

Shepherd Community Mission Trip 2023 – April 21-23

Purpose: To support our mission partner in serving our neighbors on the near East side of Indianapolis and learn from them about life in poverty.

Who is this trip for?

This trip is open for all current middle school and high school students.

What will we be doing?

We will be working with our partners at Shepherd to serve and minister to our neighbors. Friday will be an arrival and intro day where we simply get settled, go over the expectations. On Saturday we will help run their food pantry by preparing breakfast for the neighbors and distributing the food to those who come. After the food pantry we will get to hear from one of Shepherd's people about what life in poverty is like before we go out into the community for a physical project in the afternoon. Saturday evening, we will have a fun activity and some bonding time before waking up Sunday morning to cook another meal for the neighbors, go to church, work another project, and debrief the experience. Each night we will be sleeping in the Shepherd Community Church. A rough draft of the schedule is included on the back, but it is subject to change as the trip gets closer according to the needs of Shepherd and their neighbors.

Why go?

Jesus' last words to His followers before He returned to heaven in Matthew 28:19-20 were *"¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

This trip gives students an opportunity to respond to Jesus' command right here in our own community. Students will learn how to be the hands and feet of Jesus and what it is like for people who live differently from them even in their own state. Mission trips give us a front row seat in what God is doing in the lives of others, teaches us empathy and compassion for people who are different than us, and get us out of our comfort zone where God can push us to grow. I firmly believe that every person should do mission trips, and this is the perfect introduction to mission trips for students since it is local, safe, and relatively cheap.

(Also, if your student wants to go on the Columbia trip with us in October, they must go on a domestic mission trip with me first. If they didn't go to Shepherd last year, this trip is a required prerequisite to the Columbia trip).

What's the cost?

Along with setting aside time, comfort, and pride to humble ourselves in service, this trip will cost \$100. That cost covers 2 nights in the Shepherd facility, 6 meals, materials for our projects, a t-shirt, and our fun activities. If the cost might be a burden for your family, please contact Pastor Nate about a scholarship for your student. We want every student who wants to go to be able to go and have generous scholarships available to make that happen.

Rough Draft Shepherd Schedule

Friday – April 21

6pm - Arrive

6-6:30 - Unpack

6:30-7 - Review the handbook

7-8 - Dinner

8-9 - Games and Devotional

9- rest of the night; Showers, free time, etc

Saturday – April 22

7:15-11 - Pantry. Half will cook a meal and serve it to our neighbors. The other half will shop with our neighbors in the pantry

11:30-12:30 - Lunch

12:30-2pm 10 Assets Lesson with Tim Street

2:30-5 - Afternoon Job

5-6 - Dinner

6-9 - Explore the circle and the canal, ending with a devotional

9pm- Head back to the church

9:30-rest of the night; showers, free time, etc

Sunday – April 23

8- Cook Breakfast for neighbors

9:30-10:30- Serve Breakfast to neighbors

10:30-11:30 - Church Service

11:45-12:45 - Lunch

1-3 - Afternoon Job

3-4 Debrief