

Houston 2018
(July 14-21)
Application Packet

HOUSTON 2018 A WORD FROM THE TEAM LEADERS

I think we were all captivated by what was happening in the world this past summer. From wildfires to earthquakes to racial tensions and hurricanes, there was a lot of reason to feel fearful. Yet, we have reason to hope. We hope in a God who does not let anything go unseen, who is not surprised by anything. We hope in a God who has made it His mission to bring about the redemption of the world. We hope in a God who made a way for us to be in relationship with Him when there was no way, when it was impossible, when the price seemed just too high. We have hope that we are moving towards perfection, towards paradise, towards a day without fear and pain.

But we also have the hope that God's work is not set towards some distant future, but is present in us and through us. How else will those far away from Him hear of His love unless we tell them? Who else will go and love the unloved, the outcast, the marginalized, and the broken?

The effect of Hurricane Harvey on the Houston area was profound, with more than 20 trillion gallons of water falling across Texas and Louisiana, which is enough water to supply New York City's needs for five decades. Nearly 200,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by Harvey. Texas Governor Greg Abbot indicated that his state would need in excess of 125 billion dollars in federal relief money.

These are just a few of the numbers. But these numbers fail to paint the most important portrait; that of the people who have been affected. They are the ones with whom we have the chance to go and share God's love by partnering with them and others to meet their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

We go because there is need. But we also go because Christ told us to go. It is He who compels us. It is His love in our hearts that we desire to grow and fan into flame a passion for all who bear His image, whether Houston, Tri-Cities, or halfway across the world. May His love lead us.

In Christ,

Ben Downey

Kim Baldwin

John Campbell

Steve Critchlow

Sandra Critchlow

Susan Birney

APPLICATION

Houston 2018

Name _____ Birth date ____/____/____
 First (given) Middle Initial Last

Address _____ Phone _____

Email: _____ T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Place of Employment (if working) or School _____

Year in School _____ How long have you attended your church _____

1. What do you participate in at church?: _____

2. In what areas/ministries do you serve at church? _____

3. List your school and community involvements: _____

4. Share how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. _____

5. How are you different as a follower of Jesus than before you gave your life to Him? _____

6. How have you grown in your relationship with Christ in the last year? _____

7. What are you currently doing to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ? (i.e., daily devotions, memorizing scripture, prayer, witnessing, etc.) _____

8. Why do you want to go on this trip _____

9. What are your goals for this trip? _____

10. State your own personal interest or attitude toward missions _____

11. What do you consider your strengths? _____

12. What do you consider to be some of your growth areas? _____

13. Do you have any physical limitations? (i.e. respiratory problems, etc.) _____

14. Have you ever suffered from any serious illness or injury? _____

15. Do you take ANY medication on a regular basis? _____

The candidate's PARENT should comment here on the following:

Do you support this project 100%? _____

Why do you want your son or daughter to go? _____

How does your son/daughter handle responsibilities? _____

How does your son/daughter respond to authority? _____

What is your son's/daughter's strongest character quality? _____

What is your son's daughter's weakest character quality? _____

What was the subject of the last argument you had with your son/daughter? _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____

This application and a \$50.00 non-refundable* deposit MUST be turned in by Sunday, January 14th, 2018.

I have read all the above information and have answered the questions honestly and to the best of my ability. I understand that turning in this application in no way secures my position on the Houston 2018 Team and that in good faith I am committing to completion of the entire application process and, in turn, the team training/development program.

Further more, I give the right to use my picture, voice and/or testimony in any form of promotional advertising materials. My enclosed signature (*and signature of my parent/legal guardian if I am under the age of 18*) signifies authorization.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Legal Guardian: _____ Date: ____/____/____
(If applicant is under 18)

WEST SIDE STUDENT MINISTRY

Houston 2018 Deputation

I give permission for my child _____
to accompany West Side student ministry throughout the mission trip to Houston, TX, from July 14 through July 21st, 2018. Transportation will be plane, and by van and/or private vehicle, driven by West Side student ministry leaders and/or parents. I will not hold West Side church or the adult leaders or parents responsible in the event of personal injury or accidental death.

Signed _____ Phone _____ Date _____
(parent or legal guardian)

Houston 2018 – Mission Covenant

I, _____, do covenant and pledge to conduct myself according to the following standards and to fulfill, to the best of my ability, the following requirements.

My behavior will be characterized by **respect**.

Respect for adult leadership. This means that I will maintain a submissive and obedient spirit toward **all Houston 2018** adult leaders and to the rules that they implement and enforce.

Respect for a diverse team. This means that I will view others, with all of their differences, as more important than myself and treat the other team members with compassion, patience and kindness.

Respect for the city. This means that I will keep to myself any cynical opinions and negative criticisms about the people I encounter during the trip.

My preparation will be characterized by **persistence**.

Persistence in attendance of and participation in Team activities (Meetings: 1/21 – Interviews, 2/11 – Meeting #1, 3/16-18 – Retreat, 4/22 – Meeting #2, 4/28 – Missions Fundraiser, 5/20 – Meeting #3, 6/10 – Meeting #4, 6/17 – Meeting #5, 7/8 – Meeting #6 (if needed))

Persistence in my personal spiritual preparation by maintaining a discipline of daily devotions and prayer, presence at all worship services and participation in all student ministries (as possible).

Persistence in completing all assignments given to me as a part of the team (i.e., memory verses, workbooks, devotionals, etc.).

My participation will be characterized by **Christ-likeness**.

Christ-like in my attitude. This means that I will seek to serve others before myself. Having an unselfish spirit, laying aside my desires, maintaining a positive outlook, willing to learn, being thankful, flexible and cooperative . . . doing all things without grumbling or complaining.

Christ-like in my actions. This means I will commit all my energies and priorities to serving God and others. I will depend on the indwelling and empowering of the Holy Spirit to grant me discernment and wisdom in all of my words and deeds.

Having read the “Discipline Policy” and the above standards and requirements, *I do covenant and pledge, to God, to the adult leaders, to my teammates, and to the people I will serve, that I will devote myself to the task and mission of **Houston 2018**.*

Participant Signature

Date

Parents - Please sign below indicating that you have read the above participant expectations and that you have dually noted all the meetings listed above, recorded them on your family calendar and have written any/all dates of conflict and included them with this document.

Parent Signature (**Please read and record the meeting dates listed above**)

Date

Please write down any conflicts you have with the meeting dates and include them with the application.

***Please detach and keep the rest of this application for yourself, turning in only the above portion**

HOUSTON 2018 DISCIPLINE POLICY

EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR:

- P** Prompt - participants are expected to respect each other by being on time.
- R** Responsible - participants are expected to do whatever is required as a servant.
- I** Initiative - participants are expected to offer help without having to be asked.
- O** Organize - Participants are expected to keep their belongings and their team belongings orderly.
- R** Relationships - Participants are expected to spend no more than 40% of their time with any one person. Always in groups of no less than three when away from the rest of the team. There will be NO romantic relationships or expressions among those who are not married.
- I** Injury - any injuries are expected to be reported immediately to the nearest adult.
- T** Talk - participants are expected to talk with kind and gracious words and to stop talking when asked by a leader.
- I** "I" is usually the problem - yield your rights and submit to each other.
- E** Enthusiasm - participants are expected to choose this attitude. Even when tired and fatigued, an attitude is something we can control.
- S** Sleep - Participants are expected to strictly obey instructions given regarding lights out.

GENERAL "NO, NO'S"

For the sake of unity, safety and spiritual growth **we ask you not to bring:** Electronic games, tablets, illicit drugs, fireworks or weapons.

DISCIPLINE PROCESS

The following is the discipline process to be implemented for behavior that does not call for the immediate action of sending the person home:

1. **Confrontation** after first offense.

The person will be given a chance to explain their behavior.

The behavior expectation will be explained to and repeated by the offender.

2. **Explanation** after the second offense

The person will be given a chance to explain their behavior.

The behavior expectation will be explained again and a consequence for a third offense will be determined and agreed upon.

This will be done in the presence of at least two leaders.

3. **Dispensation** of discipline after third offense

It will be relevant to the offense (as agreed upon in step two) and expeditious.

This will be done in the presence of the same two leaders.

4. **Expulsion** from the mission trip and sent home (at the individual's expense)

The person who is unwilling to live according to the behavior expectations outlined in this document and is in open rebellion (exhibited by their unwillingness to submit to the deputation leadership) will be sent home at their own expense.

IMMEDIATE EXPULSION

Any person caught with drugs, drinking alcoholic beverages, stealing, or involved in fornication or adultery will be immediately sent home at their own expense.

HOUSTON 2018 COST

The trip will be \$1,700 per person. We are asking that each family put down a \$50 non-refundable deposit with the submission of this application.

On top of the \$50 deposit, we will be asking that each family contribute or raise half of this cost. This can be accomplished primarily through letter writing. We will setup computers and laptops at one of our meetings for students to write letters to make this process smoother. But we will need you as the parents to help your child succeed at identifying recipients of the letters as well as the addressing and mailing of those letters. Students may also work to raise the money by mowing lawns, babysitting, selling items at garage sales, etc. The goal is to help students become invested in the trip, working towards a goal and accomplishing it. For your convenience we have broken up the cost of the personal support/letter writing into two target dates by which you should hope to receive the money.

The deputation team will be partnering with adult missions to fundraise support for the other half of the cost.

If everything is done right, primarily between the letter writing and fundraising, our hope is that the only financial burden on you as a family is the \$50 deposit with this application.

Cost Timeline	
Date	\$ Due
January 14 th , 2018	\$50 non-refundable deposit due
April 22 nd , 2018	\$425 – personal support/letter writing
April 28 th , 2018	\$850 – Fundraising Event
June 10 th , 2018	\$425 – personal support/letter writing

Any money that is raised for West Side missions that exceeds the overall cost of this trip will go towards future mission trips and projects.

HOUSTON 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

We will be meeting approximately 8 times before our July 14th departure date. We will meet after Sunday school in January, February, April, May, and June, we will travel to Ingalls Creek Enrichment center in March for our annual Deputation Retreat, and we will participate in the missions fundraising event in April. The details and dates are listed below.

Meeting Schedule	
Date	Type of meeting
Sunday, January 21 st	Interviews
Sunday, February 11 th	Training, 11-12:30pm, HS room
Fri-Sun, March 16-18 th	Ingalls Creek Retreat, 3pm-3pm
Sunday, April 22 nd	Training 11-12:30pm, HS room
Saturday, April 28 th	Missions Fundraising Event
Sunday, May 20 th	Training 11-12:30pm, HS room
Sunday, June 10 th	Training 11-12:30pm, HS room
Sunday, June 17 th	Training 11-12:30pm, HS room
Sunday, July 8 th (as needed)	Training 11-12:30pm, HS room

All participants are expected to attend all trainings in order to participate in the mission trip. If there is a schedule conflict, talk with Pastor Ben.

As this trip is meant to be a catalyst towards a lifestyle of missions, also be on the lookout for follow up meetings to help continue the momentum created by this trip.

Post Trip Schedule	
Saturday, August 4 th	Deputation Reunion #1, 6-8pm
Sunday, August 5 th	Deputation Sunday
Saturday, September 8 th	Deputation Reunion #2, 6-8pm

*All dates are subject to change. As much advanced notice will be given as possible.

HOUSTON 2018 Pastor's Letter

Dear Supporter,

This summer, from July 14-21, our youth group will be traveling to Houston, TX to serve the community and help them with the continued rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Harvey. Our plan is to take about 20 students and help them figure out what God is doing in the world, and help them to see the role they have in making a difference. Because of the cost of transportation, food, lodging, supplies, etc., the cost for each student is \$1,700.

We are partnering with a mission organization called Praying Pelican Missions, who are already on the ground there partnering with a local church. We hope to come alongside the work that is already happening and continue to bring about the relief that is still needed.

But our aim is not only to bless Houston, but to help enrich our students' lives with the idea that they can be on mission all 52 weeks of the year, blessing anyone and everyone they meet. Your support, prayers, and encouragement will go a long way towards meeting this goal.

Thank you for taking the time to consider supporting this student. It is our prayer that you would be blessed by this opportunity. I look forward to you getting to hear all about what God is doing from the student you supported/know. Thank you and God bless!

In Christ,



Ben Downey

Director of Student Ministries
West Side Church

HOUSTON 2018 SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Dear (Name here),

This summer, from July 14-21, I am traveling with my church youth group to Houston, TX. We will be partnering with a mission organization called Praying Pelican Missions. They are already there in Houston partnering with several different churches and organizations to help bring about the relief and rebuilding that the community needs.

It is my hope to not only serve others, but to grow as a person and as a follower of Jesus. As we reach into the lives of those who have lost and help them rebuild, I hope that God continues to open my eyes to all the need around me, to all the people who have lost something and need hope. And I hope that I will learn how to act.

In order to do this, I will need your help. The cost of the trip is \$1,700, which I need to have by June 10th. Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. Any amount I raise over the needed cost will go towards helping other members of my team reach their goal, or the overall missions fund for my youth group.

Thank you for taking the time to consider being a part of this awesome opportunity. Whether you can make a financial donation or not, I am asking that you be in prayer for what God is doing. Thank you and God bless!

In Christ,

(Your name here)

HOUSTON 2018 – Support

I (we) would like to support _____
(missionary name)

through Prayer through Prayer and financially with the enclosed gift of \$_____.

financially with the enclosed gift of \$_____.

(Note: Financial gifts are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to West Side Church ATTN Youth Deputation, and returned with this form to: West Side Church, 615 Wright Ave, Richland WA 99352)

Contact Information (Note: For confidentiality reasons, ONLY the contact information you provide on this form will be made available to the missionary/team.)

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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