



**2016
Student Trips**

Information and Application



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*After reviewing this booklet, you must complete the
online application at:
www.baylife.org/studentmissions*

MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Meetings are a crucial part of the whole missions experience. During the months prior to the trip, the team bonds throughout the preparation process. They stop being individuals going on a trip, and instead, become part of a team committed to sharing God's Word, God's love, and God's mission as they work together towards a common goal. In the information packet (available at the parent meeting), there will be a list of mandatory meetings for each team member.

If for some reason the meeting cannot be attended, you must ensure that the team leader knows in advance. Missing too many meetings may result in your removal from the team.

Important Dates:

11/18/15	Student Leader Applications Due Back
TBA	Student Leader Interviews
11/18/15	Student Applications Due Back
TBA	Student Participant Interviews
TBA	Parent Meeting
1/29-1/31	Honduras Leaders to Chicago
3/12/16	Global Missions 5K (Missions Fundraiser)
4/30/16	Garage Sale (Missions Fundraiser)
5/28/16	Car Show (Missions Fundraiser)
TBA	Final Parent Meeting

MISSION TRIP PARTNERS

Week of Hope - Orlando Trips

Week of Hope is an affordable summer mission trip packed with practical acts of love and service. Your students will build meaningful connections as they serve people through local ministries and nonprofit organizations. Service is the fabric of Week of Hope - your group will serve the community and take turns serving everyone at camp by helping to prepare meals and keep your lodging facility clean. Week of Hope is not just about a “project”, it is about service becoming part of a teenager’s life.



LeaderTreks - Pawley’s Island, Kentucky, North Georgia, & Honduras Trips.

LeaderTreks supports the local church by providing leadership development tools and experiences designed to grow students into leaders. Using an intentional process for the development of students, LeaderTreks partners with youth leaders who are passionate about helping develop and equip the next generation of leaders in church and culture. The trip experiences challenge and change participants, as students return confident and motivated with a broadened world-view and new vision for how they can lead and serve others.



TRIP 1 - ORLANDO

June 26—July 1

For current 6—8th Graders

Deposit: \$75

Prayer/Support Letters: Minimum 10

Total Cost: \$450

Site Information

The students will be working out in the community in Orlando in either an assisted living facility, a charity shop, homeless shelter, or children's camp. We will not know exactly what areas we will be in until we arrive, but we will be working in groups of four or five from Bay Life.

Staff To Student Ratio

We have one adult to five students on this trip.

Accommodations

We will be staying in a church building.

Costs

Cost includes transportation, meals, one evening out, and Aquatica for a day of fun to finish with. You will only need spending money for extras on the evening out or Aquatica, but it is not necessary. Deposit MUST be paid by the student's immediate family.

Meetings

We will have one meeting each month, usually during our 8am service. Dates to follow.

TRIP 2/3 - PAWLEY'S ISLAND

Trip 2 - June 12—18

Trip 3 - June 26 – July 2

For Current 8th Graders

Team Size: 12-20 (including leaders)

Deposit: \$75

Prayer/Support Letters: Minimum 15

Total Cost: \$825

Site Information

This island off the coast of South Carolina is something special. The LeaderTreks base camp is located a few miles from the beach. Yet in the middle of this vacation paradise is a broken community. For many years, the racial divisions have been ignored as the community has enjoyed a growing and expanding economy. Unfortunately, the only community seeming to benefit from all the growth has been the affluent white community. As Pawley's has continued to grow and expand, so has the division between the white and African-American communities.

During the day, your students will have the chance to work in the African-American community to help foster the healing process. We will be working alongside a ministry based in Pawley's whose goal is to facilitate reconciliation. This site is designed for groups who want a cross-cultural experience without leaving the United States. Living conditions can be challenging, with the intense sunshine, heat, and high humidity. Everyday hot showers are not always available. This site allows groups to concentrate on work and evangelism.

Staff To Student Ratio

Generally three to five students per adult.

Accommodations

We will be staying in a church building.

Costs

Cost includes, transportation, meals, and a fun day. You will need \$20 spending money for anything extra. Deposit **MUST** be paid by the student's immediate family.

Meetings

We will have one meeting each month, usually during our 8am service. Closer to the trip, you may need to have extra meetings to help prepare for VBS. Dates to follow.

TRIP 4 - KENTUCKY

June 26 - July 9

For Current 9-10th Graders

Team Size: 12-25 (including leaders)

Deposit: \$75

Prayer/Support Letters: Minimum 20

Total Cost: \$1,300

Site Information

About 20 miles outside of London, Kentucky is the small town of Manchester. LeaderTreks is partnering with local pastors to improve the lives of some of the poorest people in America. Through the local church, LeaderTreks has been able to identify people who need work on their homes. This gives groups the opportunity to help people in their greatest need while insuring that follow-up by the local pastors will take place.

The service projects range from yard clean-up to building fences and everything in between. The groups will also be able to do a VBS connecting the community to the local church.

Staff To Student Ratio

Generally five students to one adult

Accommodations

TBA

Costs

Cost includes, transportation, meals, and a fun day. You will need at least \$20 spending money for anything extra. Deposit **MUST** be paid by the students immediate family.

Meetings

We will have one meeting each month, usually during our 8am service. Closer to the trip, there will be weekly meetings to help prepare for VBS. Dates to follow.

TRIP 5 - NORTH GEORGIA **- Adventure/Mission Trip**

June 26 – July 9

For Current 10-12th Graders

Team Size: 12-20 (including leaders)

Deposit: \$75

Prayer/Support Letters: Minimum 20

Total Cost: \$1,300

Site Information

LeaderTreks has created a unique opportunity for your group by combining the challenging environments of wilderness and mission trips into our Adventure Mission Trip program.

Adventure Mission Trips start in the wilderness. Our goal is to create an environment where students can learn how to lead and work together as a team. The wilderness provides the perfect setting to challenge students, grow their confidence, build team unity and reliance on each other, and develop leaders through real experiences.

The second part of an Adventure Mission Trip is on a mission site using the Mission Ready program. After your team has overcome obstacles together, and honed their leadership skills, they will continue to work together serving and reaching out to a community that needs the love of Christ. Partnered with a local church your students will run a VBS in the community.

Staff To Student Ratio

Generally five students to one adult.

Accommodations

TBA

Costs

Cost includes, transportation, meals, and a fun day. You will need at least \$20 spending money for anything extra. Deposit **MUST** be paid by the student's immediate family.

Meetings

We will have one meeting each month, usually during our 8am service. Closer to the trip, there will be weekly meetings to help prepare for VBS. Dates to follow.

TRIP 6 - HONDURAS

June 19 - July 2

For Current 11-12th Graders

Team Size: 12-20 (including leaders)

Deposit: \$100

Prayer/Support Letters: Minimum 25

Total Cost: around \$2,200 depending on flight prices

Site Information

Since the devastation that Hurricane Mitch brought to Honduras in 1998, it has been one of the poorest countries in this hemisphere. This catastrophe moved LeaderTreks ministry partner to begin immediate efforts to help those affected by the hurricane. Our missionary partners rediscovered a vision and love for the orphaned children of Honduras. Since the ministry's inception in 2000, the vision has been expanded to try to meet needs of orphans, widows, and the poor around the world based on the Bible's admonitions in James 1:27 and Galatians 2:10.

Teams will tackle some challenging tasks, ranging from digging foundations and septic tanks to making mortar and laying concrete blocks. The work is tough but it is a great tool for building teamwork and perseverance. Many students say these were the two hardest, yet best weeks of their lives.

You will also get chance to reach out in the community by leading a VBS for the local children.

Staff To Student Ratio

Generally five students to one adult. This trip is led by student leaders that the adults oversee.

Accommodations

The students stay in a hospital (not American style), one room for the guys, one room for the girls. They have beds and showers.

Costs

Cost includes transportation, meals, and a fun day. You will need at least \$20 spending money for anything extra.

Meetings

We will have one meeting each month, usually during our 8am service. Closer to the trip there will be weekly meetings to help prepare for VBS. Dates to follow.

TRIP 7 - KIDAPALOOZA VBS
Tampa Community Outreach

June 12 - 24

Wk 1 - 8:30am-12:30pm

Wk 2 - 1-9pm

For ANYONE!

Note: Students may serve on this mission AND another trip (if mission dates do not conflict).

Team Size: 30

Total Cost: \$25

Site Information

This is a two-week community and missions service project here at Bay Life. Kidapalooza is June 20 - 24. This trip will include students and leaders who lay the ground work and prepare for almost 1000 kids in our local community (8:30am-12:30pm) to participate in Kidapalooza. During the week of Kidapalooza, this missions team will help set up each day's activities and then serve in different roles with the kids in the evening. Kidapalooza week the hours would be (1pm - 9pm). The roles will be in the area of Spirit/team mascots, games, and stage preparation, organization. This trip includes team challenges, hard work, large projects, and Bible Study.

Costs

Cost includes snacks the first week, and a dinner the second week.

NOTE: If you can only volunteer the second week then you will get the chance to sign up as a regular volunteer in the month or two before Kidapalooza begins.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS?

Expectations For Participation:

- Attend all training sessions with the team prior to the trip.
- Attend team building times and team retreat, if applicable.
- Discuss in advance with the team leader if a scheduling conflict arises. Approval must be obtained to miss a meeting.
- Send support or prayer letters (mandatory).
- Raise prayer and financial support.
- Participation in fundraising events. The Global 5K is our biggest fundraiser and you will be expected to register at least 2 runners or pay \$40 into your account.
- Pay a deposit (not tax deductible) to cover some of the flight cost/fun part of trip/T-shirt. **DUE AT PARENT MEETING.**
- One half of the total balance must be made by at least two months prior to date of trip.
- Parents are responsible for the remaining balance due before the trip or you need to meet with the student pastors to discuss how the final balance can be met.
- Commit to:
 - Praying before, during, and after the trip.
 - Submit to the authority of the leaders from Bay Life Church, or any other adult that is working with them.
 - Value unity of the team.
 - Have a flexible, servant attitude.

Trip Guidelines:

- For medical expenses incurred during a trip, receipts will be obtained and given to the participant(s) upon return. Reimbursement to Bay Life needs to take place as quickly as possible. Filing claims with your insurance company is at your discretion and will not be done by Bay Life and/or its staff.
- If you become ill and need to return home, the expense will be your responsibility. If medically necessary, a team member will accompany you.
- If your behavior is deemed unacceptable to Bay Life or LeaderTreks trip leaders, you will be sent home immediately at your expense.

Cancellation Procedure:

- Applicant must submit a letter in writing to the pastor stating the reason they no longer wish to participate in the trip.
- Applicant must send a letter to supporters informing of his/her decision to not go on the trip and advising them that support will go towards others on the trip.
- For trips in June, cancellation must occur before April 1 for no additional costs to be incurred. For trips in July, cancellation must occur before May 1 for no additional costs to be incurred. If cancellation occurs after these dates, the applicant must pay the difference between the cost of the trip and amount of support raised.

Bay Life Photo, Video, and Digital Recording Policy:

Bay Life Church promotes their ministries by using photographs, videos, and digital recordings taken of members and events. A photographer may be present at an event/class/worship service you or your child are attending. Bay Life Church reserves the right to use the photographs, videos, and/or digital recordings taken at any church event in any publication produced by Bay Life Church, via print, video, website, or social media affiliated with the church. Participation in Bay Life Church events and missions programs represents your permission to photograph, video, or digitally record you and/or your child and use those materials in Bay Life media / advertisement. Further, you agree to waive any claim for damages against Bay Life Church and its representatives use, alteration, or republication of images, likeness, or voice by us or third parties accessing the Internet/World Wide Web or obtaining copies of the print or video material.

More information is available at baylife.org/photo.

THE EXPECTATIONS OF A STUDENT LEADER

Student leaders lead the team. There is a lot of responsibility in this role. It is going to take a lot of time, effort, prayer, study and dedication to lead well. If you feel like this is the role you'd like to be in, but feel a little overwhelmed after reading this, take a minute and stop. Sit back. Relax. Take a deep breath and spend some time in prayer. Ask God to search your heart and see if your heart is in the right place. It's not a role that you do because you want to be the top dog. Leaders need to be willing to put themselves last. If you're a little unsure, talk it over with your parents, and then talk to your High School Pastor. He'll be glad to discuss it with you more.

Before The Trip

- Create a vision for your team and the trip.
 - Why is your team going where your going?
 - What are you doing?
 - How is it going to make a difference?
- Impart your vision to your team through prayer, sharing and example.
- Build "Team" through meetings, fund raising, and social events.
- Place the students in their leadership roles, covering all areas on the trip, i.e. cooking, construction, VBS, water/communication, etc.
- Check in with the teams frequently to help them be successful in their roles.
- Communicate frequently with adult leaders, teammates and parents. They need to know about events and things that are happening. If parents are not informed, then the team will not arrive at meetings or events on time and prepared.

REMEMBER AT ALL TIMES THAT ADULT LEADERS ARE THERE TO BE A RESOURCE AND SUPPORT TO YOU. Use them when you need to.

During The Trip

- Lead the team through daily obstacles.
- Help team to evaluate how they can improve, either in communication or actions.

- Continuously check in with leadership of each team to find out where they need help, and also help with evaluating how their team is going and how they can improve.
- Lead evening team time sessions later in the trip.
- Connect with adult leaders to get feedback on different aspects of the trip.
- Keep the vision in front of your team.

After The Trip

How can you set your team up for success when they come home? As a student leader, you've been on trips and you understand what can happen when we go on a trip. The incredible highs we experienced in our walk with Christ seem to disconnect pretty quickly when we arrive back in the states and all the distractions of the media and our lives start to bombard our lives. Figuring out how to help your team transition back into their daily lives, but staying connected with Christ, is just another part of returning home.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can we raise more money?

You may do babysitting, yard work, clean mailboxes, etc., to contribute to your trip costs. There will be several fundraising events taking place that you **must** participate in so that you can receive funds from them. Parents can work some of these events and receive a portion of funds raised for their son/daughter's trip. However, the first chance to work goes to the students.

Why write fundraising letters?

Fundraising is only part of the letter writing process. We are primarily asking for prayer support for the mission trip and team building process. Many friends and family members are happy to help "participate" in your mission trip by giving. The only way they know how to help is through these letters. We don't need to steal their blessing of giving by not asking them to even pray. The responses to these letters are often a means for our students to experience God providing for them through His body.

Can we just pay for the trip without writing letters?

If you are uncomfortable asking for finances, you may pay for the trip. However, writing payer support letters is mandatory for every team member.

What happens if we raise too much money?

All money that is raised above the total cost for your student will go towards the team's overall total. When that team is paid in full, it will go to other student trips that need it.

What happens if we do not raise enough money?

You will be responsible to either pay the balance due before the trip or to meet with a student pastor to discuss the amount you have left to pay and a payment schedule.

Do you have to attend all the meetings?

Yes, the student is expected to attend ALL meetings. However, we understand that emergencies may arise. It is the student's responsibility to discuss, in advance, with a team leader, any meetings for which he/she has a conflict and obtained approval to miss the meeting.

What do I need to bring to the first parent/student meeting?

To the first parent/student meeting, please bring the following items:

- Deposit for the trip
- Insurance information and names and addresses of emergency people to enable you to fill out some forms while at the meeting.

Why do I need a notarized medical release on file?

This release is to protect your child in case medical treatment is required. This release will allow the leaders to obtain medical help and treatment until the parent can be contacted. Sharon is a notary and is available to notarize your forms for you at no cost.

Is the place where my child is staying safe?

Yes, the sites are chosen with the kids' safety in mind. All of the sites have been tested over years and have proven to be very safe.

Who do I call if I have an emergency and need to contact my student?

If you need to contact your student, first call the church office and leave a message for Sharon. She will then call the leaders. The leader will contact your student.

Will I be able to hear from my student while they are gone?

It is easy to get distracted while on a trip, so we do not permit students to bring their phones or other communication devices. Although not guaranteed, the team expects to send periodic emails and updates.

Why can't my child take their phone?

Simply put, it is a distraction. Trips are a catalyst for growth, and a phone call or text to someone from home impedes the learning process. It is important for a student to be removed from their familiar environment to experience all that these trips are designed to facilitate. Also, we have found that many times a phone call home often initiates homesickness, and focus is taken away from the mission. All of our leaders have the emergency contact information and our ministry partners all have phones.

What fundraisers will be held for us to participate in?

- 5k Global Run/Walk - March 12 - You will be expected to find at least two runners.
- Yard Sale at Bay Life - April 30
- Car Show - May 28
- Any other fundraisers you can do personally, ie: car wash, mailbox wash, babysit, yard work etc.

STUDENT MISSIONS TRIP LIST

Site	Grade	Dates
Orlando	6th-8th	June 26—July 1
Pawley's Island 1	8th	June 12—18
Pawley's Island 2	8th	June 26—July 2
Kentucky	9th-10th	June 26—July 9
North Georgia	10th-11th	June 26—July 9
Honduras	11th-12th	June 19—July 2
Kidapalooza VBS	6th-12th	June 13—24

HOW TO WRITE SUPPORT LETTERS

Support letters are MANDATORY! There are two types of letters that you can write: prayer letters for those who intend to pay for their trip outright and therefore do not want to ask for donations, and then the letter asking for prayer including a donation request.

If you are not asking for donations in your letter, then we will be expecting your trip to be paid in full, with no exceptions.

If you are not wanting to ask for a donation, just prayer, you may wish to add a statement in your letter that says that the cost of your trip is covered, but people may contribute to the cost of the team if they wish to.

Support letters should include the following:

1. **Dates and location of the trip.** Include a brief description of the area (found under trip details earlier in this book).
2. **Descriptions of what your team will be doing.** Include any planned activities such as VBS, construction, cleaning, etc. Again, this can be found under trip details earlier in this book.
3. **Why you want to be involved in this trip.** Explain your call to this particular trip, location, or project. Describe what personal growth you hope to achieve.
4. **The exact cost of the trip.** (if possible). Include how much this trip will cost and place the following phrase in your letter: *“Any amount I raise above and beyond the cost of my trip will go to help other participants.”*
5. **Clear instructions on how the reader should respond.** The goal is to have all your support in by the time of the trip. DO NOT HAVE THEM MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO YOU. Include the following statement: *“If you can help financially, please return your donation in the enclosed envelope. Make checks payable to Bay Life Church and put my name in the memo section.”*
6. This year we are also adding an opportunity for people to give on online. This link will need to be mentioned in your letter. We will give you the link at the parent meeting.

You should always include the envelope that we provide you with your trip name and your name on the front.

Prayer letters should be written in the same way as support letters, instead of points four and five, add some specifics that people can pray for. You can talk to your trip leader about some ideas for this.

Important steps in completing your letter:

- A. **Each team member should compose their own letter.** If there are siblings on different trips, then you can combine them into one letter. It is better if each student can write a little part of the letter about their own trip. You might also mention in the letter that contributions can be made on the same check with both names in the memo.
- B. **Keep it brief.** One page is recommended. If you have them, include photos or a map of where you are going. Don't forget to add the date you are writing the letter.
- C. **Have your parents proofread your letter.**
- D. **Your trip leader MUST proofread your letter before you send it.** Support letters are due at the first meeting and should be mailed soon after that.
- E. **Send your letters as soon as you can.** As most of your support will come in by support letters, we ask that they are sent as early as possible to take the stress off of you wondering if your goals will be met later in the process. Then if you need to, you have time to send extras.
- F. **Send a thank you note for the donation.** You will receive regular updates of individuals who have contributed funds in your name. All trip participants should send a thank you note and an update as to how your funds are coming in. After the trip, it is a good thing to send a thank you letter again, with pictures, to say how your trip went and all that you learned.

Bring To The First Meeting

- Copy of support letter that has been proofed by parents and is now ready to be checked by the youth pastor.
- A list of names to whom you will be sending it - relatives, church friends, school, parents' friends and co-workers, out of town friends, mentors, teachers, businesses, and others who may support you.

STUDENT MINISTRIES
CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Address:

1017 Kingway Rd, Brandon, FL 33510

Student Ministry Office:

Sharon - 813.661.3696 X247
spoulton@baylife.org

Middle School Office:

Brian - 813.661.3696 X236
bpete@baylife.org

High School Office:

Shane - 813.661.3696 X318
sdrury@baylife.org



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