PCWS Summer Missions Trip Interest Packet

Trip Hosted by BridgeBuilders,
a program of Sunshine Gospel Ministries
500 E 61st St, Chicago, IL 60637
https://www.sunshinegospel.org/bb/

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BridgeBuilders (Sunshine Gospel Ministries) Chicago Missions Trip FAQ:

When is the trip?
The dates are July 24-29. We will plan to meet at PCWS Sunday afternoon (the 24th), and arrive back to PCWS Friday evening. Exact times of departure and arrival are TBD as the Bridgebuilder team plans our week.

How much will the trip cost?
One Student: $150
Two or more students: $100 per student
Chaperone: Cost covered by PCWS
Child of Chaperone (if applicable): $100
**There are scholarships available for any student who wishes to attend but cannot afford the registration fee. Talk to Ben to learn more!*

Who can attend?
Any youth grades 6-12 is welcome to join us. We are also welcoming adult chaperones who want to engage in a service opportunity like this. Neither Youth nor Chaperones are required to be members of PCWS. However, we will require that every adult joining us will be MinistrySafe trained and certified. Teens are welcome and encouraged to invite their friends to join us on this trip!

Where will the group stay?
Sunshine Ministries has housing above their ministry building at 500 E 61st St, Chicago, IL 60637. This is most likely where our group will be staying. If not above the Sunshine Building, we will be staying in dorms owned by Sunshine a block or two away from the main building.

Who will be on this trip with my child?
I am still working to recruit three chaperones (1 male, 2 female) to accompany me on this trip. Every adult joining us will be MinistrySafe trained. If you or another adult you know would like to join us, email me at ben@presbyws.org.

What will the group be doing?
Bridgebuilders is an “Experiential Service Learning” opportunity, and those are the three things we will be doing! We will experience a new community in our area, learn about things like poverty, race, and the city, and we will serve the neighborhood of Woodlawn through the guidance of organizations that already work year-round for the good of the city. Exact activities are TBD. For more information on possible activities, see the info sheet attached, as well as the Summer BB Schedule document attached.

How will the group travel for the week?
Depending on the size of our group, we will either take a personal vehicle of one of the chaperones (I’m looking at you minivan owners), or I will rent a van to get us into the city. Once

we are in the city, Sunshine has a big parking lot for us, and a few vans of their own to shuttle us to each of our daily activities.

How can we register?
To register, I need a 2022 Golden Ticket filled out and signed by a parent/guardian, as well as the full registration fee paid. You can give both payment and Golden Ticket to Ben.

What is the registration deadline?
Registration is due by June 30.

Where can I learn more about this trip?
I will be hosting an orientation meeting for parent/guardians via Zoom on Sunday, June 12 @4pm. Email ben@presbyws.org if you are unable to make this time, but would still like to hear more from me about this opportunity. I'll send out the link closer to the date to anyone on the PCWS Youth Parent's email list. If you would like to be added to this list, send me an email, and I'll be happy to add you!

Why would my child want to attend this trip?
The BridgeBuilders info packet includes this quote from a past participant: "Coming into this community, you can't change it in a week, but you can be changed by it in a week." It is my hope that the adults and young people who attend this trip will be changed for the better by serving our local community and learning about the beauty and brokenness of the city. I pray that we will be able to take what we have learned through service in this one week, and apply it to the way we live and act in our neighborhood, our schools, and any other "place" we live. As we look toward launching into a new season for PCWS Youth in August, I think that this trip will set the tone of service, love, and care that is so important to our church community. I think that youth who attend this trip will be the leaders who help build a youth program that is centered around God's love for everyone and God's relentless call for justice in our world.

Will my child be safe?
BridgeBuilders has never had an incident with the personal safety of their visiting teams. I have personally met the Bridgebuilder Director, CW Allen, and consider him to be a reliable and capable host for events like this Experiential Service Learning Opportunity. For a more detailed answer to this question, see the attached letter from CW.

What should we pack?
See the attached packing list from BridgeBuilders.

How can we pray for this trip?
Here are a few ways that you can pray for our missions team whether or not you have a child joining us:

- That we will be receptive to the lessons on race and class that we will be learning.
- That we will make connections with other teens and adults with diverse backgrounds and experiences with God.
- That we will be respectful guests of the Woodlawn Community.
- That we will feel emotionally safe to verbally process emotional topics.
- That we will have fun!
- Our physical safety while doing construction-adjacent projects
- That we will be a blessing to the city of Chicago.

Sunshine
Gospel Ministries

The Mission of Sunshine Gospel Ministries is to seek the renewal of the city through ministries of discipleship, mercy, and justice. We seek to engage and empower youth, families and guests of our community to thrive and

BridgeBuilders is one of Sunshine's many programs, and is designed to address the various pitfalls surrounding short-term missions through a week-long experiential service-learning model.

Guests are encouraged to listen and learn throughout the week, recognizing both the beauty and the brokenness of the neighborhood of Woodlawn. Service opportunities are curated with community partners who work sustainably year-round, and every evening offers time for thoughtful, nuanced discussion surrounding racial justice, generational poverty, and holistic engagement of the gospel.

BridgeBuilders is a program of Sunshine Gospel Ministries.

BRIDGEBUILDERS SEEKS TO REDEFINE THE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS EXPERIENCE.

This program helps to connect people from different backgrounds to promote a shared understanding of the challenges facing inner-city comunities. Those from an outside context typically hear and see mostly negative portrayals of the inner city, often contributing to unhelpful labeling and misguided interactions.

We believe the giftedness of the community is more clearly seen through
fostering healthy, meaningful experiences that combine learning with active engagement.



What does a week with BridgeBuilders look like?

Though our programming is flexible, a standard week will include serving with our service partners, lessons with BridgeBuilders staff, and worshiping in a local church. Additionally, our program includes several hands-on experiential learning opportunities that have been fine-tuned over the years to best serve our guests and our community. The entire week is designed to cultivate an appreciation for the neighborhood of Woodlawn and the city of Chicago by highlighting their history, beauty, and vibrance -- while realistically noticing and considering their brokenness.

The rhythm of the week is to ***listen***, ***learn***, ***serve***, **and** ***return*** to your own home, taking with you the tools to healthily engage the vulnerable and embrace Biblical justice.







LISTEN



Shalom & the City

This lesson focuses on the Biblical concept of Shalom and the history of racial injustice in Chicago.



The Poor & Their Savior

Who are the poor? In this lesson, we seek to expand our definition of and response to poverty with a Biblical mindset rooted in Micah 6:8.



Just Mercy

This lesson explores the past and present of policing in the United States, focusing on various cases of police brutality and racial profiling.



American Son

This lesson defines terms surrounding discussions about race, as well as providing a space to process personal experiences.

LEARN

The experiential-learning aspect of BridgeBuilders is crucial to our program. Each experience is designed to help guests understand the history of our neighborhood, giving clear historical context to the present realities of poverty and systemic injustice. Over the years, we have fine-tuned each learning experience with the dual goals of dignifying the community and educating participants. We ask groups to pay close attention during these experiences, noticing details and patterns we may not always look for at home.

Our Experiences Include:

- Trip to the DuSable Museum of African American History
- Interactive Poverty Simulator
- "The L-Train Experience"
- Neighborhood tour of Woodlawn and the surrounding area
- Concert with various Chicago Artists





SERVE



BridgeBuilders allows groups to meaningfully connect with the neighborhood through various service projects with community partners. Our service mindset emphasizes that group members are *guests*, not *missionaries*. Outsiders who come to the community for one week are not and cannot be the saviors of a community that is not their own. Many organizations, initiatives, and individuals already foster the year-round flourishing of our neigborhood, and we joyfully invite you to glimpse and contribute to their work for the brief time you're here.

RETURN

BridgeBuilders is designed to have a lifelong impact. The program's teaching and learning experiences apply directly to Woodlawn and Chicago, but give participants tools to take home that can be applied everywhere they go:

- The ability to examine communities through the lenses of beauty and brokenness.
- Knowledge of what the Bible says about injustice, advocating for the oppressed, and seeking shalom for your community.
- Awareness of the power of being a guest while traveling to new places.
- How to see past stereotypes, appreciate cultural differences, and see others first and foremost as image-bearers.
- A holistic engagement of the gospel that illuminates the importance of seeking justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly.
- Practical knowledge of the history and current presence of racial injustice.

"Coming into this community, you can't change it in a week, but you can be changed by it in a week."

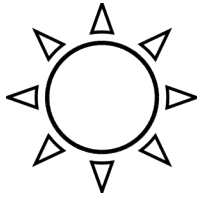
- Past BridgeBuilders participant

LOGISTICS



How long is a BridgeBuilders trip?
Our standard program is a week long, with groups arriving and leaving during the weekend. We also offer weekend-only experiences, and are flexible regarding timing and trip length.

When would our group attend?
You can book a trip during the spring or summer, whichever season works best for your group. We typically host high school youth groups in the summer and college students during their spring breaks.





How much does a trip cost?
Our trips are $75/day per person, or $375/person for a standard five-day trip.

What's included in the cost?
The trip cost includes housing, three meals a day, amenities, and all the materials needed for our programming. Groups must organize their own transportation to Chicago. Parking is free in our neighborhood.



Summer BB Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-9am		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
9-10am		**Community Service**	**Community Service**	**Community Service**	**Community Service**	
10-11am						Brunch
11-12pm						**Power In Being The Guest**
12-1pm		Lunch	Lunch On-Site	Lunch On-Site	Lunch On-Site	
1-2pm		Flex Time	Flex Time	Flex Time	Flex Time	
2-3pm		**Woodlawn Tour**	**Poverty Simulation**	**Film**	**Scavenger Hunt**	
3-4pm						
4-5pm	**Arrival + Orientation**	**Intro To The Southside**	**The Poor And Their Savior**	**Just Mercy**	**American Son**	**Afternoon & Evening Free**
5-6pm						
6-7pm	Dinner- MPR	Dinner - MPR	Dinner- MPR	Dinner- MPR	Dinner- MPR	
7-8pm	**BridgeBuilders** CW	Group Debriefs	Group Debriefs	Group Debriefs	Group Debriefs	Dinner on Own
8-9 pm					**Concert / Fun Event** TBD-Weekly	

Primary Contact: CW Allen
Bridgebuilder Director
cw@sunshinegospel.org
773.564.0580

Please note that this schedule is subject to change & that we will inform you asap of any and all changes. Thanks in advance for your flexibility!

Meals
Experiential Learning
Integrative Teaching & Learning
Service Learning

BRIDGEBUILDERS
| Experiential Service-Learning |

Packing List

- Bedding (BB furnishes Air Mattresses, Sleep Pads &
  - Sheets/Pillow/Blanket or
  - Sleeping Bag
- Clothing
  - Keep in mind you may be doing construction-type projects
  - Be sure your clothing is weather appropriate (bring layers in the winter)
  - Please consider modesty when choosing your clothing for the week
- Walking & Work Shoes
- Rain Coats or Ponchos
- Toiletries
  - Personal Hygiene
  - Deodorant (!)
  - Soap/Body-wash
  - Shampoo & Conditioner
- Towel
- Bible/Notebook/Writing Utensils
- At least one GPS (or GPS enabled device) per vehicle

Items to Leave Behind

- Large Electronic Devices
  - Laptops
  - Tablets
- Weapons
- Lighters/Matches
- Pets (Except service animals)

At Your Discretion

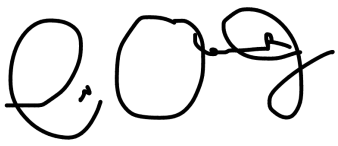
- Cellphones
- Musical Instruments
- Cameras
- Games
- Snacks
- Water Bottle
- Additional spending money

Dear BridgeBuilder Partners,

Given the sensationalized media depictions of South Chicago, it is natural that safety concerns comprise the bulk of parental and organizational fear about coming to Chicago. However, by taking essential steps to reduce risk such as providing initial orientations for leaders and all participants, having on-site staff, and possessing specific local knowledge, BridgeBuilders has never had an incident with personal safety of our visiting teams. There have been uncomfortable moments, but our staff works very carefully to prioritize the safety of all of our staff, children and guests. In fact, we are excited to provide your team with an inside perspective on the true nature of our community that just cannot be communicated through sound bites.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you would like to discuss any questions or concerns related to the safety of your group. I can be contacted at cw@sunshinegospel.org or 773.904.9800(ext.17).

Peace,



CW ALLEN
BridgeBuilders Program Director
Hip Hop Artist | Speaker

2022 Presbyterian Church of Western Springs Golden Ticket

Domestic/Minor Travel General Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

-5250 Wolf Rd, Western Springs, IL 60558-

Participant's Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

Zip:_____

Home Phone:_____

Emergency Contact Name:_____

Emergency Phone:_____

Date:_____

I,_____ , am the parent or legal guardian of (the "Minor"), who desires to participate in various programs, events or activities **inside the United States** (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Activities") operated or sponsored by Presbyterian Church of Western Springs (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Church").

I understand and acknowledge that the Church will not allow the minor to participate in the Activities without releasing and holding the Church harmless from any liability arising out of participation in the Activities. I have investigated the risks involved in the Minor's participation in the Activities and fully understand and assume such risks on my behalf. Specifically, I understand and acknowledge that the Minor may suffer or experience, among other things, personal injury or bodily damage, medical disabilities, loss or theft of personal property.

I REQUEST THAT THE CHURCH ALLOW THE MINOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES, AND IN CONSIDERATION THEREOF AGREE HEREBY TO RELEASE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE THE CHURCH, ITS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, AND ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND ANY PARTIES VOLUNTEERING ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCH, FROM ALL ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTION, INJURIES, CLAIMS, DAMAGES, RANSOM DEMANDS, COSTS OR EXPENSES OF ANY KIND, GROWING OUT OF OR RELATED TO ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE MINOR PARTICIPATES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A FULL AND COMPLETE RELEASE OF ALL INJURIES AND DAMAGES WHICH I OR THE MINOR MAY SUSTAIN AS A RESULT OR HIS/HER PARTICIPATION IN ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES, REGARDLESS OF THE SPECIFIC CAUSE THEREOF.

I acknowledge and agree that I have given my consent for the Minor to remain in the custody of the Church's representatives while participating in the Activities.
_____☐ **Initial**

MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY In the event the Minor suffers any injury or condition during his or her participation in the Activities, including transportation to and from the Activity, which may cause physical impairment, or undue discomfort or medical treatment is delayed, and reasonable attempts to contact me and my spouse have been unsuccessful, I hereby appoint **Presbyterian Church of Western Springs and it's staff** as my agent to act for me and in my name (in any way I could act in person) to make any and all decisions for the Minor concerning his or her personal care, medical treatment, hospitalization and health care. This power of attorney and delegation of authority shall terminate when the Agent is first able to contact me or my spouse.
____☐ **Initial**

PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE Regarding photographs of the Minor taken at any Presbyterian Church of Western Springs (PCWS) event, I give PCWS permission to do the following for nonprofit use and without charge: use at the discretion of PCWS, display at a service or event or be used in a multimedia presentation, reprint and distribute for any PCWS nonprofit publication with copyright to accompany photo when used, display on the PCWS website, or use quotes and video clips on the PCWS website, blog, or social media channels.
_____☐ **Initial**

TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT I give permission for my child to ride from PCWS to an off-campus event, and then back to the church with an Approved Leader.
_____☐ **Initial**

The undersigned agrees to the above Initialed sections and this agreement is binding on my Heirs, Successors and Personal Representatives.

_____ _____
(Sign Full Name) Parent or Legal Guardian Signature Date

_____ _____
(Print Full Name) Parent or Legal Guardian Signature Date

Additional Medical Information:

Medications my child is currently taking:_____

Reason:_____

Dosage:_____

Allergies:_____

Further Instructions: