

Bogota, Colombia Youth Mission Trip 2018

Why do we value short term missions?

We are all on mission with God. We have this amazing opportunity to partner with Him in His redemptive mission here on earth. Our mission starts right here in Wenatchee and becomes global as God calls us to other parts of the world. Short Term Mission Trips give us the opportunity to see what God is already doing in other parts of the world. We can learn to be good partners with Christians already in these places.

This year, we want to give our students exposure and training to cross cultural ministry in Bogota, Colombia. Because of the spiritual nature of these trips, we want to make sure all who go are called by God to join Him. To help us determine this, please follow these requirements:

1. Fill out a Mission Trip Application.
2. Attend all of the required Team Training meetings.
3. Recruit a Support Team for financial and prayer support.
4. Be responsible for your financial commitment to this trip.
5. Participate in the Team Fundraiser events.
6. Humble yourself before God and the team in order to hear from God through the whole process of the trip.

As you commit yourself to this process, you will see God work in amazing ways! He is already at work putting together these trips. Please spend time in prayer as you consider joining Him in what He is already doing in Bogota, Colombia.

The Purpose of the trip:

- To give teenagers in our student ministries the opportunity to experience overseas missions and develop a missionary mindset
- To practice discipleship, service, evangelism in a team context
- To promote spiritual formation and development in the hearts and lives of the participants
- To encourage, assist, and bless the Bogota Free Methodist church
- To minister to young girls rescued from poverty and sex trafficking (The Beehive)
- To develop a cross-cultural spiritual bond with our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Bogota church

Dates and Cost:

Mission Trip Dates: June 22 - July 2, 2018 Cost: \$2,200

Cost includes: Round trip airfare from Seattle to Bogota, all ground transportation, all meals, all accommodations, travel insurance, materials for the work project, and various ministry expenses.

Application and \$200 non-refundable deposit due by Sunday, February 18

Estimated Flight Itinerary

UNITED AIRLINES:

JUNE 22 LV SEATTLE 8:15AM AR HOUSTON 2:30PM
LV HOUSTON 3:35PM AR BOGOTA 8:45PM

JULY 2 LV BOGOTA 7:50AM AR HOUSTON 1:10PM
LV HOUSTON 2:30PM AR SEATTLE 5:25PM

1 checked bag & carry on per passenger- not to exceed size and weight restrictions per United Airlines.

Required Documents Checklist

- Passport (and 2 copies)
- VISA Ministries Team Registration Form (completed electronically)
- VISA Ministries Waiver and Release of Liability Form (**notarized**)
- Background Check (for those 18 and over)

** Completed documents will be due May 18th*

General Info and Guidelines

- Be prepared to be very flexible. Plans may change daily!
- Be on time every time. Each night the following day's schedule will be discussed.
- Stay together at all times. Never leave the group without first talking to your group leader.
- Do not give out money, toys or candy to anyone unless specifically told to do so by the a leader.
- Practice or learn some Spanish.
- Be prepared to share your testimony at any time.
- Look to God to do something amazing in your life on this trip!

About BOGOTA

Bogotá is a city of contrasts. It's a city of high-rise buildings standing next to colonial churches; a city of universities, theaters and shantytowns. It is a mixture of influences, Spanish and English and Indian; a city of great wealth and material well-being and abject poverty. It is a city of wild traffic and calm oases reflecting a bygone day. It is a modern city with futuristic architecture, graffiti and congestion; restaurants, bookstores and street vendors peddling emeralds, thieves, beggars, and street people wrapped around the inner core of the old city. *Bogotá is the largest city in Colombia, and one of the biggest in Latin America. Population lies between 8 and 9 million.



The Ministry

The trip will be relationship-oriented, not work-oriented. A high priority for the church is to keep The Beehive girls active during their vacation time. The girls range in age from 5 yrs to 18 yrs. Ministry to these girls means spending time with them - they receive love through games, crafts, playing in the local parks, and special outings. The local culture places high value on relationship. Talking, relating, offering words of encouragement and blessing are the ways in which Colombians receive love. Therefore, we will not focus on construction projects. Instead, we'll devote a lot of our time to the girls.

We will solicit donations of clothing, household items, crafts, games, and school supplies. Hopefully we'll take lots of stuff with us and give them as gifts to the girls.

One day we'll go on a special outing to a zoo/amusement park. Another day we'll walk to one of the largest outdoor parks in Latin America.

Throughout our stay, we'll talk with the girls about their faith in Jesus. We'll reinforce the discipleship already taking place at the Beehive.

Other activities include:

- Partner with the church to conduct outreach events in Bosa, a neighborhood of 1 million people
- Take a tourist day to sightsee around Bogota, especially downtown, the city center, main plaza, and cable car to a mountain high above the city
- We'll learn about inner city poverty, sex trafficking, urban crime, violence, corruption, and of ongoing conflict between rich and poor
- We'll meet each night to debrief and encourage one another
- We'll study a daily devotional guide to help interpret the spiritual aspects of the mission
- We'll experience physical and mental exhaustion at the end of each day!

Since the team doesn't speak much Spanish, specific activities can include skits, face painting, balloons, clowning, crafts, etc. This team will have a significant role in organizing the ministry week and activities, utilizing our creativity and specific gifts.

Passport Information

Passports are required to enter Colombia. Students and leaders must apply for their passport plenty of time in advance. We feel it would be in our best interest if we have paperwork that is beyond their requirements. Please go to the local post office for current pricing and time frame to obtain your passport, or visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport/> for specific information. While on the trip, passports will be collected and kept by assigned leader(s).

Currency

The official currency of Colombia is the peso (\$). \$1 US Dollar is equivalent to about \$3300 Colombian pesos. The group leader will let you know when and where you may exchange money. It is best to exchange small amounts at a time. We recommend \$50 – \$100 maximum for souvenirs and personal spending.

Housing

Our mission team will be staying at hotel near the church we're partnering with.

Meals

Tentative: Majority of the meals will be provided at the Beehive. The church will make arrangements to provide plenty of food. It will be typical Colombian food- rice, potatoes, chicken, fruit, soup.

Clothing

We ask that each person would help us stay above reproach in this area. What may not be a problem in the USA can be identified as a problem in this culture. You will need to rise above your personal preferences to overcome any perception problems that could occur in the area of modesty.

There are no laundry facilities available; we would use a Laundromat for an emergency only. Do not plan on doing your laundry.

Items to Pack

- Bible, pen, notebook/journal
- Alarm Clock (Battery powered)
- Travel size personal hygiene products
- Sun block, hat, sunglasses
- Light jacket or sweatshirt
- Dirty clothes bag
- Camera, batteries
- Flashlight, batteries
- Closed toed shoes
- Comfortable walking shoes (*Do not bring only flip flops*)
- Spending Money (\$50 - \$100)
- Necessary medications **All medical concerns must be declared on the signed release form*

TELEPHONE CALLS

There will not be any telephones available for personal use. *In the event of an emergency*, a leader will have a cell phone available to make or receive calls (ONLY FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES). Students and Leaders: ***please refrain from taking cell phones on the trip.*** If you take a cell phone, please know that you may incur charges for roaming calls & texts at international rates *even if you do not use the phone during the trip.* Check with your service provider for information.

Mission Trip Application

Bogota, Colombia
June 22 – July 2, 2018

Name: First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell Phone Carrier: _____

Email: _____

Birthdate: _____ Age _____ Grade in School: _____

Parent's Names: _____

1. Why would you like to join the team on this trip and what affirmations have you had regarding this trip?

2. Describe your journey of faith:

Life Before Christ:

How you came to know Christ:

How Christ has changed your life since:

3. What have you been learning in your faith over the past 3 months?

4. Please Circle the areas below where you have gifting and/or ministry experience?

Cross-Cultural (previous participation in an overseas trip)

Teaching

Music/Drama/Puppetry

Construction/Renovation

Spanish Language

5. What do you expect or hope for on a trip like this, personally and spiritually?

6. What are your fears/concerns regarding this trip?

7. Briefly describe an experience you have had outside of your own comfort zone:

8. Are you prepared to follow the guidance of the team leader and national leaders? Does this give you any cause for concern?

9. Do you have any questions for us?

By signing this application you commit to be at the team trainings and to participate in, and help put together, team fundraisers.

*** Total cost of the mission trip per participant: \$2,200**

\$200 non-refundable deposit required with submission of this application by February 18, 2018

Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____