

SUMMER MISSIONS' TRIP
Gregory Hills Youth Group
Summer 2004
Tentative Plans as of February 11, 2004

The Gregory Hills youth group has been presented with an exciting opportunity for ministry this summer. We have been invited to travel to the Navajo Indian Reservation located in Arizona and New Mexico to participate in children and youth ministry. Every young person who goes can expect it to be a thrilling and life-changing experience. Please keep in mind that the following information is tentative and incomplete.

Tentative Schedule

Saturday, July 3 -- Leave the KC area

Sunday, July 4 -- Arrive late afternoon/evening in Flagstaff, AZ
Spend the night at Grand Falls Mission located approx. 25 miles east of Flagstaff

Monday, July 5 -

Thursday, July 8 – Conduct an afternoon VBS at our Tuba City church, located approx. 90 miles from Flagstaff

Thursday, July 8 – Participate in youth camp-out at Grand Falls Mission

Friday, July 9 -

Sunday, July 11 – Conduct children and youth services at Annual Navajo Convention at the Mission

Monday, July 12 -

Wednesday, July 14 – Conduct another VBS, possibly at a church in New Mexico

Thursday, July 15 -

Friday, July 16 – Days off for sightseeing

Saturday, July 17 – Arrive in Kansas City

Accommodations

While we are in the Flagstaff area, we will be staying at the Mission. Sleeping bags, other bedding, towels, pillows, etc., will be needed. There is minimal running water and generator-produced electricity, so be prepared to “rough-it.” =>

What to take

This is by no means an exhaustive list and we reserve the right to add more later!

~ Clothes - preferably enough for at least one change each day for two weeks - if we have to do laundry, that can probably be arranged (*see dress code below*)

~ Pillow, bedding, sleeping bag (mentioned above)

~ Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, body wash, body wipes, toothpaste, toothbrush, hair ties [for girls], lotion, etc.)

~ Bug spray, band-aids, first aid cream, tylenol or other mild pain reliever for headaches, etc. (we will be taking along a first-aid kit with the basics also)

~ Work clothes, work gloves

~ Sunglasses, sun screen

~ Bible, devotional book, journal

~ Personal CD players/radios with CDs are fine as long as the music is Christian in nature - you might want to take extra batteries

~ Spending money (we will try to incorporate the cost of meals into the trip price, but you might want to have some extra along for souvenirs, recreation, and/or sightseeing)

~ Casual, comfortable shoes (we will be in some very sandy areas, and also some very rocky areas, so open sandals are not always recommended, although it is fine to take some along)

~ Water bottle (we will be in a very dry climate and will be doing our best to stay hydrated!)

Dress Code

Girls: no pants or shorts, skirts should cover the knee and splits should not extend above the knee, no sleeveless, tight-fitting, or low-cut shirts, no jewelry – knee-length active wear may be worn for recreation and work

Boys: no shorts, no sleeveless shirts, no jewelry

Please refrain from taking or wearing anything that would be offensive or suggestive. A good rule of thumb is: if you have to ask, it's probably best not to take it. We should keep in mind that not only will

we be representing our church, but also Christ, and many of the Christians we will be ministering to are “baby” Christians (haven’t been Christians that long) who will be looking up to us as examples of how to live. It is best not to portray anything questionable, even if the “rules” do not reflect our personal views or opinions. “Better safe than sorry” in other words. =)

Approximate Price

While we cannot be completely sure about the cost of the trip right now, pending resolution of several details, we are not expecting the trip to cost more than \$500.00 per person. This will include transportation, fuel, meals, VBS materials, etc. There are several things that will affect the cost per person. The most obvious one would be that until we know exactly how many are going, it will be impossible to calculate the expenses exactly. Gas prices and the cost of VBS material will also have an effect on the final cost of the trip.

Fundraisers

The youth group will be attempting to raise most of the money for the trip. Individuals may wish to send out letters to family members and friends asking for donations. We will be working hard to make this trip a success, so please do your best to support our efforts!

Time Commitment

In the weeks before the trip, we will be spending quite a bit of time in preparation. We will need to prepare and practice for the VBS sessions and we will need to have some initiation/training sessions as well. We will do our best to use youth group time for this, but there may need to be a few additional meetings. We will try to keep these few and brief, and to announce them in advance.

Adult Sponsors

At this time, we are trying to coordinate our trip to coincide with a work team being organized in the Blackjack, MO, area by Randy Bland, Randy’s father. If this works out, our group will be provided with additional helpers in ministry as well as possible help with transportation and adult supervision. If not, we still have plenty of adult supervision with Randy as the adult male sponsor and Tawnya as the adult female sponsor in addition to the college students who are planning to go. Also, while we are on the field, Calvin and Becky Bennett and Greg and Heather Smith, as well as other adult ministers, will be providing guidance and leadership.

This is all the information we have available at this time. We appreciate your patience and prayers as we work out the remaining details. Please don’t hesitate to contact Gene, Randy, or Tawnya with any questions you may have.

Thank you!