



MISSIONS EXPOSURE MISSIONS EXPLORER

**CROSS CULTURAL EXPERIENCES,
IN THE USA!**



Outreach Opportunities

Customized Missions Trips: We offer the following trips at any time through the year. There are specific dates on the website but we can also host your group any time you want to come and serve.

Missions Exposure Trips: Five Hour, One Day Trips Throughout The Year

Missions Explorer Trips: Weekend and Weeklong Trips Throughout The Year

For more information, contact us:

Email: stm@globalfrontiermissions.org
Website: www.globalfrontiermissions.org

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hello there!

Do you want a short-term trip that makes a long-term difference? The Short Term Missions program is a strategic part of Global Frontier Missions' full-time work, not just a way to keep your team entertained. We love hosting mission trips because of the spiritual fruit we see, both in the lives of the refugees and those who come to serve. We believe that in addition to serving the long term vision of GFM, short term missions outreaches are an integral part of every believer's ongoing discipleship. We want to see all participants playing the role God has for each of them in fulfilling the Great Commission.

GFM is known for the excellent on-field training we provide for our mission trip participants. Your team will come away not only having made a difference, but having grown spiritually and learned more about missions and how to have an impact among the nations coming here. You will have a greater understanding of the needs of the 2.5 billion people living out of reach of the Gospel and a clearer vision of what role you can play in reaching them both at home and abroad.

We work hard to make our trips easy on leaders by offering a "full service" missions experience. We provide the training, outreach supplies, food, housing, scheduling, and staff. We take care of the logistics so that you and your team can come, learn, serve, and receive without having to worry about the planning.

God is mobilizing His Church to make disciples of all nations. We want your team to be part of what He is doing among the nations coming to the United States! The cities and towns where we do the bulk of our ministry are some of the most diverse in America, so they are truly unique places to do cross-cultural missions without even needing a passport! We hope that you find the enclosed information helpful. If you have any further questions about our ministry or about this program, please feel free to e-mail me anytime. The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few, so consider joining us for a short-term mission experience your team will never forget as you help fulfill the Great Commission. See you soon!

**Until All Have Heard,
Grant Haynes**



about global frontier missions

Global Frontier Missions (GFM) is an international Christian missions organization focused on mobilizing, training, and multiplying laborers to reach the unreached – the 2.5 billion people in the world who have never heard the name of Jesus. Our burning passion is to see the fulfillment of the Revelation 7:9,10 vision where the Apostle John describes an incredible worship service with people from “every tribe, tongue, people and nation” together worshipping the Lamb.

We are a non-denominational organization and have worked with churches of many different backgrounds that are committed to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Our long-term ministry goals are three-fold:

Mobilizing: We want to raise awareness concerning the needs around the world, so that people and churches can be more strategic in fulfilling their role in the Great Commission. We do this by hosting short-term mission trips, holding missions seminars/conferences, and getting involved in local churches to cast vision for unreached people groups.

Training: We want to train as many people as possible to go and serve long-term among the unreached people groups of the world. Our Missionary Training Schools are a perfect way for people to get their feet wet in missions right here in the US as they learn some language, cross cultural barriers, begin building relationships by living incarnationally in community among internationals, and make disciples here before launching off overseas.

Multiplying: We want to reach out and engage in church planting among the internationals living close to us. Our hope is to see them evangelized and discipled to the point that they can go back and reach their own people. We do this by focusing on immigrants, refugees, and international students living in close proximity to us. Our desire is to plant simple, reproducible churches in apartment complexes, homes, and on college campuses. We also want to send out long-term church planting teams to serve among the unreached people groups of the earth.

Scripture makes it clear that as Christians we should minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of people. To focus exclusively on the physical or exclusively on the spiritual would be to have an incomplete ministry. We focus on spiritual needs by building relationships with people, sharing the Gospel with them, baptizing new converts, discipling them, and helping plant churches. We focus on physical needs by providing services that are helpful to internationals such as picking them up from the airport, helping them get settled, teaching them English, helping them find jobs, providing low-cost meals, etc. We are dedicated to holistic ministry among the nations.

short term missions



So how does short-term missions fit into GFM's strategy?

Great question, we're glad you asked! If GFM's long-term goal is to see church-planting movements started, what role does short-term missions (STM) have in that? It is especially true here working among internationals that evangelism is typically a long-term process. Ever heard the expression, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care"? It's very, very true. Trust is a huge issue in the refugee and immigrant population. You have to earn an audience with a person by winning their trust before they will listen to you. Even if someone accepts Christ after brief contact with another Christian, that new convert must then be discipled, "teaching them to obey everything I (Jesus) have commanded you." (Matthew 28:20)

So here's how STM fits in: First of all, part of GFM's mission is to mobilize and train Christians to reach the unreached worldwide, and hosting mission trips and summer interns is a great way to do that.

Secondly, mission trip participants and interns are a big help to us and fit well into our long-term strategy because they are able to provide manpower for projects and programs that we would have a hard time doing on our own. In an outreach of just a few days, trip participants can provide English classes or health programs for kids, they can do a service project, they can host a block party, and much more. The sheer love they demonstrate by taking time away from work, school, or summer vacation to come to our locations and care about people has a profound impact. As a short-termer, you may or may not be the person who leads a local refugee to Christ, but you will certainly be one of the people who shows them that Christians are different and care. We will have different projects and programs for you to do, but relationships should be the most important thing during your time with us. You should never be so focused on getting something done that you don't take time to spend with people. The relationships you form and the love you share help build a foundation of trust between our organization and the local community from which our ministry may grow.

Your team will come alongside of our staff as we minister on location. We will place you and plan your outreach strategically according to what areas we're trying to reach out to in our long-term vision. The ministry will have started before you arrive (God has already been working through other believers and by His Spirit to touch people's lives for a long time), and it will continue after you're gone. Who knows, you might be the first Christian who has contact with a person who will go on to be a great leader someday in a church planting movement, and they will have become interested in the Gospel for the first time because they saw Jesus in you.

why choose gfm's short term missions trips?

Ease: Once you arrive, we handle almost all the logistics for you. You have enough to worry about before the trip; we want you to be able to focus on ministry once you're here. No wondering about where you will sleep, what you will eat, or what ministry you will do. We cover the details so that you can focus on ministering to the local people, ministering to your team, and growing in your relationship with the Lord.

Training: We don't just throw you into ministry; we train you. We want your team to come away from the trip with a great vision for missions worldwide that will affect the rest of your lives. When you head out on outreach you will: 1) be spiritually prepared after times of prayer, worship, and seeking the Lord, 2) understand the role your outreach plays in the big picture of the long-term work among internationals in the USA 3) be well-prepared culturally for ministry among internationals, and 4) know about missions needs and opportunities both locally and globally. We consistently receive feedback from team leaders and participants about how valuable the times of training were for them (even from the ones who complained a little bit at first, wanting to "just get out and do ministry"!).

Affordability: At GFM, we have always worked to keep our mission trip costs as low as possible. We aren't trying to make money off your team; we only charge you the cost of reasonable expenses of the short-term missions program. Your fees cover all your food, housing, and ministry supplies while working with us.

The Unreached: Did you know? According to the Joshua Project, about 2.5 billion people live in unreached people groups. Only about 1 in 40 missions goes reaches out to the unreached, while the remaining 39 go to the reached world. One out of every \$1731 Christian dollars given to ministry goes to winning the unreached 2.5 billion people of this world. Global Frontier Missions' special emphasis is unreached people groups, as we work to reach out to the Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and Chinese that are coming here. Joining us will allow your team to buck this trend by being among those who reach out to the unreached. At the same time, you will learn all about the needs of those worldwide who have no chance to hear about Jesus in their own language even if they wanted to.

Experience: Global Frontier Missions has been leading short-term mission trips for the past decade to locations inside and outside of the United States. Just since the summer of 2004, GFM has hosted 69 mission trip teams and a number of individual participants, bringing our total number of trip participants hosted during that time to almost 1000. Our program is tested and proven, and we have a wealth of experience behind us. We are also members of the Standards of Excellence in Short Term Mission ensuring that our trips are a blessing to the senders, goers, and receivers.



what others are saying...

From Team Leaders on past mission trips:

"Working with GFM has been an amazing experience both as a leader and for our students! GFM is extremely organized, thoughtful, prayerful, and strategic in everything they do...If you want your students to learn about being servants and catch a vision of God's heart for the lost, then I highly recommend this missions opportunity!"

Brian, Pastor of Youth and Outreach

Grace Chapel Castle Rock, Castle Rock, Colorado

"I would recommend this outreach to any who have a heart for completing the Great Commission!"

Chad, Principal

Dove Christian Academy, Denver, Colorado

"Our experience with Global Frontier Missions far exceeded our expectations... our lives were changed forever. We will treasure it always, for it deepened and enriched our walk with the Lord!"

Dave and Joan

Group Leaders

Casco Alliance Church, Casco, Maine

"This ministry is great! Through GFM, I learned about God's passion to see people in every ethnic group come to know Christ. Now, our church is praying for people in villages who haven't heard of Jesus, sending leaders to these people, and uniting around God's worldwide vision..."

Dean, Senior Pastor

Hope Community Church, Denver, Colorado

"Having led short term trips to many bases, I must say that Global Frontier does the best job of revealing God's heart for the world, inspiring young people to fulfill the Great Commission, and thoroughly training them to fulfill it with excellence! A home run missions experience!"

David, Youth Pastor

Castle Rock, Colorado

From Anonymous End-of-Trip Participant Surveys on our mission trips:

"I loved this trip and it rocked."

"Great first missions trip!"

"You **ALL** have inspired me to truly seek my calling from God and to find His will for me, not mine."

"Honestly, I was majorly inspired—I have to do something—go somewhere for God!"

"The length of the outreach was good—long enough to make a difference, short enough to make me want to come back."

"Thank you so much for everything—I was pleasantly surprised at all that was included in the trip...This was the best missions trip I can imagine!"

"[Staff] helped me become more open and less fearful of being outgoing. I didn't worry about what others thought of me as much."

"I loved the Commitment Service because God worked on a lot of areas in my life."

"Lessons were awesome, inspiring, challenging and delivered with heartfelt passion."

"Missions moments brought skin and bones to the term 'missionary'."

"Keep up the great work. You've impacted me more than anything in life."

"You all far exceeded my expectations or hopes in every way. It's awesome to see all of the ways God is working through your ministry and through the local Christians...God is using all of you mightily in our lives and in the villagers'. Thank you all."

"[Staff], you rocked my world! Outgoing, encouraging, awesome..." "[Staff was] eager to help, very supportive."

"Cultural training was great"

"[Staff] were great examples to follow...They were also inviting, caring, loving, and very, very helpful. Oh yeah, and **ENERGETIC!**"

"I really enjoyed cultural tips. On my prior mission trip, I didn't get any tips like we did here. It prevented many, many mistakes."

"Thank you so much, my heart and mind have changed and I am excited to see where God leads."

what is an unreached people group

First of all, what is a people group? A people group is an ethnic group – a group of people that speak the same language, share the same culture, and have a common history. Simply put, a people group is a group of people that call “us” “us”, and everyone else “them”.

An unreached people group is one that does not have a self-led, self-sufficient church made up of members of the group that are capable of evangelizing the rest of the group.

So how many people groups are there in the world? Approximate numbers of people groups vary greatly according to how broadly or narrowly a people group is defined. We use the Joshua Project’s numbers, as they are becoming a recognized authority on people groups in the fields of missions and anthropology. The Joshua Project has compiled data from missionaries all over the world to try and create a comprehensive database of all the world’s people groups. According to them, there are roughly 16,000 people groups in the world, and over 6,000 are unreached with the Gospel. The combined population of all these groups is over 2.5 billion people, or about 40% of the world’s population.

What does it take to reach an unreached people group? An unreached people group, by definition, is a group where there is no local church to spread the Gospel. This means that to reach an unreached people group, someone has to do cross-cultural mission work—they have to learn another language and/or set of customs and learn to share the Gospel in a way that people of that ethnicity can relate to. Without cross-cultural missions, the Gospel never spreads to a new people group.

Are there unreached people groups in United States? Believe it or not, yes. There are people from many different countries in the United States that have come as refugees, immigrants, and international students. The Joshua Project lists about 59 distinct ethnic groups in the U.S. that are classified as “least-reached”. Many people are coming to the USA from countries where it is nearly impossible for us as Americans to attain visas and now the Lord is bringing them to our own backyard!

To see a complete listing of the world’s unreached people groups, including profiles and photos, go to www.joshuaproject.net. (See screenshot below)

Afghanistan – People Groups

(Click column headings for sorting ▲▼) Definitions: ⓘ Progress Scale: ■■■ Peoples Data Filter: ⌵ Data Download: 📄

People Groups (click people name for profile)	Population	% Evangel	% Adherent	Least Reached	Progress Scale	Primary Religion	Primary Language	Pho	Map
Afghani, Tajik	8,474,000	0.01 %	0.01 %	Y	1.2 ■	Islam	Farsi, Eastern (Dari)	P	M
Afshari	12,000	0.04 %	0.04 %	Y	1.2 ■	Islam	Azerbaijani, South	P	
Aimaq, Char	284,000	0.00 %	0.00 %	Y	1.1 ■	Islam	Aimaq	P	M
Aimaq, Firozkohi	282,000	0.00 %	0.00 %	Y	1.1 ■	Islam	Aimaq	P	M
Aimaq, Hazara	219,000	0.00 %	0.00 %	Y	1.1 ■	Islam	Aimaq	P	M
Aimaq, Jamshidi	125,000	0.00 %	0.00 %	Y	1.1 ■	Islam	Aimaq	P	M

gfm short term mission trip information

Types of Mission Trips

Missions Exposure Trip (one day): Our exposure trips are geared towards churches in our local areas that want to get a glimpse of what God is doing among the nations that are coming to us. We want individuals and churches to see how they might get involved locally in the Great Commission. These trips are also ideal for leaders from churches that are thinking about doing one of our Missions Explorer or Missions Explosion trips. This trip is most often a city tour, or "Nehemiah Tour". We typically visit a Hindu temple, a Muslim mosque, and a Buddhist temple but you may get a chance to visit many different spiritual locations in the city. This has time and time again changed the way participants think and pray for the unreached.

Missions Explorer (two to eight days): Our explorer trips are great for churches in the same city or within a few hours of us that want to dedicate a weekend or week to reaching out. It is perfect for professionals or families that otherwise have a hard time getting off of school or work to serve. This trip is also for college and church groups from around the USA who want exposure to urban missions among the unreached peoples in the USA and are willing to fly to one of our locations. This is our most popular trip during the year.

Three Main Aspects of a Missions Explorer Trip

The three purposes of Global Frontier Missions are to mobilize believers to reach the unreached, to train them to do it effectively, and to multiply disciples and churches among the unreached. Those three purposes are reflected on all Missions Explorer and Explosion trips:

- We **mobilize** your team to greater missions involvement by teaching about God's heart for all nations, by giving statistics and profiles and sharing about the need for mission work, and by discussing strategy to be more effective among internationals. We don't just want a missions experience; we want you to leave with a greater vision and burden for the entire world, beginning with the unreached right here in the U.S.



- We **train** your team by giving you the tools and preparation you need to be effective in ministry. This includes thorough cultural orientation through skits, demonstrations, stories, and anecdotes, and giving you some tools to help learn some new phrases. Part of your training also involves preparation for whatever will be your specific area of ministry (VBS, block parties, community service project, etc.). We will never throw your team out on the streets in a sink-or-swim environment. We make sure you first have the necessary training and preparation. The training we provide is not only valuable for your mission trip, but much of it can be useful as you go home and continue to do cross-cultural ministry among the internationals living near you. A mission trip with GFM is a great early step if you want to mobilize and train your team for further missions involvement either here or abroad
- We **multiply disciples** and churches by reaching out to internationals in our own cities. Most outreaches take place in apartment complexes around the city.

Types of Outreach Involved

There are many different ways to reach out to the local people, and we always try to do what will be the most effective in ministering to them, not necessarily what the churches coming on trips most want to do. We try as much as possible to match trip participants up with the type of ministry most suited to you. For this reason, you can request a specific type of outreach for your team, though we can't promise that you will get to do the type of ministry you requested. It depends largely on the needs and opportunities we have at the time of your trip.

Note that most of the outreaches we set up involve programs or projects, but undergirding everything we do is a strong commitment to relational evangelism. Here are some of our typical outreaches that you might be involved in on your Missions Explorer trip:

Ethnic Dinners – Most of our short-term teams have at least one meal with a local refugee family. This is a great way to experience food from another culture and to hear people's stories about how they got to the U.S. This is usually one of the highlights for most trip participants as it really has the feel of an overseas mission trip while you enjoy learning phrases from another culture, eating a meal they would typically eat, and sharing life together.

English Classes – Learning English is one of the biggest felt needs in the refugee community. In the past, we have found it difficult to keep kids coming to an English class that lasts the entire school year, but it's not hard to get them to come every day for a week. Mission trips provide just the excitement and manpower needed for us to offer a week of intensive classes in a neighborhood each afternoon.

Temple Tours and Prayer Walks – One of the things that we often do with groups is take them to a local Hindu temple or Muslim mosque during one of their worship or prayer times. This is a great opportunity for groups to understand more about world religions and how we might build bridges and share our faith with people from other worldviews. We also normally do some type of prayer walk through the community praying for the people there.

Special Outreaches – Sometimes groups come with a special skill set (medical, music, drama, etc.), so we can design mission trips that cater to the talents that your team brings to the table. We welcome your team's ideas and input as we piece together an outreach using your gifts and passions.

Other Outreaches – The above are some typical outreaches we do, but we try to stay flexible and be able to respond to the needs of the people and to unique opportunities that present themselves for ministry during the week. Your outreach, therefore, could involve some type of activity completely apart from the ones already mentioned. For example, we have done one-one-one tutoring with students wanting to learn English. We have organized sports tournaments and pick-up games. We often send mission trip participants into the community to do a cultural scavenger hunt which involves learning things about our town and the cultures represented here, and it often opens up doors to talk about spiritual matters.

registration process

Step 1:

The primary team leader must first apply to GFM and be accepted as a team leader. To do this, complete the online Short Term Mission Trip Team Leader Application and have a pastor (our first preference) or another mature Christian leader submit an online Personal Reference Form for you. If you are a family or individual, you will need to fill out an Individual Mission Trip Participant Application and a Personal Reference Form.

Once we have received both your application and personal reference form and had a chance to look and pray over them, we will give you word on whether or not you're accepted. We will contact you using the email address you provide in the application, so be sure to give us a good address at which to contact you. Assuming you're accepted, we will let you know in the email we send whether we are able to receive your team during the mission trip session dates you requested.

Once we have accepted you and confirmed the availability of the dates you requested on your application form...

Step 2:

If you are a team leader, have every member of your team submit the Mission Trip Participant Form. This form is not an application – we will accept any team member you choose for your team – but it is a way for us to know who each member of your team is and to have some basic information on them as well as getting them to start processing why they are going on this trip. We do not consider any person a member of your mission trip team until we have received this Participant Form. At the end of the form is a place for the team member to enter their name and your email address. This sends you an automated email letting you know that they have submitted their Participant Form and are now officially a part of your team. As long as your team members fill in those two form fields, you should have real-time information on who has and hasn't turned in the Participant Form and been added to your team's list. If you need to double-check and see which team members we have on our list, feel free to email us at any time.

If the person coming on the trip is under 18 years old, it must be filled out by a parent or guardian. All your team's Participant Forms are due at least 7 days before your arrival.

Step 3:

Mail your \$30/per person registration fees to our regional (Atlanta) office. Make checks payable to Global Frontier Missions, and be sure to include a note with your check saying 1) mission trip, 2) your team's name, 3) the dates of your trip and the location, and 4) registration fees. This will reserve the trip dates you and your team requested until 30 days before your arrival, at which point the remaining balance is required to continue holding your spots. Note that registration fees are non-refundable for canceling team members.

Submit all forms online at:

<http://www.globalfrontiermissions.org/shorttermmissions.html>

Send all FINANCES to:
Global Frontier Missions
954 Camp Creek Drive SW
Lilburn, GA 30047

(Enclose a note saying "Mission Exposure, or Missions Explorer", your groups name, the dates of your trip and STM location (ie. Houston), and what payment you are making)

Step 4:

Mail the remaining balance of your Missions Trip program fees to our Atlanta office. The balance of your fees must be received by us at least 30 days before your team's arrival (please allow 3 to 5 days for mail delivery). Any fees received more than 7 days past the due date will be assessed an extra 10% late fee, and may also result in your team's spots being given away to someone on the waiting list. No exceptions, please. Note: Remember to include a note that says 1) "Missions Exposure, Missions Explorer, or Missions Explosion", 2) your team's name, 3) the dates of your trip and the location, and 4) "balance of program fees" with your check, which will be payable to Global Frontier Missions.

Step 5:

Submit your Travel Information to us via email stm@globalfrontiermissions.org so that we can know your arrival and departure times. This form is due 7 days before your arrival onsite.



policies and procedures

Age: Due to the cultural sensitivity of the area where we are serving, this program is designed for those of high school age (14 years old) and older, though under some circumstances we welcome those of younger ages when they are participating with their parents on a family mission trip. You must check with us before bringing any participants under 14 years of age. We have had high school, adult, family, and mixed groups in the past and they have all had wonderful experiences. Please note that men and women sleep in separate quarters, including married couples. If you have a couple or family that wants to stay together, there are a few options through local hotels, but each family will be in charge of their own accommodations.

Team Size: Minimum team size is 5 people and maximum team size is 30 people. Teams larger than this become overwhelming to the local people. If you wish to bring a larger team, please contact us, and we will be happy to consider making special arrangements. BE ADVISED: Teams much larger than 15 people most likely will have to be split between different apartment complexes/outreach locations for ministry but will be housed together.

Travel Plans: All teams are responsible for finding their own transportation to/from the GFM base they are coming to and to/from ministry sites. We do not have the necessary vehicles and cannot handle the liability of transporting your group to ministry locations. So, your group will be in charge of bringing your own transportation and arranging flights and vehicle rental if you are coming from a different part of the country. We prefer that groups bring several smaller vehicles rather than one big bus as it makes it easier to split up into smaller ministry teams to work on different projects. Special note: Some airlines require a per-person deposit of around \$50 in order to hold a reservation. We can send you a list of recommended travel agents that give group and missions discounts if you would like.

Arrival and Departure Information: As soon as you have your travel info, please submit it to us at stm@globalfrontiermissions.org. We will let you know when and where to arrive and our staff will be there to help you get settled.

Trip Fees: The cost for mission trips are as follows with your arrival and departure day each counting as a complete day –

Total Price for Missions Exposure: \$30/person

Total Price for Missions Explorer: \$30/person/day

Registration Fee (due upon your acceptance):
\$30/person (goes towards the trip cost)

Remaining Balance of Fees (due 30 days before arrival): \$30/person/day minus the \$30/person registration fee

What Are The Registration Fees? The \$30/person registration fee holds your requested dates and locks in your team's spots until 30 days before your arrival, at which time your remaining balance is due. If the remaining balance is not received on time, a team on the waiting list may replace your team. We use these fees to begin paying for the supplies that your team will need for their trip.

What Is the Remaining Balance of Fees? The program fees include all of your food, housing, and ministry supplies during the outreach. They also aid in helping pay for some expenses that we incur for setting up and hosting your team. We are not in the "missions business" to make money and do everything we can to keep our costs and overhead low and all of our staff members raise their own support to serve long-term with us. No additional funds will be needed for materials for your outreach, unless you choose to do larger scale kids programs, block parties, or work projects. We provide the organization, planning, training, food, and lodging for your mission trip. All you have to do is come, learn, and serve!

Payment: All funds must be sent to our Atlanta office. Please include a note that says 1) "Missions Exposure, Missions Explorer, or Missions Explosion", 2) your team's name, 3) your trip dates and the location, and 4) what payment you're making (registration fees or balance of fees). Please send one check for your entire team for each payment, rather than having individual team members mail us checks. Checks are payable to "Global Frontier Missions" or "GFM" and should be sent to: Global Frontier Missions; 954 Camp Creek Dr SW; Lilburn, GA 30047.

Team Additions/Subtractions: If you need to add to or subtract from the number of participants you originally told us were coming with your team, please let us know immediately. When adding team members, trip slots are made available on a first-come, first-serve basis. We will be happy to let you add members to your team as long as there are still spots available during the trip you are signed up for. When subtracting team members, the Cancellations and Refunds policy applies for each canceling individual.

Cancellations and Refunds: The \$30/person registration fees are non-refundable for canceling team members. The remaining balance is refundable until 30 days before your trip, at which point they become 50% refundable for canceling team members and non-refundable within 15 days of your team's arrival. A 10% late fee will be assessed on all balances received more than 7 days after their due date. No exceptions, please.



frequently asked questions

Are the ministry areas safe? Participants need to treat this trip just as they would an overseas mission trip and realize the risk involved. Ministry is in an inner city context and there is never a guarantee of safety. We do take precautions in the ministry by always traveling in groups and having an adult with the teams, not ministering after dark, etc. We expect that all participants always be with another person and receive permission from a staff member when they want to leave the main group.

What if a family member needs to contact us? If there is an emergency, we have a ministry phone number where you can always talk to one of our staff members 309-531-8161. Please emphasize to family members that this number is for emergencies only. We can also be reached by e-mail at stm@globalfrontiermissions.org in the event of an emergency.

What will our housing be like? Our housing is very flexible, based on the size of your time. Be prepared by bringing either a sleeping bag or bedding. You will also need to provide your toiletries and towels.

How much spending money do we need? There will most likely be an opportunity to go to a local ethnic market during your trip. It is at your discretion how much money you should bring. We would advise against bringing large amounts of money.

Can we bring extra money to give away? Your team may want to bring extra money to give to a special ministry need that comes up. Some teams like to bring additional craft supplies and candy for children's programs or to purchase food to give away at block parties. Please ALWAYS work through us if you want to give money to locals, as there are a variety of cultural and other considerations.

Medical Requirements: Each participant should be up to date on his/her shots (particularly tetanus) and in good health before arriving. ***We must have a Participant Form from every mission trip member at least seven days before arrival.*** These can be submitted using the online form. It is also very important to bring any consents, releases, and/or info forms your home church may require.

Medical Emergencies: We have a crisis management plan in place in case of emergency. We will consult the team leader and go to the nearest doctor or hospital in case of injury or illness. Each participant will be responsible for any fees incurred during treatment.

Medical Insurance: Participants should check their policies for coverage in the ministry city. For participants whose insurance policies provide little or no coverage outside of your state, you might consider getting a short-term mission trip policy. If you would like information on companies that can provide such a policy, please contact us.

what to bring



What to Bring: We recommend that everything you bring be able to fit into one suitcase. (You should have a backpack or a small bag for outreach each day). Your sleeping bag can be carried separately. Do not bring anything that you cannot carry yourself. The key is to not over pack. Alongside a servant's heart, learner's attitude, and willingness to be flexible, we recommend:

General Packing List:

- *Twin bedding or sleeping bag and a pillow
- *Nalgene or other large water bottle!
- *Bible, pen, and a notebook/journal
- *personal toiletries
- *towel and washcloth
- *Sunscreen and a hat

Cultural Sensitivity: The following guidelines are for a combination of cultural sensitivity and professionalism. We are not passing judgment on certain dress items, but we know that these things can be misunderstood by some refugee families in our community and could be detrimental to the ministry. Our goal here is to not cause our brothers and sisters to stumble and to not hinder the long-term work of the Gospel. Our southern locations like Houston are very hot and humid, so we may have to be uncomfortable so as not to offend people from backgrounds other than our own. The professionalism aspect is because our non-profit organization is well known and respected in the area and we want to have a sharp and professional image.

Dress Code for Guys

- Guys can wear jeans/pants and T-shirts most any day, but shorts are not allowed when out in the community, although a collared shirt is nice during outreaches and family visitations. Have some clothes that you are willing to get dirty in the event of a work project.
- Sandals/flip-flops/crocs are fine, but be sure to bring socks and closed-toed shoes as well for working.
- Please keep piercings/jewelry hidden as they are misunderstood among many people groups.
- If you have tattoos, please do not flaunt them as they are generally viewed quite negatively in the culture of some of the people we are trying to reach.
- No tank tops or sleeveless shirts.

Dress Code for Girls

- Girls can wear jeans, pants, or capris but shorts are not allowed when we are out in the community. You can also wear skirts or dresses as they are culturally appropriate, as long as they go past the knees. Have some clothes that you are willing to get dirty in the event of a work project.
- Sandals/flip-flops/crocs are fine, but be sure to bring socks and closed-toed shoes as well for working.
- If you have tattoos, please do not flaunt them as they are generally viewed quite negatively in the culture of some of the people we are trying to reach.
- Please avoid unwanted attention by ensuring modesty – be very conservative. Do not have tight-fitting clothes, low necklines/waistlines, exposed backs/midribs, tank tops, spaghetti straps, sleeveless shirts, anything that shows cleavage, etc. Americans are often viewed as promiscuous among other cultures so we want to break down that barrier by being conservative in our dress.

Attitude is the most important thing. We have guidelines concerning dress because clothes have been brought to our attention by internationals several times. We are the visitors here and want to do as much as possible to keep people's eyes off of us and on Jesus.



cultural guidelines



Perhaps the most obvious, yet most important, thing is to realize as a short-term team member is that you are a guest in a cross-cultural setting. You are the one who does things that seem quite different. Some things that are thought to be innocent or normal in your culture may be quite offensive in our community and may hinder people from hearing the message of salvation. We want to be very careful of the impressions we create as representations of Christ. An excellent rule of thumb to keep in mind is the question of trust: “Is what I’m thinking, saying, or doing in this situation building or undermining trust?” Use this question, along with the cultural guidelines we have developed, and you will do just fine culturally.

That said, the following suggestions are offered to help you understand the refugee communities we work in and to help you have a positive experience while on outreach:

1. Relationships are the most important thing in this ministry. Use time to get to know the people here as much as possible. Step out of your comfort zone and try to learn some words in their language to communicate. Refugees normally love to talk about family, the weather, current events, and their culture/country. It is very difficult for North Americans to think of hanging out as ministry, but relationship evangelism is much more important than any other program or work project that we could do. Love the people you came to serve. More than anything else, that is why you are here. Do not get wrapped up in the project and forget that.
2. Be flexible concerning time, and go with the flow of the culture and ministry that you are involved in. Don’t count on sticking to a rigid schedule of events or starting every program right on time. Refugee families usually come from a culture where punctuality isn’t a high value, so be patient.
3. Greetings are much more formal and important in other cultures! Sometimes, you can offend a person by not doing a simple thing such as shaking hands with every simple person in a room when you enter or leave. However, in most cultures, it is highly inappropriate for a female to touch a male (even shaking hands), so take your lead from the locals.
4. Both male and female team members must not flirt with members of the opposite sex. Avoid being alone with or talking at length with someone of the opposite sex, even among staff or interns, as this can easily be misinterpreted.

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5. During outreach, please be sensitive with our neighbors when it comes to taking pictures. The photographer must always ask a person if it is okay to take his/her picture. Realize that we may have as many as 200 people come to visit us in any given year, and ask yourself if you would want 200 people to come and take pictures of you as if you were some sort of exhibit. In many cultures, it is improper to take a picture of someone without sending them a copy. We would love if you could give us printed copies of your photos which provide us with a good follow-up opportunity.
 6. When offered something to eat, receive it and be grateful. Refugee families may go to a lot of trouble to buy fruit, make tea, or prepare an entire meal for us, and it is very offensive if we do not enjoy it. Food and drink is how these cultures bond, and to refuse it amounts to refusing friendship – the very thing you came to build.
 7. You should never buy and/or consume food or drinks without offering them to every person present. Most cultures work from a group, not individualistic, paradigm. So that bag of chips or coke in your hand should probably be shared with everyone because it is not “yours”.
 8. Be careful with touchiness. Some children may have bad home lives or come from cultures that aren’t used to being touched, so be very careful when it comes to giving hugs, picking children up, etc. In some cultures it is inappropriate to touch a person’s head, etc.
 9. You should be aware that oftentimes underprivileged families can be looking for a handout. Please ask our staff before giving out items or rewarding individuals or families with any material items or money.
 10. Guys, please keep shirts on, and ladies, please keep your shirt sleeves unrolled. (See What to Bring for more detailed instructions on what to bring.) Please do not wear T-shirts that talk about missions, have your church name, etc. while out on the streets. We know, they’re the coolest things in the world, but we are working hard to develop an identity among the locals as a community service organization that loves and serves, not a “religious sect trying to change everyone’s religion” (their words, not ours). Maybe you could instead give T-shirts to your prayer supporters that they could be wearing this summer to remember to pray for you and your mission.

Summary

It is impossible to create a set of guidelines that would cover every conceivable situation, so think about the question of trust and use the good sense that God gave to you. Insensitive or irresponsible behavior has a detrimental effect on the long-term ministry here in our community and could offend and hurt the very people that you came to serve. Short-termers who love the people and adapt to the culture, though, have done much to further the work of the Gospel among internationals. The importance of this material cannot be stressed enough, as many times it will determine how well the local community will respond to our message.

gfm mission trip rules

1. If we see any drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products, you will be sent home immediately.
2. Always stay with the group unless you have at least one other person with you and a GFM staff member's permission to leave the group.
3. Be at all of our meetings, and be on time. If you are going to be late because you are ministering to a local person, get a GFM staff member's permission to be late.
4. No guys in the girls' housing and no girls in the guys' housing.
5. No public displays of affection (PDA) – Please save it until you get home (Unless you are married!).
6. Please be respectful of bathroom time as there will be many people sharing the same showers and toilets.

In everything you do and everywhere you go, remember that you are an ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, please respect store owners, bus drivers, teachers, waiters, etc. You don't have to live here the rest of the year, but our missionaries do!

