



Student Ministry

Summer Mission Projects 2013

INFORMATIONAL PACKET

This packet includes . . .

- * Important dates for all trips (Maine, Washington DC, & Nicaragua)
 - * Being Prepared Spiritually
- * Recruiting Your Support Team
 - * The Support Letter
 - * Sample Support Letter

BVBC Student Ministries, 7 Mt. Lebanon Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

Phone (302) 478-4255 / Fax (302) 478-6138

www.SummitDE.com

www.facebook.com/SummitDE

New Sweden, Maine

June 21 – June 30



- 1/13 Informational Meeting: 11am in Rm 16 (West Wing)
- 2/3 Application Deadline: Completed application, \$50 non-refundable deposit & draft support letter due.
- 2/17 35 Support Letters with stamped envelopes due. Team assignments posted.
- 2/24 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30-2:30pm – (bring lunch)
- 3/24 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30-2:30pm – (bring lunch)
- 4/28 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30pm-2:30pm - (bring lunch)
[Thank you notes & half support due on this date.](#)
- 5/15 Prayer Meeting followed by Packing List Meeting: 6:30pm
A parent must attend this meeting with you.
- 5/19 Church Commissioning during all worship services: 8:15am, 9:45am or 11:15am
You must attend at least one.
- 5/30 Home Ministry Commitment form, thank you notes & full support due on this date.
- 6/20 Check-In & Pack Vans, 4:30-5:30pm
- 6/21 Leave for Maine, 7am
- 6/30 Team returns. Potluck dinner and trip report in the Gym. Approx. 5pm
- 7/14 Team Reunion Cookout (mandatory), 4:30-7:30pm, Location TBA
[Mission Trip Report Letters due on this date.](#)
- 9/8 Churchwide short term missions report Sunday

**Record additional meeting dates and times (assigned by your team leader) below:

Meeting #1: _____

Meeting #2: _____

Meeting #3: _____

Meeting #4: _____

Meeting #5: _____

Washington, DC

June 21-June 30



- 1/13 Informational Meeting: 11am in Rm 16 (West Wing)
- 2/3 Application Deadline: Completed application, \$50 non-refundable deposit & draft support letter due.
- 2/17 40 Support Letters with stamped envelopes due.
- 2/24 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30-2:30pm – (bring lunch)
- 3/24 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30-2:30pm – (bring lunch)
- 4/28 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30pm-2:30pm - (bring lunch)
[Thank you notes & half support due on this date.](#)
- 5/15 Prayer Meeting followed by Packing List Meeting: 6:30pm
A parent must attend this meeting with you.
- 5/19 Church Commissioning during all worship services: 8:15am, 9:45am or 11:15am
You must attend at least one.
- 5/30 Home Ministry Commitment form, thank you notes & full support due on this date.
- 6/21 Leave for Washington, DC.
- 6/30 Team returns. Potluck dinner and trip report in the Gym. Time TBA
- 7/14 Team Reunion Cookout (mandatory), 4:30-7:30pm, Location TBA
[Mission Trip Report Letters due on this date.](#)
- 9/8 Churchwide short term missions report Sunday

**Record additional meeting dates and times (assigned by your team leader) below:

Meeting #1: _____

Meeting #2: _____

Meeting #3: _____

Meeting #4: _____

Meeting #5: _____

Campo Alegria, Nicaragua

June 13- June 22



- 1/13 Informational Meeting: 11am in Rm 16 (West Wing)
- 2/3 Application Deadline: Completed application, \$100 non-refundable deposit, draft support letter and a copy of your passport or paid passport application due.
- 2/17 50 Support Letters with stamped envelopes due.
- 2/24 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30-2:30pm – (bring lunch)
- 3/24 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30-2:30pm – (bring lunch)
- 4/28 Mandatory Team Meeting: 12:30pm-2:30pm - (bring lunch)
[Thank you notes & half support due on this date.](#)
- 5/15 Prayer Meeting followed by Packing List Meeting: 6:30pm
A parent must attend this meeting with you.
- 5/19 Church Commissioning during all worship services: 8:15am, 9:45am or 11:15am
You must attend at least one.
- 5/30 Home Ministry Commitment form, thank you notes & full support due on this date.
- 6/13 Leave for Nicaragua.
- 6/22 Team returns
- 6/23 Team Report during Student Quest, 10:45am [\(Must participate\)](#)
- 7/14 Team Reunion Cookout (mandatory), 4:30-7:30pm location TBA
- 9/8 Churchwide short term missions report Sunday

**Record additional meeting dates and times (assigned by your team leader) below:

Meeting #1: _____

Meeting #2: _____

Meeting #3: _____

Meeting #4: _____

Meeting #5: _____



Being Prepared Spiritually

Going on a mission trip is a big commitment that takes a lot of focus and spiritual preparedness. Remember the four things you are to 'be' on this trip.

Be Faithful – to God and to the group. Do what is set before you. Follow through on your commitment to attend team meetings and prepare your team materials to the best of your ability.

As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him. Proverbs 10:26

Be Flexible – when plans change and disappointments come. Living, traveling and working with a team of people can be full of unexpected moments! Being prepared involves being flexible with one another in those moments!

In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. James 4:13-17

Be Focused – on what God is saying and on the purpose for the trip. Don't miss what God is doing in our midst! True focus requires leaving dating, cell phones, iPods, MP3s, and any other electronic devices, at home.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Be an Example – to the people to whom you are ministering. You are a chosen representative of Jesus, BVBC, churches in Maine, the Washington DC project, and Campo Alegria, Nicaragua. Being an example requires:

- Respect for each person on the team, not just your favorites.
- Respect for each other's property; if it isn't yours, DON'T touch it.
- Respect for each other's privacy- in tents, bathrooms, and personal business.
- Respect for the authority of your leaders and anyone else requesting something of you.
- Respect for the law of the land and the laws of The Word.

He must become greater; I must become less. John 3:30

Your Commitment – begins the day you sign up and does not end until you have sent your last thank you letter to your supporters. It includes attendance at all meetings and participation in all activities. Commitment is a requirement and if it is lacking you will be asked to step down from your position on the team. **In the event a team member needs to be sent home as a disciplinary action, it will be the responsibility of the parents to finance transportation for their son/daughter and an adult leader.**

Recruiting Your Support Team

Whether you are a missionary for a week or a lifetime, you must have a support team behind you. Your support team is a critical part of your trip's success. These are the people who will pray for you, encourage you, and provide the resources for you to complete your mission. Your support team is as much a part of this team as you and other team members.



5 Prayer Partners

On your application you are required to identify 5 people who will commit to pray for you while you are a part of this mission team. They commit to praying for you weekly before the project, daily during the project, and weekly for one month after the project is complete. Be sure to ask them before you place them on your Prayer Partner list. ALSO, your 5 Prayer Partners must have e-mail access, so that we can send them prayer updates.

Why Raise Support?

- It forces you to depend on God and His people.
- It gives others a chance to share in your ministry.
- It builds a team to support you through prayer.
- It builds a team to support you through accountability.

The Support Letter

The following format should be used as an example from which you may construct your own letter. You should integrate all points listed below into your letter. If you have questions, contact Pastor Matthew McNutt or Pastoral Assistant Melissa McGrath.

Items every support letter should include:

1. Where you are going.
2. Why you are going. If you have been on a mission trip before you can describe what happened on that trip and how it impacted you.
3. With whom you are going.
4. What you will do.
5. When you will leave and when you will return.
6. What you plan to do for your Home Ministry Commitment. If you don't know yet, mention that you will have to complete 20 hours of HMC in order to be a part of this team.
7. How much money you will need and how much you are contributing yourself (minimum: US projects \$50, International project \$100).
8. **Deadlines for funds:** ½ by April 28th; full support by May 30th. Checks should be made out to "BVBC/Student Summer Missions" with your name in the memo line.
9. Contributions are tax-deductible and non-refundable. (We are unable to provide receipts for donations under \$250 that are not sent directly to BVBC).
10. Where they can contact you (phone number, address, e-mail).
11. Addressed and stamped envelopes for them to return prayer and financial support to the church.
12. A response slip that includes a place to indicate prayer and/or financial support.

(The Support Letter continued...)

MORE HINTS:

1. Make it personal. Don't just fill in the blanks on the sample letter.
2. Keep it short and to the point (one page - not more than two at the most).
3. Remember to put a return address and stamp on your envelope.
4. Have someone proofread your letter for style, grammar, and spelling.
5. Write a general greeting at the opening of the letter and sign it by hand.

Draft support letters must be turned in by Sunday, February 3. We will make corrections and suggestions and return it to you. After you have made changes, **your final support letters are due February 17** (35 for Maine, 40 for Washington DC, and 50 for Nicaragua).

IDEAS ABOUT PEOPLE TO WHOM YOU CAN SEND YOUR SUPPORT LETTER:

1. Send letters to people you know at church. If you don't know them personally, introduce yourself to them. Tell them who you are, who recommended them to you, and thank them for taking the time to read your letter.
2. Be aware that if you send a letter to someone who is well known to many of our students, your letter may be one of multiple requests.
3. Send your letter to family members.
4. Send your letter to friends or friends of the family.
5. If you have moved to your present home from somewhere else in the country, you could send your support letter to friends from your previous church. You could also send the letter to your previous pastor or church missions committee.
6. You can ask your family to suggest people they know who might be interested in helping support your trip.

Responsibility to your Support Team

WRITE A WELL CRAFTED LETTER

From your first contact you represent yourself, BVBC, the ministry sites, and Jesus. Write a letter that makes you proud.

KEEP THEM INFORMED

Let your Prayer Partners know what's going on. Use the e-mail addresses they gave you to send updates. This will help them pray for you.

THANK THEM

This may seem obvious, but you must remember to thank your supporters. EVERY financial supporter MUST get at least three letters back from you. Every year, we hear from disappointed supporters who never heard anything from the student for whom they generously provided support – don't let that be you!

1. THANK YOU NOTE

Send a thank you note as soon as you're notified that support was received for you.

2. FIELD LETTER

We will take an afternoon on our trip to send updates to all your financial supporters. The better prepared you are for this, the easier it will be. We suggest bringing mailing labels, postcards, and stamps. This simplifies the process for you. Bear in mind that US stamps will not be accepted outside of the US. You will need to bring cash for these purchases. Store all of this in a Ziploc bag to keep together and protected.

3. POST-TRIP LETTER

When you return you should write a letter that summarizes the trip. Tell what you learned and thank them again for being a part of your Support Team. You can be creative with this. You might write it like a newspaper and include pictures. Send it as a Christmas Card. Make it fun!

Sample Letter

The following format can be used as an example from which you may construct your own letter. **DON'T JUST FILL IN THE BLANKS!** Use some creativity (include photos, make it colorful, etc)! If you have any questions, contact the Student Ministry office 302-478-4255.

Dear <<NAME OF POTENTIAL SUPPORTER>>,

I want to tell you about an exciting mission opportunity I have this summer. A group of students and leaders from Brandywine Valley Baptist Church will be going to <<where>> from <<dates of trip>>.

While we are there we will....

I am really looking forward to this trip because....

The cost of the summer project is \$ <<amount >>. I am trusting God to use individuals like you to help me raise the majority of my support. I will be contributing <<\$50 (for Maine or Washington DC), \$100 (for Nicaragua)>> of my own money towards this trip. Half of my support must be raised by April 28, with the remaining amount due May 30. I also need prayer support before, during and after my trip.

Would you please consider supporting me with your prayers and/or a financial investment? I have enclosed an addressed, stamped envelope that you can use to send your reply. Donations should be made out to "BVBC Student Summer Missions" and mailed in the enclosed envelope. All financial investments are tax-deductible and non-refundable. Please note that BVBC is only able to provide documentation suitable for tax purposes if the donation is sent directly to BVBC, Attn: Student Ministries. In case the return envelope is lost or was not enclosed, please send all donations to BVBC, Attn: Student Ministries/ <<your name>>, 7 Mt. Lebanon Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting me on this mission trip!

Looking forward to a great trip,

<< your signature >>

RESPONSE SLIP

Supporter's Name _____

- ? I will support <<your name>> with my prayers.
- ? I would like to receive prayer updates via e-mail.
e-mail address _____
- ? I will support <<your name>> with a financial gift of \$ _____.