



*Brandywine*  
STUDENTS

## 2025 Summer Mission Trips INFORMATION PACKET

This packet includes:

- \*Details about the Application
- \* Important information and dates for all trips  
(Carolinas; Detroit; Puerto Rico; Belize)
  - \* Being Prepared Spiritually
  - \* Recruiting Your Support Team
    - \* The Support Letter
    - \*Trip Details
- \*Home Ministry Commitment Form

Brandywine Students  
7 Mt. Lebanon Road, Wilmington, DE 19803  
Phone (302) 478-4255  
[www.brandywine.church/students](http://www.brandywine.church/students)  
[www.facebook.com/BrandywineStudents](https://www.facebook.com/BrandywineStudents)

# Applying for a Mission Trip

Trips you can apply for summer 2025:

Carolinas:	Cost \$995	Grades 7-8	June 14-21, 2025
Detroit:	Cost \$995	Grades 9-12	June 14-21, 2025
Puerto Rico:	Cost \$1895	Grades 10	June 14-21, 2025
Belize:	Cost \$2095	Grades 11-12	June 14-21, 2025

Your mission trip application is online. It can be accessed in one of two ways:

Go to this website:

<https://brandywinestudents.managedmissions.com/MissionApplication/Start/42513>

Or scan the QR code provided and pick the trip you are applying for:



Checklist to be completed by December 15th:

- **Online Mission Trip Application** (see above)
- **\$50 deposit** for each student can be submitted online using the QR code above or this link to Managed Missions <https://brandywinestudents.managedmissions.com/OurTrips>. Select your trip and the donate button. On the donor page, select "Entire Team" and complete all fields. **In the "Note" field at the bottom of the page, type "<<STUDENT NAME>> - TRIP DEPOSIT"**. Checks/cash can be turned in at the Student Lounge or dropped in the box outside the student ministry office.
- **Medical Release** for each student can be emailed directly to [studentmissions@brandywine.church](mailto:studentmissions@brandywine.church) or turned in at the Student Lounge. Use the link provided <https://bit.ly/BrandywineStudentsMissionsRelease> or the website [brandywine.church/studentmissions](http://brandywine.church/studentmissions) to access the Medical Release.
- **Draft support letter** to be reviewed by Susan Baer, Administrative Assistant for Brandywine Students. Feedback will be provided. "Share" on Google documents or email directly to [studentmissions@brandywine.church](mailto:studentmissions@brandywine.church). Enable us to access/edit your Google doc by selecting "Editor."
- **Puerto Rico team:**
  - Email a photo of your driver's license **if you have one** to [studentmissions@brandywine.church](mailto:studentmissions@brandywine.church).
- **Belize team:**
  - Email a copy of your passport or passport application to [studentmissions@brandywine.church](mailto:studentmissions@brandywine.church).

Have a question about the application process? Email us at [studentmissions@brandywine.church](mailto:studentmissions@brandywine.church).

**Online donations to the mission trips can be done using the QR code provided on this page.**

# Important Mission Trip Dates

- 12/1      **Information Meeting:** 11:30am in Gym.
- 12/15     **Application Deadline:** Completed application,  
**\$50 non-refundable deposit & draft support letter due.**
- 1/26      **Mandatory Team Meeting:** 11:30am – 1:30pm – (bring lunch)  
**Support Letters with addressed, sealed envelopes due.**
- 3/9        **Mandatory Team Meeting:** 11:30am – 1:30pm – (bring lunch)  
**Praying Pelican online paperwork due.**
- 3/21-22   **Renew Student Conference at Brandywine:**  
Friday: 6:30pm – 9:30pm; Saturday: 9:00am – 2:30pm  
**This conference is mandatory. Cost is included and additional registration is not required.**
- 4/6        **Mandatory Team Meeting:** 11:30am – 1:30pm – (bring lunch)  
**Thank You Notes and Half Support Due.**  
**Notarized Travel Letters due for Belize and Puerto Rico.**
- 5/4        **Packing List Meeting:** 11:45am  
*A parent must attend this meeting with you.*  
**Home Ministry Commitment Form, Thank-You Notes & All Remaining Support Due.**
- 5/18      **Church Commissioning during both worship services: 9:00am and 10:30am**  
*You must attend at least one worship service.*
- 6/8        **Mandatory Team Meeting:** 11:30am – 1:00pm – (bring lunch)
- 6/14      **ALL Teams Depart:** Time TBA
- 6/21      **ALL Teams Return:** Time TBA
- 6/22      **Mission Trip Report in Sanctuary (mandatory):** Both worship services (9:00am, 10:30am)  
**Plan to be at Church by 8:30am wearing your mission trip t-shirt.**
- TBA        **Team Reunion:**  
**Post-Trip Updates Due.**

# 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:

## 1. **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.

*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. **1 Corinthians 4:2***

*A faithful person will be richly blessed. **Proverbs 28:28a***

## 2. **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***

## 3. **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 relationships, cell phones, devices, and any other distractions 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***

#### **4. Be an Example** to the people to whom you are ministering.

You are a chosen representative of Jesus, Brandywine Valley Church and the mission organizations we are serving with. Being an example requires:

- ✓ Respect for each person on the team.
- ✓ Respect for each other's property.
- ✓ Respect for the authority of your leaders.
- ✓ Respect for the places and ministries we visit and serve.

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

### **Your Commitment**

Your commitment begins the day you sign up and does not end until you have sent your post-trip update to your supporters.

Your commitment includes:

- ✓ Attendance at **all** team meetings.
- ✓ Participation in **all** activities.
- ✓ Sending out the required amount of support letters (35 for Carolinas and Detroit, 50 for Puerto Rico and Belize).
- ✓ Sending out thank-you notes and a post-trip update to supporters.
- ✓ 10 hours of Home Ministry Commitment (local volunteer hours).

If you are unable to follow through on the commitment, 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. They 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 five people who will commit to praying for you while you are a part of this mission team. They commit to praying for you **weekly** before the trip, **daily** during the trip, and **weekly** for one month after the trip is complete.

Be sure to ask them before you place them on your Prayer Partner list.

## **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.

## **Responsibility To Your Support Team**

### **WRITE A WELL-CRAFTED LETTER**

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

**Instructions and guidelines for writing your Support Letter are in this Information Packet.**

**Everything you need to include in your support letter is on pages 7 and 9.**

### **KEEP THEM INFORMED**

Let your Prayer Partners know what's going on. This will help them pray for you.

### **THANK THEM**

This may seem obvious, but you must remember to thank your supporters.

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!

## THANK THEM - continued

EVERY financial supporter **MUST** get at least two updates from you.

### 1. THANK-YOU NOTE

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

To find out who has donated support for you, you can access your online Managed Missions account. After you have COMPLETED your online application, watch for a Welcome Email from Managed Missions. (**Note: The Welcome Email will be sent to the email address you provided when you filled out your application.**) It will allow you to see on your private account who has given you support for your trip.

### 2. POST-TRIP UPDATE

After we return home you will need to update your supporters about your mission trip. You will communicate to your supporters what you learned and thank them again for being a part of your Support Team. You can be creative with this. Write a letter, make a photo postcard, send a well-written email with photos, or create a video highlighting what you did. Your supporters want to hear about your trip. **The post-trip update is due by the Mission Trip Reunion.** Please email *studentmissions@brandywine.church* to let us know how you completed your post-trip update.

# The Support Letter

## Information every support letter should include:

1. **Who are you?**
2. Where are you going?
3. Why are you going? If you have been on a mission trip before, you may describe what happened on that trip and how it impacted you.
4. With whom are you going?
5. What will you do?
6. When will you leave and when will you return?
7. **What do you plan to do for your Home Ministry Commitment? If you don't know, mention that you will have to complete at least 10 hours of volunteer hours to be a part of this team.**
8. **Include the word-for-word content on page 9.**
9. Where may they contact you (phone number, address, e-mail)?
10. **Include the Response Slip** (provided for you) and an envelope addressed to the church.

## **More Hints**

1. Make it personal. Don't just fill in the blanks on the sample letter or copy last year's letter.
2. Keep it short (one - two pages). Type your letter, using at least an 11 pt. font.
3. Include a photo of yourself and/or a photo(s) from your last mission trip.
4. **Have someone proofread your letter for style, grammar, and spelling.**
5. Here are some suggestions of those who might like to receive a support letter:
  - family members
  - people from church
  - your small group leaders
  - neighbors
  - family friends

**Please contact us by January 5<sup>th</sup> if you are having trouble coming up with the correct amount of supporters to send letters to.**

**Draft support letters must be turned in by Sunday, December 15.** Please share it as a Google document (enable "editing") or email your support letter to studentmissions@brandywine.church. A physical copy will also be accepted. ***We will make corrections and suggestions.***

**Your final support letters are due Sunday, January 26.** (35 for Carolinas and Detroit and 50 for Puerto Rico and Belize). These letters must be brought to the church and not mailed out on your own.

**Before you hand in your letters check for the following:**

- ✓ **Include your home address (not the church's address) on the upper left corner of the envelope.**
- ✓ **Inside each envelope should include a support letter, a response slip, and a return envelope with the church address (a stamp is no longer required).**

Brandywine Valley Church  
Attn: Student Missions /<<your name>>.  
7 Mount Lebanon Road  
Wilmington, DE 19803

- ✓ **Seal each envelope.**

**\*Please Note: We will stamp the outside of your support letters at the Church before mailing them to your supporters. \***



# What Goes In My Support Letter?

Dear <<NAME OF POTENTIAL SUPPORTER>>,

**\*\*Please personalize this part of your letter.**

Be creative (include photos, make it colorful). INTRODUCE YOURSELF. Talk about your experience on past mission trips or say this is your first mission trip.

Mention the required 10 hours of Home Ministry service.

**Introduce yourself (name, grade, etc.).** I want to tell you about an exciting mission opportunity I have this summer. A group of students and leaders from Brandywine Valley Church will be going to <<where>> from <<dates of trip>>.

While we are there we will.... **See trip details document in this packet with your trip's descriptions. Include the purpose of trip (mission), who you will serve, and examples of service activities. Share about the location and the needs of the people.**

(Examples include children's ministries, home repairs, senior centers).

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

**\*\*Please copy the highlighted paragraphs below, word-for-word.  
(\$995 for Carolinas & Detroit, \$1895 for Puerto Rico, and \$2095 for Belize)**

The cost of the summer missions trip 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 of my own money toward this trip. Half of my support must be raised by April 6, with the remaining amount due May 4. I also need prayer support before, during and after my trip.

Would you please consider supporting me with your prayers and/or a financial gift? If you choose to support me financially you can do so online or via check. The enclosed response slip provides instructions to ensure that your donation is given on my behalf. The online donation platform can be found at <https://brandywinestudents.managedmissions.com/OurTrips> or you can scan the QR code on my response slip. Checks should be made out to "Brandywine Valley Church" and mailed in the enclosed envelope along with the Response Slip. **Please write "Student Missions" on the memo line, instead of my name.**

All financial contributions are tax-deductible and non-refundable. Please note that the church is only able to provide documentation suitable for tax purposes if the donation is given through our online donation platform or sent directly to Brandywine Valley Church, Attn: Student Missions. In case the return envelope is lost or was not enclosed, please send all donations to Brandywine Valley Church, Attn: Student Missions/<<your name>>, 7 Mt. Lebanon Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

I want to invite you to attend our Mission Trip Report Service at Brandywine Valley Church on Sunday, June 22. This is a special Sunday when we share about our mission trip experience. Team members will be sharing at both our 9:00am and 10:30am worship services. If you would like to watch the livestream of the worship services on June 22, please see our church website: <https://brandywine.church>.

**\*\*Please personalize the ending of your letter.**

Thank you for considering support for me as I prepare for the mission trip to \_\_\_\_\_. (name of your trip)

Looking forward to a great trip,

<< Your Signature >

**Include your contact information**



## Connecting the Local Church on a Global Level

Praying Pelican Missions exists to inspire unity within the global Church. There is no more powerful example of God’s love to a community than when His people come together to serve and advance the Gospel, all in the name of Jesus.

### Foundation of Praying Pelican Missions: Three Main Pillars

Genuine Partnerships	Long-Term Relationships	Sustainable Ministry
<p>We believe in the local Church. Each of our teams is partnered alongside local ministries to encourage and assist them in serving their communities during their mission trip.</p>	<p>Teams will have the opportunity to build lasting relationships on your mission trip with local churches and ministries by serving alongside them throughout the week.</p>	<p>We remain under the authority and direction of the local Church to ensure each mission trip has a lasting impact.</p>

Each of Brandywine’s mission teams will be paired with a church and its ministry partners in the community.

### WHY DO WE SERVE?

Short-term mission trips provide an avenue to fulfill the commandments of Jesus, who urged his followers to love their neighbors and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 22:39, Matthew 28:19-20). These trips embody the Great Commission, offering a practical way to share the message of Christ and serve people in need.

### Examples of how you may serve those in need, **include a few in your letter:**

- Serving in food pantries: cleaning and organizing
- Community gardens: weeding, planting, harvesting
- Improvement and maintenance for buildings and grounds in the community
- Construction projects
- Home repair: caulking, painting, cleaning, yardwork.
- Serving in senior centers
- Leading children’s outreach programs
- Prayer walks
- Food distribution for those with food insecurity: sorting and organizing donations
- Serving the homeless

# Trip Details

## The Carolinas

From coastal communities to bustling cities to rural towns, the Carolinas offer a wide range of ways for you to serve. Our team will likely serve in a coastal area in North Carolina. In recent years, communities like Wilmington, Myrtle Beach, and Lumberton have been hit hard by hurricanes and tropical storms. Winters just off the ocean are harsh and make for needed repairs of all sorts. Our team will have the opportunity to serve in a local community coming alongside the existing ministries that are meeting the needs of the people.

## Detroit

Detroit is located on the Detroit River, which connects Lakes Erie and St. Clair. It is the largest city in the state of Michigan. Once the thriving heart of America's auto industry, Detroit has faced a long and complex decline. This decline has created many hardships for communities. Our team will partner with a local church in Detroit that has persisted in giving light and hope to those communities, from serving those experiencing homelessness to food distribution and more. We will be working diligently to answer the physical, spiritual, and relational needs of their community.

## Puerto Rico

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a Caribbean island and unincorporated territory of the United States, borders the Atlantic Ocean to the north and the Caribbean Sea to the south. Puerto Rico is bound to the west by the Dominican Republic, east by the Virgin Islands, another territory of the US, and south by Venezuela. The island's average household income is about one-third of the U.S. average, and its poverty rate is more than twice that of the poorest state, Mississippi. Our team will partner with a local Church dedicated to meeting the needs of the poorest communities. We will be able to experience a different culture and come to love the children and families as you bring Christian service to an area desperately in need of help.

## Belize

Belize is a country positioned in Central America and stretches over a total area of about 8,867 square miles. In 2018, almost 52% of the population in Belize was living in poverty. The indigenous Maya population was most affected. The main at-risk group in Belize is children. Many lack access to resources such as health care, adequate nutrition, clean drinking water, proper sanitation, adequate housing and access to education. Our team will partner with a local Church in Belize who is continuing to walk alongside a community. Belize is a small country and even a small intervention can make a big impact.



# HOME MINISTRY COMMITMENT

(This form is due on May 4, 2025)

\*Please email this document to [studentmissions@brandywine.church](mailto:studentmissions@brandywine.church) or submit a physical copy

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## REQUIREMENTS:

- Every mission team member must agree to complete **10 hours** of home ministry *prior to the trip*.
- Home ministry is anything that reaches out to the needs of others for the sake of Jesus, such as working with the Brandywine Kids Ministry, providing a service to someone in need, or volunteering at a service organization.
- Services which do not meet the requirement are things you would do as a normal part of your family life, things that are not focused on the needs of people, or anything for which you get paid.
- Home Ministry Commitment work must be completed *before the mission trip*.
- If you are having difficulty finding a way to complete your hours, please contact the Student Ministry office by April 1 for suggestions.

Date	Ministry Performed	Time	Signature
<i>(Example)</i> 4/1	<i>Served Sunday morning in the Children's Ministry</i>	<i>2 hours</i>	<i>Supervisor's name</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

