

MISSOURI IMPACT/HIGH SCHOOL GO TEAM PARTICIPANT 2023 FAQ

Application Deadline: Thursday, January 12, 2023

Trip Dates: July 15-21, 2023

Trip ID# MO0723

IMPACT MINISTRY

B BLACKHAWK CHURCH

Apply online at blackhawk.church/serve/world/

What are we doing?

Camp Barnabas is a unique ministry providing Christian camping experiences to individuals with special needs and chronic illnesses, along with their families. Both campers and those that serve the campers are provided ministry and social experiences that increase spiritual knowledge, social learning, and human dignity. Their goal is to show others the love of Christ in every aspect of their ministry.

Our main objective for this summer team is to come alongside Camp Barnabas campers to show them unconditional love, build relationships with them, and care for the needs of the campers during the week. Older students are paired as one-on-one counselors with a camper. Younger students may serve in behind the scenes in helping the camp run smoothly. Adult leaders over age 30 will serve as "cabin parents" to help support and guide the students serving as well as the campers. Adult leaders under age 30 will also serve one-on-one with campers.

This is an opportunity for Blackhawk students to grow in their leadership and interpersonal skills, as well as an opportunity for significant personal spiritual growth and exploration.

What are the dates?

We will be leaving 7/15/2023 and returning 7/21/2023.

How is the team selected/when will I be notified?

Applications will be accepted until Thursday, January 12. Our plan is to notify individuals of their application status within 3-4 weeks of the deadline. It is important to fill out the application in its entirety; *an incomplete application (e.g. lacking reference addresses) will not be considered.* Typically, the number of applicants exceeds the size limit of the team.

How many people are on a typical team?

Approximately 10 students and 4-5 adult leaders per team.

How much will it cost and how will I pay for my trip?

Each participant will have an individual support raising goal. We're estimating this goal to be between \$1200-1400, however we may alert you to changes in this goal at the first team meeting once the final number of team members is determined. This includes transportation and lodging at Camp Barnabas, meals, etc. All funds support the entire team and we'll work together to reach our goal. The team leader will help you raise funds through support letters that can be sent to parents, extended family, friends, co-workers, teachers, coaches etc. *Each team member is expected to send 70-90 support letters.* Instructions will be given soon after the team is finalized.

Where do we stay?

We will spend most of our time in Purdy, Missouri. We will stay at the Camp Barnabas facilities. Students will be staying in cabins with their paired camper, as well as other camper/student pairs. One adult will also be in the cabin, as well as two Camp Barnabas staff members.

What sorts of characteristics are you looking for in team members?

We encourage all students who are interested to apply, regardless of gifting. It is likely that there will be more applicants than spots available. We are looking for students who are hungry to grow in their faith, are servant leaders, work well with others, and can be flexible in new environments.

Students are eligible if they are currently in grades 9-12. Priority will be given to students actively involved in Home Group.

Adult leaders are volunteers invested in the Blackhawk Student Ministries Ministries or parents of students.

Do I need a passport or photo ID?

No, but it is suggested that students carry some form of ID (school ID, etc.) for travel.

What are the risks of traveling to Missouri?

The US Department of State has issued a general worldwide travel caution in response to threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens throughout the world. Though there are high risk places throughout the world for which additional warnings are issued, Missouri is not considered a high-risk location. Please visit <http://travel.state.gov> to read warnings and for more information on traveling.

Do I need shots or medications?

You will need to bring ample supply of whatever medications you take on a regular basis. If possible, Camp Barnabas asks that you bring medication in pre-packaged (multi-dose strip packaging or multi-dose blister packs) by a pharmacy. We also encourage you to discuss your travel plans with your doctor to ensure you are up to date on all check-ups and immunizations and discuss any additional immunizations your doctor may recommend.

What about COVID?

COVID-19 has had a big impact on how people travel throughout the world. CDC guidance on travel is fluid, based on current national and local situations. We will ask that you abide by CDC guidance and any national, state, local, or partner-identified COVID restrictions. This may include any masking, possible isolation that may require a student to stay behind (with at least two adult leaders) for a period of time after the scheduled end of trip, etc.

Currently, Blackhawk does not require COVID vaccination for GO Team participants unless required by our partner (Camp Barnabas), transportation providers (airline, bus, etc.), or local government. (As of October 2022, Camp Barnabas has no vaccination requirement, but they may ask for proof of a negative COVID test within 48 hours of arrival. We will monitor and communicate any changes in policy that may happen.)

Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> for more information about travel and COVID.

What happens if someone on the team contracts COVID (or has some other illness or injury)?

In addition to partner policies for COVID testing and verification, the following will be in place:

- Any team member or leader who is COVID positive and still within their [COVID isolation timeframe](#) at the time of the trip's departure will not be able to participate in the trip. (As is true for any team member who cannot travel with the team for any reason, no refund will be able to be issued.)
- If a team **member** (student) tests positive for COVID while on the trip, that student may need to be quarantined at a partner-determined site for a duration past the scheduled end of the trip, until cleared to travel. A minimum of two leaders would need to stay behind with the student, per Blackhawk child protection policy.

When will we start meeting as a team?

We will begin meeting as a team in February 2023. There will be 4 team meetings and an overnight retreat. *Attendance at all meetings is mandatory, and it is expected that prospective team members communicate about a personal need to miss a meeting at the time of application.*

Sunday, February 12: 3:00-5:30 PM – Meeting with students & parents (first 30-60 minutes with parents)

Sunday, March 12: 3:30-6:00 PM Team Meeting

Sunday, April 16: 3:00-5:30 PM Team Meeting

Overnight: June 10 (morning) - June 11 (afternoon) (Location TBD)

Sunday, June 25: Final Preparations Meeting (Time TBD)

Celebration Trip Presentation: Sunday, July 30 – time and date subject to confirmation

Questions?

Contact either:

- Jaclyn Schmitt, Trip Leader
 - jschmitt@blackhawkchurch.org | 608.820.1506
- Jim Ferwerda, Impact Ministry Teams Coordinator
 - jferwerda@blackhawkchurch.org | 608.828.4219