



2026 Summer Mission Trips INFORMATION PACKET

This packet includes:

- *Details about the Application
- * Important information and dates for all trips
(West Virginia; Nova Scotia; El Salvador)
 - * 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
www.facebook.com/BrandywineStudents

Applying for a Mission Trip

Students who are involved at Brandywine Valley Church on Sunday mornings and/or our small group ministry may apply for a mission trip.

Mission trips you can apply for summer 2026:

West Virginia:	Cost \$1295	Grades 7-8	June 13-20, 2026
Nova Scotia, Canada:	Cost \$1495	Grades 9-12	June 12-20, 2026
El Salvador:	Cost \$2795	Grades 11-12	June 13-20, 2026

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/51311>

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



Checklist to be completed by December 14th:

- **Online Mission Trip Application** (see above) and **\$50 Deposit** must be submitted at the same time in order for your application to be processed.
- **Medical Release** for each student can be emailed directly to studentmissions@brandywine.church or turned in at the Student Lounge. Use the link provided <https://bit.ly/BrandywineStudentsMissionsRelease> or the website 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 and letters must be updated. "Share" on Google documents or email directly to studentmissions@brandywine.church. Enable us to access/edit your Google doc by selecting "Editor."
- **El Salvador and Nova Scotia teams:**
 - Email a copy of your passport or passport application to studentmissions@brandywine.church.

Have a question about the application process? Email us at studentmissions@brandywine.church.

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

Important Mission Trip Dates and Deadlines

- 11/23 **Information Meeting:** 10:00am in Gym.
- 12/14 **Application Deadline:** Completed application,
\$50 non-refundable deposit & draft support letter due.
- 1/25 **Mandatory Team Meeting:** 12:30pm – 2:30pm – (bring lunch)
Support Letters with addressed, sealed envelopes due.
- 2/22 **Mandatory Team Meeting:** 12:30pm – 2:30pm – (bring lunch)
Praying Pelican online paperwork due.
- 3/20-21 **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.
Thank You Notes and Half Support Due.
- 4/19 **Mandatory Team Meeting:** 12:30pm – 2:30pm – (bring lunch)
Notarized Travel Letters due for El Salvador and Nova Scotia.
****Susan Baer will be notarizing travel letters at this meeting; A parent must be present for letters to be notarized.**
- 5/3 **Packing List Meeting:** 10am in Gym **during Student Quest.**
A parent must attend this meeting with you.
Home Ministry Commitment Form, Thank-You Notes & All Remaining Support Due.
- 5/17 **Church Commissioning during worship services:** 8:30am, 10:00am and 11:30am
You must attend at least one worship service.
- 6/7 **Mandatory Team Meeting:** 12:30pm – 2:00pm – (bring lunch)
- 6/12 **Nova Scotia Team Departs:** Time TBA
- 6/13 **El Salvador and West Virginia Teams Depart:** Time TBA
- 6/20 **ALL Teams Return:** Time TBA
- 6/21 **Mission Trip Report in Sanctuary (mandatory):**
All worship services (8:30am, 10:00am, 11:30am)
Plan to be at Church by 8:00am wearing your mission trip t-shirt.
- TBA **Team Reunion:**
Post-Trip Updates Due.

Please make every effort to attend mandatory team meetings and meet each deadline listed above. If missing a meeting cannot be avoided, please fill out and submit the “Mandatory Meeting Absence Form” provided via QR code or link below by December 14.



<https://bit.ly/MissionsAbsence>

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 (40 for West Virginia and Nova Scotia, 50 for El Salvador).
- ✓ 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 encourages 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 through 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

Draft support letters are due Sunday, December 14. 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 25. (*40 for West Virginia and Nova Scotia, 50 for El Salvador*). These letters must be brought to the church and not mailed out on your own. **Please contact us by January 4th if you need additional supporters to send letters to.**

Before you hand in your support 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 not 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 four paragraphs below, word-for-word.
(\$1295 for West Virginia, \$1495 for Nova Scotia, and \$2795 for El Salvador)**

The cost of the summer mission 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 March 20, with the remaining amount due May 3. 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 21. This is a special Sunday when we share about our mission trip experience. Team members will be sharing at 8:30am, 10am and 11:30am worship services. If you would like to watch the livestream of the worship services on June 21, 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
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.	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.	We remain under the authority and direction of the local Church to ensure each mission trip has a lasting impact.

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 mercy ministries, such as sorting, and packaging donations of food or clothing; loading/unloading supplies
- Community gardens: weeding, planting, harvesting
- Improvement and maintenance for buildings and grounds in the community
- Construction projects
- Service projects such as painting, cleaning, yard work, home maintenance
- Serving in senior centers
- Children's Ministry such as Vacation Bible School, spending time with children through bible lessons, crafts and games
- Prayer walks
- Food distribution for those with food insecurity: sorting and organizing donations
- Serving the homeless

Trip Details

West Virginia (Grades 7-8)

Our team will serve alongside a local church and its community in the Appalachian region. This region, spanning 13 states and home to 25 million people, is known for its beautiful landscapes, including wooded hills, valleys, streams, and waterfalls. However, beneath this natural beauty lies one of the most financially impoverished areas in the United States. This persistent poverty tragically contributes to severe issues, including food insecurity, increased patterns of addictive behaviors among youth and adults, and homelessness. Furthermore, the area is susceptible to natural disasters such as fires and floods. Students on this trip will have a chance to serve in a variety of capacities, including service projects, children's ministry, and mercy ministry.

Nova Scotia, Canada (Grades 9-12)

Nova Scotia, one of the four provinces in Atlantic Canada, is situated on the beautiful Eastern Coast. Churches in this region are deeply committed to their communities and are enthusiastic about collaborating with your mission team. Nova Scotia is a peninsula approximately 360 miles long and 80 miles wide, connected to the mainland by the Chignecto Isthmus. This area is celebrated for its picturesque bays, coves, inlets, and rugged coastline. The name "Nova Scotia," meaning "New Scotland" in Latin, reflects its significant Scottish heritage. English is the primary language spoken in the region. Regrettably, engagement in local churches has seen a decline, and pastors are seeking teams to assist with various initiatives, including relational ministry, seniors' outreach, homeless outreach, service projects, and camps. Through these acts of service, the students will gain meaningful opportunities to share their faith with the individuals they serve.

El Salvador (Grades 11-12)

El Salvador, officially known as the Republic of El Salvador, is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America—it is actually smaller than Massachusetts. It shares borders with Honduras, Guatemala, and the Pacific Ocean. A common name for the country is the "Land of Volcanoes" due to its many volcanic peaks. Spanish is the official language, and the U.S. Dollar serves as the official currency. The country faces significant challenges, primarily revolving around economic issues such as a high cost of living, limited job opportunities, and low wages. Many Salvadoran workers struggle to earn enough to cover basic necessities like food, rent, healthcare, and transportation. Local pastors and their communities are eagerly anticipating the arrival of our team. They are ready for our students to offer support, uplift their spirits, and assist them in a variety of ways while continuing to share the Gospel message.

HOME MINISTRY COMMITMENT

(This form is due on May 3, 2026)

*Please email this document to 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	Served Sunday morning in the Children's Ministry	2 hours	Supervisor's name
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____