

Pre-trip Planning Guide

the center for student missions
chicago, illinois



A Quick Overview of CSM in Chicago

Q: Where will you be staying?

A: You will be staying on the campus of North Park University. We are able to rent a two flat building owned them, so this is where you will eat, sleep, and have an occasional down times during the week.

Q: What will you be doing?

A: You will be serving! Each day you are here you will serve at a variety of ministry sites. During the week you will spend the morning with the same children developing relationships with them, and each evening is different; from retirement homes to soup kitchens.

Q: What will CSM be doing?

A: CSM will provide you with a city host(s) according to your group size who will guide you around the city. They will act as a liaison between your group and the ministry sites. They will handle a majority of the logistical issues, and help your group process all that the group is learning

CSM Chicago staff

Abby Besecker * Associate Director
of Operations

Sandy Carlson * Associate Director
of Scheduling

Hannah Prevost-Schultz
* City Director

CSM Mission Statement

To provide with an effective urban
ministry experience that transforms
lives, influences churches and
communities, and honors Christ.

The Windy City at a Glance

* Chicago is America's third-largest city, with a population of around 3 million people. With surrounding suburbs, the Chicagoland area boasts around 10 million residents.

* Chicago is divided into 77 different neighborhoods.

* It is estimated that up to 15,000 people are home-less in Chicago on any given night, competing for only 5,400 overnight beds in shelters.

* Waiting lists for various forms of low-income public housing total over 225,000 names.

* There are over 175 different ethnic groups in Chicago.



Transportation:

We will be driving in 15 passenger Vans
We will be using these vans for travel all week

Driven by our Adult Leaders Only

Two committed leaders so far:

Pete Bond
Cindy Hurless

Walkie Talkies are mandatory



Arrival time is 5pm June 3rd!
That means we must be packed
and ready to go by 12:15pm on
Sunday.

CSM'S RESPONSIBILITIES (What you can expect)

Hosts: 1 host for every 14 people

Meals: You will be having a sack lunch and eating at different ethnic restaurants for dinner.

Schedule: We will plan your trip and customize it as much as we can for your group.

Showers: Showers are taken at the North Park University locker rooms during the Spring and Summer seasons. Males will need to bring swim trunks to shower in communal showers but females do not., they have separate stalls.

Helping you: While you are here our goal is for you not to worry about logistics, that's why we are here. We want you to be able to sit back and get to know your group better. We are here to encourage and challenge your group but not be the youth pastor.

MEALS

- Your registration fee will cover all meals listed on your schedule.
- Breakfast is usually served at the housing site (cereal, bagels, fruit). Lunch is either served at your ministry site or sack lunches will be packed before leaving in the morning (sandwiches, fruit, snacks).
- Evening meals are either eaten at an ethnic restaurant or at a soup kitchen or shelter.
- Your group is welcome to bring snacks or drinks if you would like.

CITY HOST

Your group will have 1 city host per every 14 people, who will handle all of the logistics during your trip:

- Directions around the city.
- Handling money for all meals during your trip.
- Act as a liaison between your group and the ministry sites and between your group and the directors.



CODE OF CONDUCT

ATTIRE

Comfy clothes: Bring clothes that are comfortable to work in and you don't mind getting dirty.

Long and Closed: Pants and closed-toe shoes are required at many of our ministry sites. At some sites you may wear shorts (they must be finger-tip length). All sandals must have a back strap (no flip flops)

Reach for the sky: Shirts must be long enough to raise your arms without exposing any skin or underwear. No tank tops or sleeveless shirts.

Support no teams: No professional or college sports team clothing or paraphernalia, hats of any kind, or bandanas are permitted. Avoid wearing solid red or solid Carolina Blue t-shirts.

NOTE: Groups members with bald or shaved heads may wear a fishing hat or something similar (no baseball caps) if they are working outside.

AT THE HOUSING SITE

Be respectful of the buildings we use and our neighbors.

No running, jumping, wrestling or other rough activities in the buildings. It will lead to clogged pipes and drains!

Please keep the building clean by picking up after yourselves, doing your own dishes, etc.

Quiet hours begin at 10pm and lights out is at 11pm.

Group members may not leave the housing site unless they are accompanied by an adult sponsor.

Respect the other groups you share housing with while you are here in the city (Please no practical jokes).

AROUND THE CITY

Always stick with your group and listen to the instructions of the on-site staff and your CSM host. Never wander off on your own; stick in pairs or groups with a leader at all times and stay aware of your surroundings.

Group members will not need to bring money with them when they leave the housing site. Leaders may bring some emergency money if they wish.

Do not give out your home address or phone number.

Ministry Sites

- These are the focal points to your time from spending time with children to cleaning up back yards we hope God uses you fully.
- We work with both religious and secular organizations in Chicago. We ask that if you are at a site that asks us not to verbally "preach the gospel" that you let your actions "preach the gospel."

Please do not yell or gesture out the windows of the van or housing site, or while you are walking around the city. Your actions could lead to a misunderstanding, could be offensive to someone or may put your group in danger.

RESTAURANTS

Our ethnic restaurants are family owned businesses and they are proud to present their culture and food to our groups. Please be respectful and keep all negative comments to yourself.



**WE ARE THEREFORE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS, AS
THOUGH GOD WERE MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH US.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES

Ask permission before taking any photographs. Some children are not legally able to have their picture taken and some people may not want their picture taken.

Stay aware of your surroundings while walking down the street. It's a good idea to look a block ahead of you.

Please respect all the cultures you will encounter by not telling racist jokes, or reinforcing stereotypes you may have.

Too much friendly attention to the opposite sex may miscommunicate. Remember, customs are different here.

FINAL DETAILS

WHAT TO BRING:

Sleeping bag, pillow, air mattress (optional) - Personal toiletries (towels, soap, etc.)
Bible, pen and journal
Work clothes (at least one pair of pants!)
Close toed shoes (no crocs)
Fans for summer groups
Swim suits for summer & spring groups (one-piece suits for females)

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

iPods, cell phones (students only), DVD players, expensive electronics
Anything that is not replaceable or that has significant value (jewelry, etc.)
A lot of money (CSM T-shirts are available for \$15-\$20)
Short shorts or shirts, tank tops, tight clothing

HEALTH/FIRST AID INFORMATION:

- Please advise CSM staff of any allergies/medical conditions of your group members upon arrival and report all injuries (minor or major) to your CSM host.
- All members for groups serving more than 2 days during the week must have a TB test prior to the trip.
- All CSM staff are certified in First Aid and CPR and are equipped with First Aid kits.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Groups are housed on the campus of North Park University, in the Albany Park neighborhood. We use one 2-flat apartment building year-round, and 2 six flats during the summer. The housing site is not air conditioned, so you may want to bring fans.
- One building has bunk beds, the other 2 buildings have very limited beds, so be prepared to sleep on the floor (you may bring air mattresses). All groups should bring their own bedding/sleeping bags.
- Showers are taken at the North Park University locker rooms during the spring and summer season. During the fall and winter season showers are taken in the housing site. Your group will have a scheduled time each day to shower. Male group members who come in the spring and summer must bring swim trunks to shower in because the male locker room showers are communal.
- Your group will most likely be sharing the housing space with other groups, so please be prepared to communicate and cooperate so that all will go smoothly.
- Whenever you leave the housing site, please make sure doors/ windows are locked.

What to Pray for...

As you make your preparations for your mission trip to Chicago:

- Pray for your CSM host and for the staff at CSM. Pray for the ministry sites where you're scheduled to go. Pray for the personnel at those ministry sites.
- Pray for Chicago. Pray especially for the poor, the homeless and for those struggling with daily survival. Pray for racial reconciliation and pray for souls to be saved.
- Pray for the members of your group. Pray that you will remain healthy in body, mind and spirit. Pray also that God will begin to prepare the hearts and minds of the members of your group.
- Pray for the safety of the group. We have yet to have a student threatened or accosted while at a ministry site, and we strongly believe it's because God is watching over us.
- Pray that God will grant you all the resources you need to be effective ministers and witnesses here in the city. "And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (II Cor. 9:8).

Fund Raising

The Cost is \$400.00 -

The sign up Deposit will be \$100.00 -

Each student will be required to pay \$100.00 of their own money

We will write support letters to send to family and friends to raise the rest of the funding.

We will also put together a Board on the back wall at LifeHouse, where people can pick a student to sponsor.

4 Pre Trip Meetings - 12:30pm - Pete's House

March 11, April 8, May 6, May 27

Deadline to Sign Up - March 4

Contacts

The CSM office

5047 N. Spaulding Ave. 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60625
(773) 244-5224

Our Location

Center for Student Missions
5023 N. Spaulding Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

Emergency Contacts

Hannah Schultz - Chicago City Director (773) 851-3123
Pete Bond - LifeHouse Youth Pastor (419) 605-8976

