

Mission Trip to STR Agreement with Youth Pastor/Group Leader

As the leader of your church group, you have much discretion here at the Ranch. However, we have learned from experience, that for a successful ministry week, the items below need to be non-negotiable. These items help insure workers are adequately prepared and there are fewer surprises and events that cause distraction from focus on the mission. Your help is greatly appreciated.

- Training session dates (4 - see Preparation Steps) will be set and publicized by you to your church no less than two months prior to the start of the trip so people don't miss training due to lack of information. They should also know that the trip starts on Sunday with an onsite logistics training session. People should understand that these trainings are required in order to participate in the trip.
- Adults, 18+, will fill out the online STR volunteer application and Day Camp Details form so we can run a background check. For the youth, they may also fill out the applications or you will submit a list of names, ages, possible placement (teacher, counselor, support staff, etc.), and shirt sizes in addition to the STR emergency info/parental consent form. These must be in to STR no less than four weeks prior to the start of the mission trip. (This helps STR recruit workers to fill in the positions not being covered by your group.) Placement of your volunteers is made by STR Staff with your recommendations. We try to keep groups together as much as possible, but we can't guarantee that everyone will be able to stay together. We have to put the needs of the campers first. We will not isolate one person.
- Those who will have a teaching or music role need to have their materials in hand no less than three weeks prior to the start of the trip. They need to be held accountable to have learned/practiced their material well in advance. In agreeing to the mission trip to STR, you agree to use our teaching materials and music (additions are usually fine, please send any additions to us for approval).
- There will be at least three adults staying the evening/night with the youth volunteers so they are adequately supervised at all times (adults should stagger showers, etc. so someone is always supervising). These may be volunteers who only come for the evenings or who are in charge of your group's breakfasts/dinners and evening supervision. We do need to know their names, phone number and they must have a background check.
- There might be local youth working at the Ranch who commute each day. We allow these youth to stay to swim and fellowship until 6pm on Monday and Tuesday while there is an STR manager on campus, or one of their parents who is a volunteer. On Wed, Thurs and Fri they may stay until 9pm, only with permission from their parents and you. If you do not wish them to be integrated into your group for the evening, tell the STR manager on duty, and they will tell the youth when they need to plan on leaving. If you consent to their presence, they must adhere to your group's guidelines, and you must be willing to take full responsibility for their supervision, including one of your adult workers being in communication with their parents if necessary. Commuting youth may not spend the night with your group under any circumstances.
- There will be no tent camping since rain and heat cause loss of sleep, and time and energy spent in caring for wet stuff takes away from the energy focused on the mission purpose. STR provides housing options, including two bunk houses for larger groups and full hook-up RV sites for your RV. Smaller groups may need to share housing with another group.

Youth Pastors/Group Leaders need to be in philosophical agreement with the STR method and schedule of counseling children for salvation. Specifically, each camper is counseled one-on-one before the week is over, using the Wordless Book method popularized by Child Evangelism Fellowship with additional teaching on Lordship. Training is conducted by STR, and youth pastors determine which people in their group are able to help with counseling. Time for counseling is provided on the daily schedules with the most emphasis being on Thursday after there has been time (Monday through Wednesday) for relationship building.

Youth Pastor/Group Leader Signature

Date

Camp week reserved
(June 12-17, June 26-July 1,
July 10-15, July 24-29)

Other responsible adult helping with the church mission trip

Date

(Copies should be kept by the youth pastor and other responsible adult.)