don't always agree and families have their share of awkwardness so I challenge you to embrace it. Someone is going to fart really loud on your bus and someone is going to say something really strange... embrace the awkwardness!

#6 – Develop Empathy – Many of the people you are going to meet in Mississippi have never had 92% of the things you have in your home. You lauding on and on about how much you miss your bed or your air conditioning or your friends or your Xbox... just don't. You sound insensitive. These people dream of the same things except they don't get them back in a week. Life has dealt them a rough hand and we can't begin to imagine what living with that hand truly feels like.

#7 – Open your Ears – Teenagers have an incredible ability to just completely tune out. I mean 100% transport themselves mentally to the farthest reaches of the galaxy. You can look a teenager right in the eyeballs and say "we are going to eat at 6PM" and not even a nano-second later they will turn to you completely unaware of what just transpired and ask you "what time are we having dinner?" It's incredible. We will be dumping lots of information on your brains every day and it's critical that you are able to process it all and on the work sites it's so much more important for the safety of you and everyone you are working with.

#8 – Stretch – Not a good stretch like before or after you go for a run. I'm talking a mental stretch. How many of you hate change? Just absolutely despise anything dealing with change? You need to start stretching now. These trips are full of surprises, unplanned events, changes and organized chaos. If there is nothing else that you may do before we leave June 9th, STRETCH. I am telling you that your ability to be flexible will make your experience that much more enjoyable.

DAILY THEMES:

MONDAY - Funny Shirt Day

TUESDAY – Cleveland Day

WEDNESDAY – Neon Day

THURSDAY – Service Trip Shirt Day

FRIDAY – Red, White & Blue Day

SATURDAY - TBD



Hear me out....I know there's a lot here. I know it seems like a lot of work and it's going to cost a lot of money. It may be all overwhelming. I get it. We have a team of student leaders and adults who are all on board and more than willing to help you get from today to June 9th. We have a fund to help offset the cost of this trip for anyone who wants to go who may not be able to afford part or all of the cost. We want you to be a part of this team and we are going to do whatever it takes to make that a reality. And it simply comes down to this...we believe in these trips. I have been leading these trips for almost 15 years and I have seen transformation take place and hearts moved and lives changed in ways I never imagined. I am saying a prayer tonight for YOU. I pray that God stirs something inside of you to say yes to this adventure. I pray that God challenges you to step out of your comfort zone and clear a week of your summer for serving others. I pray that God shows you a side of yourself you never knew you had. I pray that you find the courage to answer God's call and I can't wait to serve alongside you this June.

If you have ANY questions...please don't hesitate to get a hold of me. Seriously.

Can't. Wait. For. June.

All the best,

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