



National Project

New Orleans



Dear student and parents,

Greeting's from New Orleans, in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This letter is to inform you of next summer's youth mission project.

For many who have come in the past, the trip to New Orleans has been a life changing experience. Student missionaries leave with a new outlook and perspective on life and a deeper relationship with Christ. Sponsors and parents leave with new opportunities for talking with their youth group about some real life issues and how God can use them to mold and shape us for His use.

Since Hurricane Katrina, many things have changed. However, this is a perfect opportunity to raise up mission-minded kids in our neighborhood. Our summer program will challenge students to follow Jesus boldly and minister across cultures. You and your kids come for one of seven weeks and help us transform a neighborhood through:

- Day Camp- Your kids will join us as we run an arts and recreation Day Camp for kids in our neighborhood. We'll include Bible lessons and sports activities with lots of fun
- Challenge Circle – As we have done since 1992, teams will go into local housing development to run our Challenge Circle- *and urban version of the AWANA game circle.*
- Training – All week, your kids will get trained in evangelism and cross-cultural ministry as they serve with us. Students will be challenged to deal with issues of race, poverty, and justice from a Biblical perspective.

Enclosed you will find a planning manual with details for next summer. We fill up quickly, so if you are interested, please get your group information sheet and deposits sent in as early as possible. That is the only way that your group will be guaranteed a spot in next summer's schedule.

Thanks again for your time. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Joan Hathaway, or myself at 504-523-5556 or you may email me at Tremusic@mail.com and Joan at joanh@urbanimpact.org. May God bless and empower you as you minister to the leaders of tomorrow.

In HIS Love,

Tre Pennington
National Project Director



The Mission of National Project

Evangelism and outreach to Central City New Orleans. They're watching you strives to provide a cross-cultural ministry experience for senior high students and their youth leaders.

What to expect

Since 1989 Urban Impact has been welcoming mission teams from across the country to partner in transforming the Central City of New Orleans. Teams are invited to join us in relational ministry opportunities and possible work projects. Relational ministries may include Challenge Circle, Vacation Bible School, and Recreational Opportunities. Challenge Circle is a nightly outreach into the housing projects of New Orleans. Through games similar to the AWANA circle, but molded to the urban environment, student missionaries are given the opportunity to share their faith and the love of God with the children of New Orleans. This summer's programs will consist of an arts and recreation Day Camp (including Bible lessons), Cross-Cultural Training from a biblical perspective, and the Challenge Circle. **(YOU AIN'T HYPE!)** This summer will be the 16th year of High School mission teams.

Who can make it happen?

1. Senior High students who have **completed the 9th grade by the time they come. This requirement is essential when dealing with levels of spiritual maturity.** Please respect this boundary as something essential to ministering effectively to our neighborhood.
2. Parents must register their child. Students without parental permission will not be accepted.



When can I come?

WEEK 2 June 12-19

Arrive: Between 3 & 5 PM on June 12 (supper on your own)

Depart: 8 AM on June 19

Costs

The cost is \$385/person. This includes food, lodging, and ministry supplies. It does not cover transportation from the airport. Taxi service from the airport to the Yellow House is approximately \$40 including tip.

Each student will need some spending money for snacks, souvenirs, etc. The amount needed will depend on individual spending habits. No major expenditures are expected upon arrival unless your group makes plans outside of our normal activities.

Registration, Payments and Refund policy

- A \$75 per person registration fee is due by May 31. This fee is non-refundable but may be transferred to a new participant not already registered.
- The balance due of \$310 is to be paid two weeks before arrival.
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Payment instructions

Payment may be made:

Check: make checks payable to “*Urban Impact Ministries.*” Place “*National Project*” in the memo section. Mail the checks to:

Urban Impact Ministries
National Project
P.O. Box 50223
New Orleans, LA 70150-0223

Website: at www.urbanimpact.org you can click on the donate now button. Please designate your gift for the General Fund and then make a note under additional comments that the money is for your child's registration.

Cancellation policy

Since Urban Impact is run solely on donations we cannot afford to absorb any additional costs that may result from this project. If students cancel after their registrations are made, those deposits will not be refunded but they are transferable to a new participant from your church who is not already registered. This insures that we will be able to plan and pay for activity costs.

Once you arrive

On the following page you will find a tentative schedule for each day of the week. Please keep in mind that this is tentative and that in inner city ministry, most plans change at least three times. Please prepare your students for that fact. At UIM, we live by the proverb ... “Blessed are the flexible for they will not be bent out of shape.”

Tentative schedule

Saturday	3 - 5 p.m.	Arrive, Get settled
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner (out)
	6:30 p.m.	Welcome, Intro interns, cheers, “Eat That Thang,” rules, schedule, updates, prayer
Sunday	7:30 a.m.	Wake Up
	8– 8:30	Breakfast at Castle Rock
	9:15-9:30	Devotions
	9:30-9:45	History of UIM
	9:45-10:15	Youth Evangelism
	10:15-10:30	Break
	10:30-11:20	Central City Tour
	11:20-11:30	Break
	11:30-11:45	Transport to Challenge Circle Training
	11:45-12:15	Lunch
	12:15-2:15	Challenge Circle
	2:15-2:30	Transport Back to Church
	2:30-3	Poverty
	3-3:45	Racial Reconciliation
	3:30-3:45	Break
	3:45-5:15	Day Camp Training
	5:15-5:45	Dinner
	5:45-6:30	Connections (Group Time)
	6:30-7:30	Concert of Prayer
7:30-10	Open	
10 p.m.	Yellow house	
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out	
Monday	7:30 a.m.	Wake Up
	8:30 - 9:15	Breakfast at Castle Rock
	9:15 - 9:30	Devotional
	9:30 -10:15	Harambee -(<i>Swahili for gathering</i>)
	10:30-11:15	Chapel
	11:15-12:00	Break
	12:00-12:30	Lunch
	12:45	Day Camp Prep (<i>Drivers Leaving</i>)
	1: 15	Registration
	1: 30	Unity Meeting (<i>Cheers, Verse of Day, Songs</i>)

	2:00	Classes
	4:00	Closing and Departure
	4:30	Break
	5:00	Supper
	6:00	Challenge Circle
	8:00	Debrief
	10p.m.	Lights Out
Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	Wake Up
	8:30 - 9:15	Breakfast at Castle Rock
	9:15 - 9:30	Devotional
	9:30 -10:15	Harambee -(<i>Swahili for gathering</i>)
	10:30 -11:15	Chapel
	11:15 -12:00	Break
	12:00 -12:30	Lunch
	12:45	Day Camp Prep (<i>Drivers Leaving</i>)
	1: 15	Registration
	1: 30	Unity Meeting (<i>Cheers, Verse of Day, Songs</i>)
	2:00	Classes
	4:00	Closing and Departure
	4:30	Break
	5:00	Supper
	6:00	Challenge Circle
	10p.m.	Lights Out
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Wake Up
	8:30 - 9:15	Breakfast at Castle Rock
	9:15 - 9:30	Devotional
	9:30 -10:15	Harambee -(<i>Swahili for gathering</i>)
	10:30 -11:15	Chapel
	11:15 -12:00	Break
	12:00 -12:30	Lunch
	12:45	Day Camp Prep (<i>Drivers Leaving</i>)
	1: 15	Registration
	1: 30	Unity Meeting (<i>Cheers, Verse of Day, Songs</i>)
	2:00	Classes
	4:00	Closing and Departure
	4:30	Break
	5:00	Supper
	6:00	Challenge Circle
	8:30	Ice Cream night
	10:00	Lights Out
Day Thursday	7:30 a.m.	Wake Up
	8:30 - 9:15	Breakfast at Castle Rock
	9:15 - 9:30	Devotional
	9:30 -10:15	Harambee -(<i>Swahili for gathering</i>)
	10:30 -11:15	Chapel
	11:15 -12:00	Break
	12:00 -12:30	Lunch

	12:45	Day Camp Prep (<i>Drivers Leaving</i>)
	1: 15	Registration
	1: 30	Unity Meeting (<i>Cheers, Verse of Day, Songs</i>)
	2:00	Classes
	4:00	Closing and Departure
	4:30	Break
	5:00	Supper
	6:00	Challenge Circle
	10:00	Lights Out
Friday	7:30 a.m.	Wake Up
	8:00 - 8:30	Breakfast
	8:45 - 9:15	Devotional Time
	9:15 - 11:45	Free Time
	12:00 -12:30p.m.	Lunch
	12:45	Day Camp Prep
	1:00-3:00	Day Camp Extravaganza
	4:00-5:00	Relational Ministries
	6:00	Celebration Dinner
	7:30	Farewell Say So
Saturday	7:00 a.m.	Wake Up
	8:00	Breakfast
	9:00	Departure

Training

Urban Impact has a highly effective system for training your student missionaries. All training is done by UIM staff and is designed to help your students hit the ground running.

When you arrive you will receive training in biblical mandates to care for the poor in the following areas:

- *Evangelism*
- *Safety when working and participating in activities*
- *How to run the Challenge Circle games*
- *How to handle tense situations and diffuse conflicts.*
- *How to keep children excited about participating in the activities*
- *Cross-cultural awareness*
- *Prayer*
- *Worship*

Since this is an intercultural ministry, we will also spend a great deal of time training your groups in the culture of the inner city. That is where the reading assignment plays an important part of the foundation for your group. Before your group arrives, we ask that each participant read the book “**Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life**” 2007 by Dr. Robert Lupton. This will give you and your students some

necessary background to prepare you for your cross-cultural experience in New Orleans.

Much of our training time will be spent in prayer. Only through prayer will anything sustaining happen during your ministry time here. We ask that each group member recruit a prayer partner from home.

Safety

Whenever you speak of inner city ministry in the housing projects, many questions arise about safety. There are certain issues that are unique to inner city life, however, for the past 17 years, groups from all over the United States have come to New Orleans to be involved in National Project. During those trips nothing has happened to any member apart from a few sports injuries, which can happen anywhere.

While in our care your student will be supervised at all times including overnight. Students sleep in separate boy/girl quarters and are not allowed to walk anywhere by themselves.

The Challenge Circle ministry has enabled us to develop relationships throughout the entire city. We have permission from the city government to do the Challenge Circle on any city property. Once parents and other residents realize that we are from a church, we are generally received with open arms.

No person will be placed in any area of danger. We have targeted areas where we have already developed relationships with the local resident councils and the residents themselves.



Housing and food

Groups will be housed in UIM's Yellow House. Bedding and towels are not provided. Meals will be provided at Castle Rock. Please pack light! You don't need a lot of different "outfits" and there is room for only a small duffel bag at the end of the bunks you'll be sleeping on.

Free Time

Your student will have a chance to participate in seeing some of the cultural and historic sites of New Orleans. These activities will always fall under the guidelines that your students would not participate in anything that could be considered inappropriate for their age or spiritual formation.

Dress

It is important for each missionary to understand that the message of Christ is shared both verbally and through their actions. Dress is one of those non-verbal ways in which the message is shared. With that in mind, we ask that all girls refrain from dressing in immodest ways. This is defined as shorts that are too short (no higher than the fingertips when the arm is extended straight down the leg), tops with spaghetti straps, halter tops, bare midriff, etc., and two-piece swim suits. Also, for males, "baggy" pants and shorts (those that reveal your underwear below the waistline) are not permitted. **Please inform your students not to bring such clothing.**

Now what?

1. Pray! Don't think about leaving home without doing it.
2. Talk with your pastor, parents and students about it.
3. Determine any additional criteria that your students need to follow. Consider such things as group participation, past ministry involvement, pre-trip involvement in prayer, training and additional things which are unique to your group situation.
4. Develop a preliminary budget and fundraising plan.
5. Put together an information sheet for parents and students. A video is available upon request.
6. Meet with parents and students to give them a clear picture of the project.
7. Go over the **Covenant of Participation** with everyone, including your staff.
8. Pray for students who want to use their lives to impact others. We want students on this project, who are convinced that Jesus is their Savior and who are looking for ways to serve Him in their Christian

lives.

9. When you have one leader and one convinced student, make the decision to join the project.
10. Set deadlines for the students to commit to the project. Keep in mind deadlines outlined in this packet.
11. Have each participant, **including youth workers**, fill out a copy of the enclosed application and parents' permission slip. Make sure to keep a copy of everyone's application and permission slip for yourself and mail the originals to UIM one month before your arrival.
12. **We need the T-shirt sizes for your group by April 30th. If we have not received your sizes by that date, we will have to make estimates that you will have to accept.**
13. Recruit prayer partners for each participant.

Challenge Circle Single Student National Project Application

Name _____ DOB _____ Sex _____
Address _____ Phone (____) _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church _____ Head Youth Sponsor _____

T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Medical:

1. Are you currently under a doctor's care? _____

If so, for what reason?

2. Have you had any serious physical or emotional illness in the past 2 years? Please explain:

3. List medications taken regularly and give reasons.

4. List allergies (food, medications, others)

5. Do you have any physical limitations? **If so, please explain.**

6. Give blood type. _____

7. Date of last tetanus shot: _____ (*Must update if more than 5 years*)

8. Insurance Company: _____

Group number: _____ Policy number: _____

9. Please share how you came to know Christ as your Savior?

10. Why do you want to come to New Orleans on this mission's project?

Covenant of Participation Student

I agree to obey all rules and follow the directions of the UIM staff. **I will** refrain from any use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products. I will not use foul or inappropriate language. **I will**, to the best of my ability, foster group cohesiveness by refraining from behavior that may cause dissension, factions or discord.

I will refrain from developing an exclusive relationship with a member of the opposite sex during my short-term mission in New Orleans in order to concentrate my efforts on this project. **I will** dress appropriately as defined by UIM.

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Signature of Participant **Date**

Covenant of Participation Parent

I agree to uphold the authority of Urban Impact in my child's life while under Urban Impact supervision. **I am prepared** to pay for the return trip of my child in the event they are sent home early for behavioral reasons.

Parent's Signature **Date**