

Resources for Youth Mission Trips

Youth Mission trips play an important role in the faith formation of our youth while helping them build their Christian identity within their youth group, their congregation and with those whom they serve. Planning, leading and maximizing the faith experiences of the group are important before, during and after the trip. Here are some resources to help you plan and help your youth experience an amazing transformation in Christ!

[Mission Trips from Start to Finish](#): Mission Trips are loaded with complex details that can easily be lost in the planning and excitement of the trip. This resource aims at helping youth workers organize life changing trips without getting lost and overwhelmed in the details of the trip. Ah, the missions trip. Whether across the city or the globe, it can seem daunting to the unprepared. But with *Missions Trips from Start To Finish*, you'll find expert advice to make planning and executing yours as simple as possible. This practical tool is designed to guide first time trip planners step-by-step, while also providing old pros with a host of tools to be used over and over again. It'll save you time, headaches and possibly legal and law enforcement trouble! Prison ministry, anyone?

[Mission Trip Prep Kit](#): Thousands of North American young people participate in short-term missions projects each year. While some churches have well-honed mission trips led by seasoned leaders, many teams are led by volunteers new not only to missions but to youth ministry. Unfortunately the high turnover among youth pastors and volunteers means that many missions groups may have inexperienced and less-than-enthusiastic leaders. The Mission Trip Prep Kit is an easy-to-use resource for new or reluctant volunteers -- yet it is also rich in content and ideas to challenge seasoned professional youth workers who want to improve the quality of their group's preparation. The kit -- including 5 student books and a leader's guide -- is designed for both the individual church as well as student missions organizations. It offers several options for preparing either middle schoolers or high schoolers, and is appropriate as a complete training preparation for shorter projects (weekends to weeklong) or as the core of training for longer projects (several weeks to a whole summer). Features of this flexible training course include:

- Balances training for an outreach task with a discipleship experience
- Addresses 4 key areas: attitudes, teamwork, servanthood, and Christ-centeredness
- Offers practical advice on what to expect from veteran missions leaders.

[The Essential Guide to the Short-Term Mission Trip](#): Go into all the world and make disciples." Shortly before He ascended into heaven, Jesus spoke these words to His disciples and followers thereafter. While people vary in their personal application of this command, many people are becoming part of the increasingly growing short-term [mission trips](#). In "The Essential Guide to the Short Term Mission Trip," David Forward helps prepare leaders and members on the team for their experience as volunteers for the cause of Christ. He covers all sorts of topics, including cultural sensitivity, raising financial support, choosing a team, pre-trip team meetings, what to bring, clearing, customs, and after-trip debriefing. Fulfilling the Great Commission on a short-term mission trip is both exciting and challenging. Be prepared with this complete guide.

[Ready-to-Go Devotions for Mission and Service](#): Ready-to-Go Devotions for Mission and Service is a toolkit of daily devotionals for youth mission trips. The devotions in this book address every aspect of the mission experience, from leaving home and sleeping on the floor to dealing with language barriers and grumpy teammates. Each devotion includes a relevant Bible story, a commentary that connects that story to the mission experience, and a section that challenges the reader to take specific actions on the trip, back home, or both. The book includes devotions in preparation for, during, and after the mission trip or service project. The ready-to-go format allows the youth worker to quickly assemble a customized devotional journal for participants, matching each day's selection to what's likely to happen that day. The devotions could also be used in a group setting, which would allow the youth worker to pick devotions based on what has happened during the trip or event. Either way, the devotions point to the larger biblical and personal significance of mission trip or service project happenings.

[Getting Ready to Come Back: Advocacy Guide for Mission Teams](#): Produced by the folks at Bread for the World and sponsored by UMCOR, *Getting Ready to Come Back* will help short-term mission teams traveling internationally to understand how political, social, and economic systems contribute to hunger and poverty. The guide will support and encourage mission teams to engage in advocacy as informed Christian citizens upon their return home.

[How to Use Social Media on a Mission Trip](#): This "how-to" guide is an excellent resource from the Presbyterian Church. It invites us to think critically about why and how social media should be used to connect the mission team to the sponsoring congregation in real time and provides

helpful guidelines for keeping the focus on the mission within the team serving.