

Summary and Guidelines for Summer Teen Mission Trips

One of the responsibilities of the Youth Steering Ministry (YSM) is plan, prepare and conduct our annual Summer Teen Mission Trip (STMT). These trips are usually 7-10 days in length, most frequently in the first two weeks of July and are focused in a rotation of Local, Regional and International emphasis as described below. The trips are for the Keizer youth group only and require significant preparation by each teen and chaperone in advance.

Local Trip

For teens who have finished the 7th grade in the previous school year. We have adjusted the age limit on for this trip depending on the make-up of our group, the maturity level of our teens and the work that needs to be done. This trip is focused in Oregon, Idaho or Washington and usually involves a partnership with another Church of Christ, or multiple congregations. Our teens may do service projects, conduct a VBS or serve any other need that is presented. Previous trips have served churches in Astoria, Gold Beach, Molalla, Portland and Florence.

Regional

For teens who have finished the 8th grade in the previous school year. This trip has a set location, Mountain States Children's Home in Longmont, CO. Our group has worked at MSCH in the summer of 2016 and 2019 and reservations have been made for 2022! Our team stays on campus at MSCH, works on the campus, interacts with the staff and residents and partners with the Longmont Church of Christ as well.

International

For teens who have finished the 10th grade in the previous school year and for graduated seniors. This trip, usually 10 days or more, takes our teens and chaperones to a foreign country in partnership with a local Church of Christ, (and frequently a missionary) to experience Christian life as a cultural outsider. These trips have proven to be very valuable in developing a deeper appreciation for how the gospel impacts different people groups and how the church lives faithfully in a wide variety of cultural contexts. Previous trips have gone to Uganda, the Bahamas and a trip to Myanmar was cancelled due to COVID. The International Trip also requires a higher level of preparation and fundraising efforts as a group.