

Youth Ministry Missions Strategy

The Youth Ministry at Black Rock believes that short-term and summer missions opportunities for students are foundational to our ministry. We feel these trips are a significant experience in bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to our world. These trips help to shape the faith and character of our students and our student ministry. We also feel these trips are an earned privilege. Therefore, there are necessary requirements to be met before a student is considered for a trip. These requirements help develop each student and prepare them for the challenges unique to missions trips. We also believe the best preparation for these trips is to develop a progressive approach to our missions programs.

Trips Planned for 2008

Through Student Ministry/STAMP Trips

New Orleans (April Break)

Kentucky (Mid July)

Dominican Republic (Early July)

Through STAMP Trips

Over 15 Trips (Read about them on the BRCC website under short term missions)

Requirements for Students going on missions trips without a parent

International Missions

- Regularly attends Fusion
- Participation in Local Projects (Martha Projects)
- Demonstrates a teachable spirit and good attitude
- Shows behavioral maturity appropriate for their age
- Has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Has completed all assignments for the trips including application, interview and diligence in raising financial and prayer support
- Has completed 10th grade
- Has demonstrated a heart for peer evangelism and peer care.
- Has participated in local and domestic trips

Domestic Missions

- Regularly attends Fusion
- Participation in Local Projects (Martha Projects) (2 planned for this spring)
- Demonstrates a teachable spirit and good attitude
- Shows behavioral maturity appropriate for their age
- Has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Has completed all assignments for the trips including application, interview and diligence in raising financial and prayer support.

Financial Policy of Student Missions Trips

We feel that it is very important for students to have the opportunity to experience different cultures and minister in these cultures. Christ called us to go out into all the world and make disciples. The student ministry emphasizes missions as a vital part of a student's experience while in high school. For this reason, each summer we provide students an opportunity to go on a domestic and international trip if they have met the requirements for each trip. Last year we started a new process by which students had to take part in a local trip before heading on a domestic trip. When they had completed a domestic trip, they then had the chance to go on an international trip.

In years past, students going on trips have sent out support letters for all of their trips. This has caused them to write letters for five or six trips while in high school. After writing the same people year after year, many students were coming up short in their financial support. To avoid this problem, we want to limit the amount of support students raise until they are able to go on an international trip, when they will be in greater need of financial support. The details below explain our new guidelines for finances on student missions trips.

Domestic Missions Trips:

To keep students from sending out too many support letters during their four years in high school, we would like all students to support themselves on Domestic Missions Trips. This means students are discouraged from writing support letters. If a student has financial difficulty in raising support we would ask you to look into these two options.

First, look to apply for a scholarship from BRCC. A scholarship will cover up to 1/3 of your total cost. When applying for a scholarship though, we will look into how much you have attempted to raise of your own money. If you have not demonstrated due diligence in getting money yourself, you will not be qualified for a scholarship.

Your second option for raising support is through sending support letters to close members of the family. This option needs to be discussed with the youth staff and youth board before you may pursue it. We want to know that you have again demonstrated due diligence in getting money yourself.

At least 35% of the Domestic Missions Trip cost must be raised through your own hard work. Parents may help pay for the rest, but students are required to work for their part of the cost. We want students to take ownership of the big commitment that they are making by going on this missions trip. Students will have over six months to raise 35% of the total cost.

International Missions Trips:

Due to the greater cost of International Missions Trips, students are permitted to raise financial support through support letters to people in the church, family members and friends. With the cost of the trips being so high, we see that many students will need to raise this support so they will be able to go. You will also have the opportunity to apply for

scholarships from BRCC. A scholarship will cover up to \$500 of your total cost. When applying for a scholarship though, we will look into the degree of effort you have put into raising support through letters and working. If you have not demonstrated due diligence in getting money yourself and raising support, you will not qualify for a scholarship. Students are required to raise 20% of the total cost themselves. Again, we feel that it is important for students to take responsibility and ownership by raising some of their own money.

Students participating in both the LEAD and Domestic Missions Trip:

Due to the fact that both the LEAD conference and Domestic Missions Trips require that students raise their own money, we want to offer this option. Students going on both these trips are allowed to raise support through sending out support letters for only the Domestic Missions Trip. We think that both these trips are very important for students be a part of and want students to be able to go on both if they feel God's leading. Students are still required to raise the total amount for LEAD, but may raise support for the Domestic Trip. Students must raise 20% of total cost of the Domestic Missions Trip from their own hard work.

Support Letters:

This year we want all students who are sending out letters to do it with the assistance of the youth staff. This means that students are still required to write their own support letters and address envelopes, but the youth staff will mail out the letters.

Scholarships:

Scholarship forms can be picked up from Jeremy's office during the month of March and April. All scholarships are reviewed and have the right to be denied. Scholarship requests will be evaluated based upon financial need and the efforts of the student raising support and earning his/her own money. Scholarships are usually processed within two weeks of being received

Payments:

Months before we go on these trips, we need to put down deposits. Then, two months before we leave on the trips, we have to pay almost the entire cost of the trip. Since we are covering the cost before we actually get the money from students, we need to make sure that we don't loss money when a students backs out of a trip. Here is the new policy on payments.

- If a student backs out of a trip three months before the trip, their deposit will not be refundable.
- If a student backs out of a trip two months before the trip, their deposit is non-refundable and they are responsible for paying half of the total cost of the trip.
- If a student backs out of a trip one month before the trip, their deposit is non-refundable and they are responsible for paying the entire cost of the trip.

Student Missions Application

Domestic Missions Trip —Kentucky (Fill out this form)
International Missions Trip —
FILL OUT A STAMP application.

Please complete this form honestly, completely, neatly, and in ink. Your signature and your parent's signature are required on the back of this form. ***Applications are due February 17th, 2008***

Please Note: Completion of this form does not "secure" a spot on a missions team. Your next step will be to go before an interview panel. Interviews will take place on during the few weeks following February 17st

NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME MISSIONS TRIPS YOU HAVE BEEN ON BEFORE: GRADE AND YEAR

What did you learn from those experiences? _____

What trip are you applying for: (Circle) West Virginia

Requirements for International AND Domestic Missions Trips

Please CIRCLE if they apply to you now:

Please UNDERLINE if they will apply to you before you leave for trip:

International Missions Trip *(only if you are applying for this trip)*

- Attends Fusion regularly
- Has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Demonstrates a heart for serving Christ
- Demonstrates a teachable spirit and good attitude
- Shows behavioral maturity appropriate for their age
- Has participated in a local missions project in the last year. (Martha Project)
- Has gone on a domestic missions trip while attending Fusion
- Has completed all assignment for the trips including application, interview and diligence in raising financial and prayer support.
- Has complete 10th grade
- Has demonstrated a heart for peer evangelism and peer care

Domestic Missions Trip *(only if you are applying for this trip)*

- Student must have a personal relationship with Christ
- Student must regularly attend Fusion
- Student must go on a local missions trip (Martha Project) before leaving for WV (There will be three is spring)
- Student must be teachable, willing to serve, and passionate about ministering to others
- Student must attend all pre-trip meetings and functions
Student must complete application, interview and be diligent in raising financial and prayer support

Please type out your testimony and save it. Both trips with AIM will want your testimony. We don't want you to have to write it again. Testimonies should be no shorter than half a page, single spaced.

Testimony should be written like this:

Describe your life before you came to Christ

How did you come to Christ?

What has happened since you came to Christ?

Please explain why you want to go on this missions trip.

What talents/strengths/abilities do you bring to the team?

Do you understand generally what you will be doing on this trip i.e. working, sharing your faith, prayer etc.? _____

Do you understand there will be mandatory team training meetings for this trip? _____

Do you understand that if you miss your meetings you may be removed from the trip? _____

How do you plan to fund your missions trip?

May you need a scholarship for the missions trips? _____

Agreement:

- I promise to participate fully in my team's preparation process (including support raising & group meetings) and keep the terms of our Team Covenant.
- I will endeavor to not complain during the preparation process and project and will do my best to have a servant's attitude at all times.
- I will obey the leadership of my team.
- I will not use drugs, alcohol, tobacco, foul language, or participate in sexual immorality.
- I will display behavior in my words and actions that are a positive reflection of Christ.
- I will follow all safety precautions during the project.
- I understand that if I break the terms of this agreement, my leaders may choose to send me home at my own expense, so as to not destroy the testimony of the group or mission with which we are working.
- I have read the financial policy for student missions and agree to all that is stated in the document.

I have read the agreement stated above and will follow it.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____

Student contract:

If accepted for this trip, I will participate voluntarily and of my own free will. I will not hold trip leaders, the sponsoring mission/missionaries, or BRCC responsible for any accident, injury, illness or other personal loss that might result from this trip. I authorize trip leaders, as my agent, to consent to any emergency treatment that is necessary in the case of an accident or illness which is deemed advisable. I will submit to trip leadership and maintain a cooperative spirit in all activities. To the best of my availability, I will participate in trip preparation and evaluation sessions. If I do not have health insurance coverage, I agree to purchase a policy specifically for this trip. If for any reason my behavior conflicts with the guidelines set forth for the trip or places the team or myself in personal danger, I understand that I will be sent home at my personal expense. I completely understand the following contract and will keep to it.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parental Consent:

I have read the above contract and agree with it. I also agree that every effort will be made to protect and safeguard all participants. Therefore, I agree not to hold Black Rock Congregational Church, any of their officers or the sponsoring mission/missionaries liable for illness or mishap occurring during the event. I understand that adult supervision is being provided for the trip and I authorize treatment by an accredited hospital and/or physician if it is deemed necessary for my child.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____ Date: _____