

Epiphany United Methodist Church
JUNIOR HIGH TEEN MISSIONS

June 10-16, 2017

Pittsburgh 2017

Junior High 6th-8th



INFORMATION PACKET

EPIPHANY UMC JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT MISSIONS TRIP Pittsburgh: June 10-16, 2017

The Who, What, When, Where, Why and How:

WHO Should Sign Up? The Faithful, Available, Teachable

This trip is open to all students who are currently in 6th-8th grade. We have a limited amount of spots that have already been reserved for our group. It is a very conservative number though. If we have a great turnout we will need to see if we can add more. I will also need some parents or responsible adults to attend this trip with me. We will need a handful of adult men and women who are willing to help me. If we do not get the adult support for this trip we will be forced to have to only take so many teens, so please check your calendar. **YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO COME!!!** And honestly, every parent ought to go at least once with their teen. It will be a memorable experience you will share together for the rest of your lives.

Students currently in grades 6-8 who want to participate in this trip must understand the work that will be doing. The work that we will be given will be strenuous. But the reward of knowing that you contributed to assist someone who needs help will be significant. Keeping this in mind, any student who wants to be considered for the Pittsburgh trip must do 3 things to qualify for official CONSIDERATION to participate:

- A.) Fill out the **ENTIRE** application by Sunday, February 19, 2017.
- B.) Turn in a \$100 non-refundable deposit (pending your acceptance to the team). **Total cost is \$500.00**
- C.) Commit to being active in our Student Ministries if you are not already involved. We want you to begin experiencing missions here first and get to know other students before we head out for our trip!

After these 3 steps are accomplished, a tentative decision will be made with the Student Ministries Leadership Team on the participation of each student. If there are any concerns or questions we will direct them privately to the parents and the teen in question.

WHO? (host organization)

Praying Pelican Missions is a short-term international missions organization serving the needs of indigenous local churches, pastors, and communities around the world. We set up and lead mission trips for churches, small groups, families, and individuals from North America, continually expanding and strengthening a network of pastors and communities both abroad and in the United States. Each year as lives are touched and hearts are transformed, there is an increasing number of pastors, churches, and communities inviting mission teams to serve alongside them through Praying Pelican Missions. We are continually amazed to witness and be part of God's movement in the world, from Chicago to Costa Rica to South Africa and everywhere in between.

Through Praying Pelican Missions, more than 12,000 short-term missionaries have served in over 200 different communities throughout Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Africa, and parts of the U.S. Teams join us from all over the United States and Canada, making us the largest provider of short-term mission opportunities. For more information on Praying Pelican Missions feel free to visit their website page at www.prayingpelicanmissions.org

WHO? (The Participants)

This trip is open to all students who are currently in 6th-8th grade. We have a limited amount of spots that have already been reserved for our group. It is a very conservative number though. If

we have a great turnout we will need to see if we can add more. I will also have to insist that we have some parents or responsible adults attend this trip with me. We will need a handful of adult men and women who are willing to help me. If we do not get the adult support for this trip we will be forced to have to only take so many teens, so please check your calendar. **YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO COME!!!** And honestly, every parent ought to go at least once with their teen. It will be a memorable experience you will share together for the rest of your lives.

WHAT?

In a city known for its bridges, Praying Pelican Missions can be the bridge for your mission team to connect and serve alongside a local pastor and community on a Pittsburgh mission trip. Our staff has developed multiple partnerships with both churches and nonprofit organizations in a city full of new refugees seeking to find a home in the states as well as people whose family has been there for generations. The variety of people that you will meet while serving on a mission trip to Pittsburgh will amaze you.

Your Pittsburgh mission trip team could visit a homeless shelter and be a listening ear to those who may feel that no one else cares. You could have the opportunity to assist in a feeding program for kids that leads into a kids club atmosphere where you could be the first one to speak the name of Jesus to a child who desperately needs hope. The opportunities for your team on a mission trip to Pittsburgh are endless.

At Praying Pelican Missions, we strive to provide resources and guidance for you and your mission team to have an experience that will make a real impact on a community and assist a pastor who genuinely desires to partner with you. Your Pittsburgh mission trip will encourage the people who are dedicated on a day to day basis to seeing change in their communities. We want to see these ministries grow and thrive, but they need your help.

WHEN?

June 10-16th. Departure and arrival times will be solidified as we get closer to the date.

WHERE?

PPM will put us up in a school or church where we sleep and have our meeting times. As we draw closer to the trip I will be able to give you an exact location of where we will be staying.

WHY?

As Christians, we are called to serve God's children. In Matthew 25, Christ tells us that when we are serving one another, we are in essence serving Him. Come serve and learn from the body of Christ in Pittsburgh!

HOW? (Transportation)

All traveling will be done by 15-passanger vans and a cargo van to and from Pittsburgh. While we are in the city we will be using the vans to get around.

HOW (MUCH)? TOTAL COST: \$500.00

EPIPHANY UMC JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT MISSIONS TRIP
Pittsburgh: June 10-16, 2017

COMMITMENT FORM

By signing this form, I am indicating that I would like to participate in the Epiphany United Methodist Church Junior High Student Missions Trip to Pittsburgh on June 10-16, 2017, subject to my acceptance for participation and my continuing demonstration of the spiritual maturity and gifts necessary for the mission.

I will also endeavor to secure the funds necessary to participate in the trip. I understand that all support checks and payment for the trip that I make should be made payable to Epiphany United Methodist Church, or endorsed over to Epiphany, and all monies will be recorded in a personal student support account set up in my name. I understand that this account will be established with my payment of the \$100 non-refundable deposit (due no later than Sunday, February 19th).

I fully understand that I have a **financial obligation** to the team. I understand that any and all funds placed in my account that go over the amount I need to raise will be transferred to an account of another person going on the trip. I also agree to participate in all fundraisers for the trip, and that all the funds I raise at those events will go generally towards the Pittsburgh trip sponsorship by Epiphany United Methodist Church, and not to my personal account.

I also have a **moral obligation** to act and behave as a Christian within the youth group. Any decision to ask a student to step down from going on the Pittsburgh trip is solely left up to the Student Ministries leadership team. If for some reason I am asked to step down from the team I understand that none of the funds I have raised will be returned to me but will remain contributions to Epiphany United Methodist Church which it may use for the Pittsburgh trip, other youth ministries, and/or other ministries of Epiphany United Methodist Church as it may deem appropriate in its sole discretion. I also agree to seek out forgiveness, restoration and repentance with any party I have wronged. If I am asked to step down, I hereby waive any and all interest I may have in the trip account established in my name and to any refund thereof, in whole or in part, whether contributed by me or by others on my behalf; and further hereby release Epiphany United Methodist Church, its pastors, staff and members, with respect to any and all claims I may have, if any, in connection with that determination.

Finally, I have a **team obligation**. I understand by signing this commitment form that I agree to participate in any and all fundraising, training, reading, memorization, and special meetings that may be required to properly prepare for the ministries and services I am expected to perform. We will have approximately 4-5 meetings between March through June. There may also be a Mission Training Day in May prior to our trip. These meetings will help us to bond as a team and prepare us for the trip. I also have an obligation to abide by the rules and boundaries set forth by the adult leaders of Epiphany United Methodist Church. I will contribute to the team through maintaining a Christ-like attitude and a positive team spirit all throughout the trip. I will forgo the "comforts" of my regular life in order to serve others during the time of this trip. I will work hard to maintain team unity throughout this adventure together. I will honor Jesus Christ above all in my actions, attitudes and behavior.

Name (print)	Signature	Date
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As parent and/or legal guardian of the above named minor, I understand the commitment involved in the foregoing application to participate in the 2017 Pittsburgh Mission Project with Epiphany United Methodist Church Junior High on June 10-16, 2017. I am fully in agreement with, and adopt as my own, all that is stated above in the Commitment Form. I also grant my permission for the above-named minor to participate in this mission trip.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature	Date
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Attach a recent photo here please
if this is the first trip
you have participated in
with Epiphany UMC Youth Ministries.

Date Received _____
Deposit Received \$ _____
Received by _____
OFFICE USE ONLY

