

2019

STUDENT MISSION

MISSION
JOURNEY GUIDE

UNTIL ALL HAVE HEARD.



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MISSION STATEMENT

We develop students:

- ... by encouraging intentional spiritual growth.
- ... by encouraging a personal response to the world's needs.
- ... by encouraging service and exercise of spiritual gifts.

We partner with ministries:

- ... who are making a long-term impact.
- ... who have a meaningful need we can meet.
- ... who understand our heart to develop students.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Visit benttree.org/frisco-student-missions


Step 1:

Download and read the entire 2019 Mission Journey Guide for Frisco Student Missions prior to beginning your application process. Before selecting a trip, determine the trips/dates you are eligible for and available to attend. You will select trips based on your CURRENT grade level. For example, if you are currently in 6th grade, you will apply for 6th grade trips).

Step 2:

Complete the Student Application (based on grade level).

1. Please note you are applying for your first choice. You may be placed on a different trip selected, based on team dynamics, team size, and number of applicants.
2. Students under 13 will need to have their parents create an account. Once the parent creates an account, the parent can start the application on behalf of the student. (We encourage students to fill out the applications in their own words).
3. For students over the age of 13; you may choose to create your own account. However, you will need to have a unique email address different than your parent's email in order to access and update your own trip. (Parents will still be provided with all information).

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4. For those over 13, you may register from a parent account and you will not need to enter a personal email address. However, meeting checklists and funding updates will go to the parent email only.
 5. If you have questions or run into trouble registering, please contact Jason Johnston at jjohnston@benttree.org

Step 3:

Please provide an email address for your personal reference on the reference section of your application. Send the Personal Reference form to your current Bent Tree Small Group Leader or a leader you serve under at Bent Tree (for example, if you serve in Kids Ministry, ask your Coach to complete the form).

Step 4:

Please provide a parent email address for the parent reference to be sent to, in the reference part of the application.

2019 MISSION JOURNEY LIST

Site	Grade	Dates
Dallas Exposure 2 (BT Frisco)	6	June 17-21
San Antonio 3 (BT Frisco)	7 and 8	June 16-22
Guatemala VOH 3 (BT Frisco)	9-12	July 14-21

2019 MISSION JOURNEY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Meetings are an important part of the whole Mission Journey experience. As the teams bond in the months prior to the actual journey, something begins to happen within the students. They stop being individuals going on a journey and become part of a team committed to sharing God's Word, God's love, and God's mission as they work together for a common goal. These meetings are also spent in great preparation for the mission journey, including spiritual development, cultural sensitivity training, team-building activities, as well as in-depth ministry planning (for example, VBS plans).

Approval must be obtained from the Student Missions Coordinator in order to miss a meeting.

Any more than one absence can result in the removal of a student from their team unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Please check the specific team meeting schedule when applying for a Mission Journey to ensure your attendance.

The first meeting will be held at Bent Tree Carrollton. All additional Frisco team meetings will be held in homes in the Frisco area. Please look at the trip-specific page for times of all meetings.

Sunday, January 6

Mission Journey online applications due

Friday, January 18

Mission Journey teams announced

Saturday, January 26

Fundraiser for HSM teams only

Sunday, January 27

Mission Journey team meeting #1 — students and parents

Sunday, February 24

Mission Journey team meeting #2 for all 7th-12th grade teams — students only

Sunday, March 31

Mission Journey team meeting #3 for all teams — students only

May 3-5

Pine Cove Weekend: Guatemala VOH 3

Sunday, April 28

Mission Journey team meeting #4 for all 7th-12th grade teams — students only

Sunday, May 19

Mission Journey team meeting #5 for all teams — students and parents

Wednesday, May 29

Missions Festivus

JOURNEY-SPECIFIC DETAILS

Dallas Exposure

(6th Grade)

Dates: June 17-21

Total Deposit & Cost: \$100

Support Letters: 15

Site Information: The students will be going to several locations throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex to see the various faces of hunger and the working poor. Students will visit and work at local food banks, shelters, and food distribution ministries.

Ministry: In the morning, students will visit a local ministry and receive an orientation and/or tour of their facility. In the afternoon, students will work at the ministry by cleaning, organizing, stocking food, or helping with food distribution.

Staff to Student ratio: 3 staff and 12 students will be on each journey.

Accommodations: The team will be driving each day in the DFW Area. Teams will typically leave Bent Tree Frisco at 9 a.m. and return at 5 p.m.. However, schedules will not be finalized until late spring. Students will need to pack a sack lunch.

Costs: Include transportation, afternoon snacks, and Friday fun activity costs.

Spending Money: Students will NOT need any spending money.

Meetings: January 27* | March 31 | May 19

Meeting Times:

2:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

**The January 27 meeting will be from 3-5 p.m. at Bent Tree Carrollton for all teams.*

Mandatory Events:

May 29 (Missions Festivus)

San Antonio 3

(7th and 8th Grades)

Dates: June 16-22

Total Deposit & Cost: \$600-900*

Deposit: \$100

Support Letters: 25

Site Information: San Antonio is the seventh largest city in the United States, with a metropolitan area population of 1.8 million people. It is rich in Texas history as well as beautiful Hispanic culture. San Antonio boasts some of the wealthiest neighborhoods in Texas, and many celebrities, athletes, and successful business people make the city their home. However, despite San Antonio's pockets of great wealth, this historical city also has an extreme poverty problem. Nearly 20 percent of the population resides below the poverty line, and the average income per household of \$18,000 is one of the lowest in the state.

Ministry: We will be serving alongside BloodnFire ministries, which partners with and reaches out to poverty-stricken residents of the inner city. The San Antonio Mission Journey will provide students with an opportunity to serve in a largely Spanish-speaking, urban setting through construction projects and day camps. Construction may involve home repair, deck building, or cleanup and beautification projects. VBS, sports camps, or fine arts camps for the kids in the neighborhoods will also take place.

Accommodations: The team will be driving rented vans to San Antonio and will be using these as transportation during the week. The team and students will be housed at the BloodnFire headquarters.

Costs: Include transportation, lodging, food, administrative costs, construction materials and ministry supplies.

Spending Money: Students will need money for snacks/drinks while traveling and during the week. Recommended: \$30.

Meetings: January 27* | February 24 | March 31 | April 28 | May 19

Meeting Times:

2:30pm-4 p.m.

**The January 27 meeting will be from 3-5 p.m. at Bent Tree Carrollton for all teams.*

Mandatory Events:

May 29 (Mission Festivus)

**All trip costs are an estimated range of what we anticipate the trip will cost. Once students are selected and we have an exact number of participants, we will be able to provide an exact cost at the student/parent meeting on January 27, 2019. Please be aware that trip costs might be less or more than what we have listed and are intended only to give you an idea of the cost to participate in this Mission Journey.*

Guatemala VOH 3

(9th - 12th Grades)

Dates: July 14-21

Total Deposit & Cost: \$2000-2300*

Deposit: \$100

Support Letters: 50

Site Information: The vision for Village of Hope (VOH) was born out of the knowledge that God has a heart for the least of these. Scripture reveals a God who is passionate about the sick, the widow, the orphan, the alien, and the poor. The purpose of Village of Hope is to provide family, faith, and a future to special needs children and vulnerable mothers in a family-style setting. Each family living unit consists of house parents and about eight children or mothers living in a home together on the Village of Hope property. The desire of VOH is to create a family unit as God intended - a family to provide life-long support as well as to teach the children life values.

Ministry: This team will have a unique opportunity to work with the children living onsite at Village of Hope. The team will also have opportunities to deliver food to local villages, as well as eat a traditional Guatemalan meal in the home of a local family. Additionally, students will have a chance to serve with Into His Arms, a ministry of VOH that provides hospice care for terminally ill infants, the first of its kind in the country of Guatemala.

Accommodations: The team will be flying to Guatemala City and will be staying in San Lucas. The team will be staying on the Village of Hope campus. Village of Hope will provide transportation and organize Bent Tree's on-site meals.

Costs: Include transportation, lodging, Village of Hope costs, work supplies, and on-site meals. This journey requires a passport and possible immunization fees.

Spending Money: Students will need money for meals during travel and for souvenirs. Recommended: \$50.

Meetings: January 27* | February 24 | March 31 | April 28 | May 19

Meeting Times:

2:30pm-4 p.m.

**The January 27 meeting will be from 3-5 p.m. at Bent Tree Carrollton for all teams.*

Mandatory Events:

January 26 (Fundraiser)

May 3-5 (Service Weekend)

May 29 (Mission Festivus)

**All trip costs are an estimated range of what we anticipate the trip will cost. Once students are selected and we have an exact number of participants, we will be able to provide an exact cost at the student/parent meeting on January 27, 2019. Please be aware that trip costs might be less or more than what we have listed and are intended only to give you an idea of the cost to participate in this Mission Journey.*

SUPPORT LETTERS

There are two types of letters.

Prayer letters are required for trips for which you do not, or are not required to, raise funds to cover the cost of the trip. These trips still need prayer support.

The second type of letter is a support letter. If you are planning to raise funds for your trip, **support letters are mandatory!** God works through such letters to provide much of the funding for short-term Mission Journeys. Even more importantly, support letters generate prayer support as well. Many friends and family members are happy to help participate in a mission trip by giving and praying.

Prayerfully ask God to show you who would be a willing recipient of your request. He knows who is ready and able to contribute to the mission. He will do his part to prompt them to make a donation or to pray. **Many people are waiting to be asked to be involved in God's kingdom work.** You may be surprised to find how many family members, friends, and others are willing to donate to your trip. Many times God wants to work in their lives through this process.

If you are placed on a trip that requires fundraising and you do not send out support letters asking for funding for your trip, you will not be eligible for any available scholarships.

If you are paying for the entire trip yourself, you may wish to add a statement in your prayer letter that the cost of your trip is covered, but people may contribute to the cost of the team going if they wish to do so.

Support letters should include the following:

1. **Dates and location of the trip.** Include a brief description of the area where you will be traveling. These can be found online, from the trip information pages, or from your trip leader.
2. **Description of what your team will be doing.** Include any planned activities such as VBS, construction, evangelism, cleaning, etc. This can be taken from the trip information pages or from your first team meeting.
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.** 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 the overall cost of student mission trip expenses.”
5. **Clear instructions on how the reader should respond.** The goal is to have all your support in by May 15. MAKE IT CLEAR THAT CHECKS SHOULD NOT BE MADE OUT TO YOU. Include the following statement: “If you can help financially at this time, please make checks payable to Bent Tree Bible Fellowship and put my name in the memo section. Please return your donation by May 15 in the enclosed envelope. You may also give online at benttree.org/give.” You should write your name and your trip location on the outside of the return envelope, and, if possible, place a stamp on the return envelope.

Important steps in completing your support letter:

- ***Each team member should compose their own letter.*** If there are siblings going on different trips, one letter may be sent. However, each student should write their own section of the letter. Contributions may also be made in one check — with both names in the memo section — and in one return envelope.
- ***Keep it brief.*** One page is recommended. Including maps or photos (especially of children) will enhance your letter. These can be found online or from previous trip members or leaders. Please put the date of your letter on the upper right side of the page.
- ***Have your parents proofread your letter.***
- ***Bent Tree must proofread your letter.*** Please submit a copy of your letter via email to your trip leader prior to mailing your letter. Support letters are due for proofreading by February 24, 2019, and should be mailed no later than February 27, 2019.
- ***Send your letters by the listed dates.*** Please refer to your trip information sheets for the required number of letters. Feel free to send more, and please send to people outside of Bent Tree.
- ***Send a thank-you note for each donation.*** You will receive monthly updates of individuals who have contributed funds in your name. When you return from your trip, please send thank you/report letters to all who contributed financially and through prayer.

SUPPORT DEADLINES

In addition to writing support letters, you are encouraged to work, babysit, or do other services for individuals to raise money for your trip.

Turn in any funds to the Student Missions office with a notation of your name and the name of your trip. This can begin even before you are placed on a team. If you start working now to raise money for next summer, you have more than six months to earn money for your trip.

Payment Schedule

At the first student/parent meeting, you will receive a trip-specific schedule for payment. If you have not raised these percentages of funds by your specific dates, you will be required to pay the remainder of that percentage by the deadline.

Percentage or Amount	Deadline
Deposit Fee	Due with application.
50%	April 15
100%	May 31

** If you are paying for your mission trip, please adhere to these payment deadlines accordingly

FAQS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS


When do students turn in our Student Mission Journey application?

Online applications must be fully completed and submitted no later than Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. Please note that any late or incomplete applications will be put on a waiting list for placement on our summer trips.

How are team decisions made?

The review team will use the following information when making an acceptance decision:

- Applicant is a Christian
- Applicant is consistently involved in Bent Tree student ministries or serves regularly at Bent Tree
- Applicant fulfilled mission team commitment from last year, including financial commitment
- Applicant maintains a christlike character
- Applicant demonstrates maturity and readiness for trip applied for
- Applicant works well as part of a team
- Applicant adheres to the zero-tolerance policy regarding substance abuse



The review team will then work to place students on teams, taking into consideration availability, first preference, readiness, gender, team dynamics, and space availability.

What happens if my student is assigned to a trip they do not want, or is not assigned at all?

Part of the mission trip process is making yourself available to God's plan and letting go of individual plans. Please pray for God to reveal to you how he wants to use your student on this trip. This is helping develop the understanding of our plans vs. God's plans.

How will I find out to which trip my student is assigned?

Trip assignments will be emailed to every applicant by January 18, 2019, no later than 5 p.m.

Do students have to attend all Mission Journey meetings?

Yes, students are expected to attend ALL Mission Journey meetings. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, any more than one absence will result in the removal of a student from their team. We provide a list of meeting dates when summer trips are announced. Please inform the Student Missions team prior to application day if scheduling conflicts arise.

Why write support 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 a mission trip by giving. The responses to support 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 financing, you may pay for the trip. However, writing prayer letters is mandatory for any team member not raising financial support.

What happens if we do not raise enough money?

You will be responsible to either pay the balance due on the trip, or meet with church staff to discuss the amount you are able to pay and a possible payment schedule or scholarship. Scholarship requests are only granted if there are available funds.

What happens if my student is not able to go on the trip?

You must do the following:

- Notify Student Missions immediately, stating the reason the student is no longer able to participate in the trip.
- Applicant must send a letter to supporters informing them of their decision not to go on the trip.
- Cancellation for June trips must occur before February 1 for no additional costs to be incurred. Cancellation for all other trips must occur before March 1.

*If cancellation occurs after these dates, the applicant must pay the difference between the cost of the mission trip and the amount of support raised.

Why can't a team assigned to an individual trip do a fundraiser on its own?

If a team would like to do a fundraiser (for example, a garage sale), approval must be given by Lauren Fuston. The eldership of Bent Tree has asked us to do one large fundraiser as opposed to asking the body multiple times for support through fundraising events (separate from letters).

Why can't my child take their phone?

Simply put, a phone 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 enjoy all of the experiences these trips are designed to facilitate. Also, phone call home can often initiate homesickness, and takes focus away from the mission. If, in the event of an emergency, your student needs to call home or you need to contact your student, our ministry partners all have phones and our adult leaders are equipped with all contact information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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