

2019 Circuit Mission Trip Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which trip should my student register for?

- a. Current grade 7 & 8 students – Jr Circuit mission trip
- b. Current Grade 9-11 – Sr Circuit Mission trip
- c. Current Grade 12 – young adult - YAM Trip (Young Adult Ministry)

2. Why are there 3 trips?

In past years, the current grade 12 students have been invited to the Sr Circuit trip, even though they will have graduated when the trip occurs. The YAM trip invites them to bond with other college students and young adults as they prepare for their next chapter. It also opens up additional spots for grades 9-11 on the Sr Circuit Trip, since, historically, there has been a large waiting list. In short, we are thrilled to offer YAM Trip 2019 as a next step for young adults graduating in 2019 or before!

3. Do “Alternates” actually get to go on the trip?

Yes – very often they do. Last year, the majority of the students who were on the initial waiting list were offered spots in the months after registration.

4. Who is our mission trip partner?

We partner with an organization called Next Step Ministries. Next Step focuses on one-week mission trips that connect students to the community where they will be serving. For more information check out their website. [Link](#)

5. Why choose Next Step?

The Circuit has been partnering with Next Step for many years and we continue to do so because of the success and life-change we have seen in our students after the trips. One reason we choose to work with Next Step is their commitment to be a part of the community. We believe that God is already at work in these places and want to join in what God is doing. Next Step strives to partner with the community to create a sustainable and positive change. For more information, watch Next Step’s “Why Choose Us” video. [Link](#)

6. What is travel like?

Students will travel in 12 passenger vans, with, typically, 2 leaders and 10 students. Student request for friends is considered, but not guaranteed in making van assignments. Vans will stop along the route for food and bathroom breaks. Any money spent at the stops is the responsibility of the student or parent. Please ensure your student has money for these stops. These vans are also used to transport the students at the Mission Trip sites.

7. What are the accommodations?

Our partner Next Step Ministries, houses us in a church or school for the week. Students are encouraged to bring an air mattress to sleep on. The Sr trip is a two-day drive, so students will spend a night at a YMCA or community center along the route. Showers are usually in shower trailers onsite with individual shower stalls. Shower times are scheduled and divided up among male/female and students/leaders.

8. What kind of projects will my student be doing?

At this time, specific projects have not been determined. The three areas of service that the trips focus on are construction, community activities/immersion, and relational ministry. Examples of projects include painting, building wheelchair ramps, community outreach, repair and remodeling of shelters, etc...

9. What does a typical day look like on a mission trip?

7am -- Wake Up
7:15 -- breakfast/ pack lunches
8:00 -- Morning Devotions
8:15 -- depart for work sites
12pm -- lunch and devotions
4:00 -- clean worksite and return home
4:30 -- shower time, free time
6:00 -- dinner
7:00 -- free time
8:00 -- worship
9:00 -- small groups
9:45 -- church time/ free time
11:00 lights out

10. Can food allergies be accommodated?

Yes! Please inform staff of any allergies well in advance to give us time to work with Next Step about food accommodations. In certain cases, we may request that food be sent along to supplement what Next Step provides. You can designate these allergies on your registration form, and also on the 2 required forms for the trip.

11. How is medication handled on the trips?

For both Jr Circuit and Sr Circuit trips, we ask that **ALL** prescription medication be turned in on the day of check-in. Parents will be asked to provide dosage instruction, and to only send the amount needed for the duration of the trip. Prescription medication will be administered by a leader on the trip. Students may have over the counter medications like Tylenol, Benadryl, etc... in the bag.

12. How will I get updated about the trip while the students are gone?

Parents have the opportunity to subscribe to a text message group that will provide periodic updates on what is happening. The Circuit page on facebook will update throughout the week as well.

13. How is student safety handled on the trip?

Your student's safety is our number one priority, and we always consider student safety in making decisions. While on the trip we trust NextStep in making safety determinations, as they are established and working in the communities. Because Next Step works through strong community partners and with a strategic schedule, students are kept safe when in the community. The Next Step approach is "to work in well-known areas, with well-known partners at appropriate times of the day." Specific safety rules and demonstrations related to work projects are given on site.

14. Can I register as a chaperone or leader?

Thanks for your interest! We have lots of opportunities for parents to help support these trips. Typically, we take our Circuit leaders on the trips. We know them, they know your students, and they have completed the necessary paperwork and background checks. If you are interested in becoming a leader at the Circuit (helping 1-4 times / month), contact cpitzer@sov.church to discuss options.

15. Why can't my student pick who is in their mission trip groups?

Great question. This is a mission trip, which focuses on one community (our students) working together to make long-term, positive change in another community, in the name of Jesus Christ. Our students need to get to know other students to strengthen our community. They need to stretch themselves in order to grow in their faith and friendships. We do ask students to give us names of others they are friends with so we can consider this in their van groups. Project teams and mission trip small groups are more random, intentionally, so they can make new friends and build community.

16. Why is it a random drawing versus first come, first served for registration?

In 2018, we changed our process to allow for a random drawing, should interest exceed the number of available spots for a specific trip. In past years, trips filled up in minutes, and left many students and families surprised and disappointed. If you were not available to register the minute it went live, or had technical difficulties of any kind, you had little chance of getting a spot. This is a mission trip, and the process should not feel like purchasing concert tickets. We want everyone to have equal chance to experience these trips.

