



St. Elizabeth of Hungary High School Youth Ministry
Serving Youth in Acton, Boxborough and Beyond

Mississippi Mission Trip
July 5-11, 2009

Mission Trips of St. Elizabeth of Hungary are open to anyone who wishes to come and share in our experience. Participants should have an open mind about what they will experience and understand that the trip will be based in a Catholic perspective, though one does not need be Catholic to participate.

Code of Behavior

We are blessed and excited that you are joining us for this Mission Trip to Mississippi. This Code of Behavior has been developed as a way of helping all participants understand what is expected of them, and making the experience a healthy and growth-filled one for all involved. Please read through the Code carefully, as you will be expected to honor and uphold it throughout the trip.

- The key word for our trip is "respect". First, we are to respect each other. Church is one place where everyone should be respected, welcomed, honored and lifted up. Second, respect those responsible for the trip, especially the Adult Leaders, those who work with Project Hope and Compassion, and those associated with our service sites. Third and most importantly – respect yourself this week. You are not likely to treat others well if you do not treat yourself well.
- Participants will be responsible for any additional fees (such as baggage) charged by the airlines, as well as paying for food during travel. Participants are expected to travel with the group to and from Mississippi. Participants who require unique travel itineraries are expected to arrive to / depart from the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport at their own expense and by their own arrangement.
- In order to better understand those experiencing poverty, our trip will give participants the experience of living simply. Aside from meals during travel, participants will be asked to limit spending money to forgotten necessities only. The Program Director (Tony) can grant exceptions as appropriate.
- Adult leaders are those who are age 21 and older, and have responsibility for all participants. Young adults are those 18 and older, but not yet 21. All participants 18 and older must have completed the following mandatory qualifications: 1. Have a current CORI (background check) on file with St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish, and 2. Have completed the Virtus training program. These requirements are in compliance with the US Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Young People* and the policies of the Archdiocese of Boston.
- While away from the "home site", Project Hope and Compassion (St. Ann's Church in Lizana), all youth must be accompanied at all times by an adult leader. Participants will travel, in groups, only in vehicles approved for this mission trip.
- Participants are expected to attend all required sessions unless explicitly excused by an adult leader.
- We expect everyone to eat three meals a day and drink lots of water to keep hydrated. Please let the team know if you have difficulty with eating and drinking according to these expectations.



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- Dress throughout the trip is casual. You must wear at least a T-shirt and shorts at sites, meals and group activities (no tank tops, sleeveless shirts, or bathing attire, as these are viewed as immodest). You must wear sunscreen at all times outside. You must wear a hat outside at all times (visors do not count). You must have a water bottle with you at all sites. You must be wearing boots or sneakers (no open-toe footwear) at the work sites. Safety first!
- Socializing should take place in the designated public areas of the facility. No visiting is allowed in sleeping areas occupied by the opposite sex.
- Each day will be a busy one – making adequate sleep a necessity. Participants must be in their respective rooms at curfew time. The noise level in the sleeping areas should be kept low. Scheduled quiet and silent times must be honored. Only the Program Director can alter curfew times or the timing of any other scheduled event. Leaving the sleeping areas after curfew, or other unauthorized absence from the "home site", is grounds to be sent home immediately.
- The purchase, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs (including drugs prescribed for someone else, drugs that are not noted on the participants' medical form, or misuse of over-the-counter drugs) by any participant will result in immediate dismissal from the program. Smoking is also prohibited. We are all committing to a substance-free trip. I understand that if I violate this policy, future mission trips may be put at risk.
- The adult leaders reserve the right to send someone home if they believe that safety and well-being of that person, or another trip participant, is at risk.

Youth Participant – I understand and agree to abide by the Code of Behavior. I also understand that my parents will be notified in the event of any infractions requiring my dismissal from the program, and that I will be sent home at the expense of myself and/or my parent/guardian.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Adult Participant / Parent or Guardian – I agree that the trip participant will abide by the rules and regulations outlined in this Code of Behavior. I have reviewed (and discussed the Code with the youth participant) prior to signing this form. I agree if the trip participant fails to consistently abide by the Code or engages in any unlawful or unsafe activities, he or she may be immediately removed from the mission trip and sent home at my expense.

Signature: _____

Date: _____