

Mission Trip Fundraising FAQs October 2010

What are our trip costs?*

Our trip costs for students and chaperones (the "SD Team") are approximately \$1300**/pp to cover:

- Airfare from Boston to Rapid City, SD
- Transportation between the airport in Rapid City and the Reservation
- Mission Agency fees (including all activities and fieldtrips to sites near the reservation)
- Meals and housing on site
- Travel Insurance
- Trip costs for lead chaperone
- Training and fundraising costs

*If a student wants to go on the trip but would be prevented from joining us due to financial difficulties, please come talk to Marie confidentially about possible scholarship assistance.

Based on full price airfares. We will be attempting to fund raise half of the costs per person with the goal being **a contribution of only \$650 per person.

What expenses are not covered?

Spending money for souvenirs, gifts, and snacks while traveling. We will be going on a few fieldtrips and the kids may want some money for ice cream, souvenirs etc. There are also many interesting artifacts made by the Native Americans that are for sale and it is nice to support the local economy. I would recommend that each student bring about \$100-150.

Do I have to pay a deposit?

Yes, a check for \$400 payable to "West Parish Church" is required no later than November 1 in order to reserve a spot on the SD team. Another check for \$250 is due no later than January 1, 2009.

These deposits total \$650 (approximately half of the trip costs per person). It is my hope that we will be able to fund raise the other half of the trip costs for each student (totaling \$13,000 if we have 20 people going on the trip). However, whatever amounts are not raised will have to be covered by the individual students on the SD Team.

Am I required to do fundraising?

All youth and adult SD Team members are required to send out at least 5 support letters and participate in at least 3 fundraising events beginning in September 2009. We also expect SD Team members to seek prayer support from their families and friends! Other SPYs are encouraged to participate in our fundraising events too!

What is a "support letter"?

A support letter is a letter that can be mailed or sent electronically to extended family members, friends, neighbors and others not affiliated with West Parish Church requesting financial support for our trip. Marie will be put a copy in the November West Parish newsletter as well. The support letter explains that we will be selling "shares" in our mission trip and includes a returnable section containing the student's name and the donor's contact information so that a tax-deductible receipt and "stockholder certificate" can be sent to them. Donors will be invited to a shareholder luncheon on Sunday, September 26 to view a slideshow and learn about our trip. The support letter will also be posted on the youth section of the WPC website.

Where can donations be made?

As stated in the support letter, donation checks are payable to “West Parish Church” and the memo should say “SPY Mission Projects.” The checks should be sent to the individual students so each family can keep track of who made a donation in order to send a personal thank you letter. Families should pass the checks and returnable section of the support letter to Marie as soon as possible after receipt.

How can I keep track of how much money our team has raised?

You can keep track of our fundraising progress by following the airplane as it moves along the map located in the Fellowship Hall corridor.

Is there a deadline for fundraising?

Yes, the deadline for fundraising is May 15. On that date, any remaining necessary funds will be divided equally and will be due and payable by SD Team members.

Are donations tax deductible?

Yes, all donations given by family, friends and others are tax-deductible as long as the checks are made payable to West Parish Church and not to individual students.

Are donations refundable?

No, all donations are non-refundable, even if the individual student who raised the funds does not go on the trip.

Do I need to send a thank-you card to each of my donors?

Yes, we ask that you send thank you cards to everyone who made a donation to our mission trip. Although donors will get a generic receipt for their donation and a “stock certificate”, a thank you letter is recommended and encouraged.

Am I financially responsible if I decide not to go?

Your \$400 deposit is refundable in full until January 1. After you have paid your 2nd deposit, we expect you will go on the trip. If you decide not to go, you will be financially responsible for all costs or any cancellation fees associated with the trip that are not covered by the trip insurance. However, you may find another student to take your place up until March 15.

What if we raise extra money?

Each donation is a donation for SPY mission projects. Any money raised that exceeds the SD Team fundraising goal of \$15,000 will go towards the general SPY program to assist with future Mission projects. Therefore, it is in everyone’s best interests to assist with fundraising even if you are not going on the SD trip. Plus, our fundraisers will be fun!!!

How else can families assist with fundraising?

Glad you asked! We need a fundraising team of about 3 or 4 adults who will oversee and coordinate our various fundraising efforts and keep track of the money raised. This team needs to be in place by October 1 and a leader for the team should be designated.

What are some possible fundraising ideas?

Since we are trying to raise a large sum of money, we must run big-dollar fundraisers that earn at least \$500 per event (verses small income earners like bake sales and car washes) and that reach out to the community at large rather than only to members of the congregation.

- Grants - many casinos run by Native Americans give grants for outreach to other Native Americans. See www.indiancasinos.com for a list of casinos. Also, many organizations offer grants for mission projects as well. We need someone to apply for the grants.
- Russ Doyle Youth/CE Fund
- Find celebrities who help Native Americans and ask for sponsorship.

- Check Native American magazines and journals for other sponsorship ideas.
- Silent Auction
- Concert (last year Andrus gave a concert w/ free will offering and raised over \$500 that night)
- Singing Telegrams
- Ebay sales campaign
- A meal or event like a Crepes Dinner or a Chocolate Fair or Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast
- Flamingo Attacks
- Lakota culture night - songs, activities, history

What dates are available for fundraisers at WPC?

Marie has reserved the church facility for the following dates for possible fundraisers but other dates may be available as well:

Sat, October 24
Fri, October 30
Sat, October 31
Sat, December 5
Fri, Jan 22
Sat, Jan 23 (evening)
Sun, Jan 24
Fri, Jan 29
Sun, Jan 30
Fri, Feb 25
Sat, Feb 27 (evening)
Fri, April 30
Sat, May 15