

HILLSIDE STUDENT MINISTRIES

SUMMER MISSIONS TRIP

JULY 8TH – 13TH, 2017

Dear Parents,

We are so excited to embark on another summer missions trip! This year we will be focused on serving our own community. We have planned six days full of serving practical needs in our community, ministering alongside an existing VBS, group devotions, team-building activities and memorable adventures. Our prayer for this trip is that our youth would spend some time hands-on serving our community and seeing the needs that are in our backyards! Following the Acts 1:8 model, Millersburg would be our “Jerusalem” and we want to start here!

Our trip will run from Saturday, July 8th to Thursday, July 13th. On Saturday, we will leave in the morning to head to Jim Thorpe, PA where we will start our trip with the greatest of all team-building activity: White Water Rafting! That evening we will return to our home base for the week: the *Lykens Valley Camp Meeting Lodge* in Elizabethville. On Sunday morning we will return to Hillside for worship. In the evenings (Sunday-Thursday) we will be partnering with Calvary Wesleyan for their VBS program. During the day we will spend time in morning devotions and ministering to practical needs of our community. The trip will conclude Thursday evening after the VBS closing program.

We've done our best to cut costs and only require the minimum amount needed for the trip. **\$ 100 will cover all lodging, meals and activities (including White Water Rafting).** This packet includes our student ministry expectations, a sample support letter, an application and a parent reference form. The application and reference form are due by Monday, May 15th.

We are looking forward to a week filled with growth as we venture out to serve in the power of Christ!

Please don't hesitate to call me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

P. James

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EXPECTATIONS

This summer's trip will require all of us to truly be focused on God's heart and come with a willingness to serve. We are looking for students who are serious about ministering to others and who will take the time to pray and ready their hearts. Below is a list of expectations to help you do that!

Before our trip, I make a commitment to:

- . . . Attend summer missions trip meetings.
- . . . Come to meetings prepared (spiritually and practically – we'll explain ☺).
- . . . Consistently dive into God's Word and let God transform me.
- . . . Pray for our trip, team unity, and the children we'll be ministering to.
- . . . Not be easily offended and to deal with conflict in a loving, Christ-like way.

During our trip, I make a commitment to:

- . . . Make a daily choice to honor God with my thoughts, words and actions.
- . . . Be an example of the love and hope of Christ to everyone around me.
- . . . Leave my cell phone (and other electronics) at home in order to focus on God without distractions.
- . . . Dress appropriately (we'll discuss this at one of our meetings).
- . . . Listen to and respect the youth leaders trusting they have my best interests in mind.
- . . . Let the Lord use my God-given talents as I minister to the children.
- . . . Have fun at all times!

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SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT:

Tips:

- This letter is only a **SAMPLE**. We have found personalized letters to be more effective.
- Keep your letter to one page. Offer more information to those who agree to support you in prayer as the training season goes on.
- Consider including a photo of yourself, your team or where you are going.
- Be sure to pray over letters you send.
- Contribution information in a return slip must be included with ALL letters for teams raising money through the church.
- Getting letters out early gives participants more opportunity to receive full support before reaching trip financial deadlines!

(DATE)

Photo

Dear Family and Friends,

This summer I have a wonderful opportunity to be involved in a week-long service project in the Lykens Valley Region. From Saturday, July 8th – Thursday, July 13th, I will be serving my community alongside some of my closest friends, a youth group from Hillside Christian Fellowship in Millersburg, PA. Each day we will be involved serving in a VBS program, as well as with projects for those that need assistance in our community! I'm very excited to be a part of this trip and know I will learn so much. Needless to say, we will be very busy! I'm very excited to be a part of this trip and know I will learn and experience so much.

Include here some personal information – such as why you feel called to go; what you hope to personally accomplish on the trip, what you are most excited about, etc.

To be successful, every ministry team needs a prayer team behind them. We would appreciate your prayer support in this mission. Please ask the Lord to go before us to accomplish His plans for this ministry time. Ask that He prepare hearts of the people and prepares our hearts to demonstrate attitudes and actions that reflect the heart of Jesus.

If you would please return the enclosed slip to Hillside Christian Fellowship, I will be glad to keep you updated as the training for this trip proceeds. I will also give you our full itinerary to help you pray for us.

Another way that you can participate with me in this mission is to make a financial contribution. Each team member needs to raise \$100 for all my transportation, housing and food costs as well as a team-building day on Saturday. I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider joining my support team. Any gift, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. I have included instructions for making a donation below.

Thank you for participating with me in ministry through your prayers and support. I pray the Lord's abundant blessing upon with you.

Yours in Christ,

===== PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS SLIP WITH YOUR DONATION =====

Mail to: Youth Mission Trip. Hillside Christian Fellowship 807 State Street Millersburg, Pa 17061

Your name: _____ Address: _____

Team member you are supporting: _____

Please check all that apply:

___ I will pray for this trip.

___ I would like to receive email updates at: _____

___ My donation in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

NOTES:

- Please make all checks payable to **Hillside Christian Fellowship**, and clearly note **Youth Mission Trip** on your check or offering envelope.
- **Donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**
- Please **do NOT put my name anywhere on your check.** Due to IRS regulations, our business office is not allowed to receive checks for contributions when names of individuals are written directly on the check. Use this slip to alert the business office that you intend this contribution to help with my costs.

This trip is a ministry of Hillside Christian Fellowship and contributions will go directly toward fulfilling that ministry. If something unforeseen should keep me from going on this trip, your contribution would be used to help others on the team. Should an unanticipated situation prevent our travel at this time, funds raised would be held for a future Hillside mission trip.

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