



Greetings parents and students,

The 2017 youth mission trip is now less than a month away and the time has come to make final preparations for the trip. Please see below for more information regarding ground rules, packing, trip payment information, our general itinerary and the trip emergency contacts.

General Itinerary

- Wednesday:
 - 10:30am Gather at First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake
 - 11:00am Bus Departure
 - 4:15pm Flight Departure from MSP to JFK (SY 247)
- Thursday-Friday:
 - Service at New York Common Pantry, Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, and New Life in New York City
- Saturday:
 - 12:00pm-7:30pm Youth Conference at First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, Queens.
 - 10:00pm-11:30pm Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Sunday:
 - Worship at MAPC and FPC Jamaica
 - Entertainment (All groups will go to 9/11 Memorial, breakout group will be decided on trip)
 - ChinaTown & Little Italy
 - Staten Island Ferry & Brooklyn Bridge
 - Rockefeller Center & Radio City Music Hall
- Monday:
 - 11:30am (EST) Departure from JFK to MSP (SY 244)
 - 6:00pm Approximate arrival at First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake

Packing List

Past experience dictates that this trip will happen during some of the hottest weather during the summer. New York City's average temperature is 76° and with little green space it tends to be a very hot place. Students are strongly encouraged to wear weather appropriate clothing and to bring a reusable water bottle. See the full packing list for the trip included in this packet.

Check in Daily

For daily updates, including pictures, stop by our website <http://sentbylove.com> throughout the trip.

Trip Emergency Contacts

In event of an emergency, please do not contact your student directly. Please immediately contact Pastor Michael or Pastor Tim so that our team can identify the best time and manner to inform your student of the emergency. This helps us coordinate with you prior to involving students in potentially complicated logistical matters.

Trip Leaders & Emergency Contacts

Pastor Michael – 320-266-2414

Pastor Tim – 712-832-0062

Local Church Contacts:

FPC Spirit Lake – 712-336-1649

In event of an emergency for one or more participants on the trip, Pastor Tim or Pastor Michael will contact the student's parents, guardians, and/or emergency contacts first. If communication is not directly available with parents, updates will be relayed to the office staff at FPC Spirit Lake.

Ground Rules:

- **Flexibility and Grace:** There has never been a student mission trip where everything has gone as expected. In fact, part of the beauty of each trip is the opportunity to grow together, tackle unexpected challenges, and demonstrate grace in our treatment of others. As you prayerfully prepare for this trip, commit to be flexible, be gracious with others even in hard times, and try your very best to see Christ in both the ups and downs of the trip.
- **No Public Displays of Affection:** Students are expected to remember that they travel on this trip as a member of our whole congregation and their personal relationships should not interfere in the mission and experience for the rest of the group.
- **Cell Phones:** Students may bring cell phones but their usage will be restricted for much of the trip. Parents should not expect to contact their student except during the discretionary time set aside for students.
- **Drugs and alcohol are not allowable:** Any student found with drugs, alcohol, or other substances deemed inappropriate by the adult leaders can and will be returned home immediately at their parent's expense.
- **Behavioral Consequences:** The leadership team (led by Pastor Michael and Pastor Tim) are responsible for the safety and oversight of the entire mission trip and its participants. Should any student refuse to comply with expectations or engage in gross negligence (as determined by the leaders) they may be disciplined all the way up to immediate return to MSP at their expense.
- **Nerves:** I am confident that your student will be blown away by the amazing relationships, experiences, and fun that they will have on this trip. There is truly no better opportunity for students see our big Christian family in action and to have a life changing encounter with the power of the living Christ! Please try to encourage your student, listen carefully to any anxiety or fear they might have, and never hesitate to let me know if I can be a helpful voice.

This year we will be taking 41 students and adults on an incredible adventure of service, fellowship, and growth. It is truly an honor to have your student join us as we are sent out by love.

In Christ,
Pastor Michael & Pastor Tim