

High School Mission 2019 FAQs

What is a Mission?

The word "mission" can have several different meanings... *"a group or committee of persons sent to a foreign country to conduct negotiations... provide assistance, or the like", "any important task or duty that is assigned",* and our favorite, *"an important goal or purpose that is accompanied by strong conviction; a **calling** or **vocation**."* Your Mission is exactly that, it's a calling... there is a reason you and/or your parents are here right now, and we thank you for answering that call.

How Old Do I Have to Be?

This year's Mission Journey is open to 2018-19 8th-12th grade students. Graduating seniors who will be 18 during the time of the mission need to be Safe Environment trained and certified. Contact your DRE if you will be 18 during the mission. This is to comply with archdiocesan and Alive in You standards. Middle School students grades 6-7 can participate in the mission to Hammond, IN. 2018-19 8th graders may choose between either mission.

Where are we going? – St. Louis, MO

This year we will be traveling to St. Louis, MO to participate in another Mission with Alive in You. Alive in You is part conference, part service camp and 100% Catholic. Experience the love of Christ through the Eucharist, Reconciliation, Mass, service, high-energy praise and worship, prayer, talented speakers, team building, games, activities, and small faith groups. Gather your friends, pack your bags, and join young people from around the country on this incredible journey of faith. Open your heart and let the fire of the Holy Spirit become Alive in You.

When are we going? – Monday, July 8th (around Midnight)– Sunday July 14th, 2019

How do we get there?

Technically by bus... but that's in July. The journey we take during our Mission to get to that bus in July is an awesome one and starts much earlier... it involves some working, some talking about it to people, some fundraising (we'll get to that in a moment), some Bible reading, some faith sharing, and most of all... lots of praying! This is a big deal, not only for the teens and adults who are going, but for the families they leave behind too, so we need all the prayers we can get.

What will we be doing (once we get there)?

We will be joining hundreds of teens from around the country brought together by a mission organization called Alive in You. They take care of most of the logistics, arranging for us a place to stay (usually a school), meals and worksites for the week, as well as providing an opportunity to learn and share more about our faith.

Now for those logistics! We will leave here on Monday the 8th and arrive in St. Louis on Tuesday Morning (we sleep through the night on the bus). We will be staying at a local school

and sleeping on air mattresses in a classroom or gym. If we stay at a University we will be sleeping on beds. Wednesday through Friday are our work days, and Alive in You will provide us our worksite and task lists for the week when we get there. In the past we have done everything from cleaning, painting and landscaping to basic home repair, even mentoring to children. Friday evening through Sunday morning is the Catholic Conference portion of our Mission, including a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, Eucharistic Adoration and a closing Mass on Sunday. We will be arriving back home some time on Sunday the 14th. A more detailed trip itinerary will be provided to both teens and parents at a later date.

Will we stay together?

Yes... our teens will be working with each other. This is done to strengthen the relationships among the teens from our parish. We will also have plenty of opportunities to get to know the teens from the other participating parishes from around the country.

How much does this cost?

The price of the trip is \$495. This covers the registration fee from Alive in You, and helps cover some of the additional cost that the parish incurs. Your Alive in You registration fee includes all meals from Tuesday's dinner through Sunday's breakfast, lodging, all programming (speakers, musicians, entertainment, etc.), and giveaways: t-shirt, backpack, water bottle, journal, and other goodies. The registration fee covers basically everything except transportation to and from the camp. Mission Trip attendees will fundraise the cost of transportation and extra supplies/food for the trip as individual parishes. Each parish group is responsible for a certain percentage of bus costs (based off of the percentage of teens that are taking up the bus).

Please make checks payable to your parish based off of the information below. Even though we are traveling together, parishes will be keeping finances and fundraising separate.

Shepherd of the Hills Parish & St. Matthew's: Made out to "**Shepherd of the Hills**" or "**SOTH**"
St. Mary's & Sons of Zebedee: Made out to "**St. Mary**"

St. Isidore, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary (Holyland Catholic Parishes): Made out to "**St. Isidore**"
Holy Family, Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, St. Peter's: Made out to "**Holy Family**"

Our Risen Savior & Presentation: Made out to "**Presentation**"

A non-refundable deposit of \$80 is needed. Down payments that come in after January 1st should be doubled to \$160.

\$495 is a lot of money! Can my teen fundraise their fee?

Yes! We recommend your son/daughter write letters to friends, family, co-workers, and businesses as a way to fundraise by telling the donors where he/she is going, when, and why. Your parish will have instructions for you on how to do a letter writing campaign.

The letter should include instructions for donors to mail their checks to your parish listed above that will deal with the finances. All money that comes with your son/daughter's name will go directly toward the cost of their fees for the trip. As checks come in to the parish for your son or daughter thank yous will be sent from the parish. During our mission your son/daughter will also write thank you notes to those that gave a donation. Please contact your DRE for more information.

Why do I have to submit an \$80 Downpayment right away if we are fundraising?

The \$80 downpayment (\$160 in January) is turned around and sent right to Alive In You to reserve your spot. Alive In You has its own financial deadlines. For this reason, down payments are non-refundable.

Group Fundraisers

Parishes will schedule fundraisers to help supplement the cost of the bus. The group fundraisers are VITAL to helping us fund large group expenses. For this reason, any extra funds that we receive in your teen's name above \$495 will be put towards the other group fees (such as the bus). More details about local business fundraising will be coming very soon, so stay tuned...

Spaghetti Thank You Dinner

As a special way of thanking those who have helped support us in our mission journey, we host a spaghetti dinner the week after we get back. Stay tuned for the day and location. ALL mission teens are expected to attend and help with set-up/clean-up. The thank you dinner is our way of showing the rest of the community that we appreciate their financial and spiritual support. We serve our family and friends while sharing more details and reactions about what happened on our mission. This is also when we debut the mission highlight reel!

Chaperones

Please contact your DRE or Youth Minister if you would like to chaperone.

· Per Alive in You and Archdiocesan standards, Chaperones must be **at least 21 years of age.**

All participants 18 and older must be Safe Environment Trained, have an up to date background check, and signed Code of Ethical Standards on record. More information can be found on the parish website:

<http://www.sothparish.org/Safe-Environment-Training>

Important Dates

Mission Meeting (interested teens and parents looking for more information or to turn in papers)

Wednesday, September 5th 7:00pm Shepherd of the Hills Cafeteria

Down Payments & Registration Due ASAP

- \$80 Down Payment Check (\$160 if turned in after January 1st)
- Online Information Form Filled Out

Reunion Mission Service Opportunities

- Sat, Oct 13th 9-12pm @ St. Matthew's
- Sat, Feb 16th 9-12pm @ Christo Rey Ranch in Mount Calvary
- Sat, May 18th 9-12pm @ St. John's in Byron off of Hwy 175

Financial Updates Sent out Early March, 2019

An official update will be sent out in March by your DRE or Youth Minister of what you have gotten in and what is still due. Even though this is sent out in March, contact your parish at any time to see what donations have come in under your name.

Remainder of \$495 balance due by April 2nd, 2019

Mission Send-Off Mass (Required for ALL mission participants)

Sunday, July 7th, 2019 10:30am Mass at Shepherd of the Hills (Expect to stay until 12:30pm)

- Arrive by 9:45am
- Wear mission t-shirt
- Bring a dessert/appetizer for send-off pot-luck following Mass.

Spaghetti Thank You Dinner

Location and Date TBD

- Arrive by 5:30pm
- Wear new Alive in You t-shirt (given during the mission)
- Bring a dessert or side dish
- Bring a box of spaghetti

Please note that your individual parish will have additional Large Group Fundraising dates and requirements beyond the information and dates listed above.

SMC & SOTH Mission Fundraising

Individual Fundraising:

Letter Writing Opportunity

Thursday, November 29th, 2018 6:00pm in SOTH Coffee House

We recommend your son/daughter bring a list of 10-20 (or more) names and addresses. The list can include family, friends, co-workers, businesses or anyone else that may be willing to help. Your son/daughter will write a short personalized note at the bottom of the standard letter that is specific to their potential donor. Shepherd of the Hills will supply the letters, envelopes and postage for the letter writing event, but teens are encouraged to bring extra letters home with them and mail them out from home (stamps/envelopes not provided after the letter writing night).

The letter includes instructions for donors to mail their checks to Shepherd of the Hills. All money that comes with your son/daughter's name will go directly toward the cost of their fees for the trip. As checks come in to the parish for your son or daughter thank yous will be sent from the parish. During our mission your son/daughter will also write thank you notes to those that gave a donation. If you are unable to attend we still encourage your child to send these letters and be a part of this fund raiser. Letters will be made available on the parish website. Please contact Katie Boehm, DRE for a copy of the letter after November 29th.

(Required) Group Fundraising: Noodles & Doodles 2018

Saturday, December 16th, 2018 9am-7pm

Adult Help: SEE-Trained Mission Trip parents & Chaperones

Teen Help: Mission trip All Teens on Deck. 2 Shifts 8:30-2:00, 2:00-7:30

Daily Schedule

9:00-9:30	Check-in & Open Gym
9:30-10:00:	Cafeteria games
10:00-10:30:	Open Gym
10:30-11:00:	Doodle Session 1
11:00-11:30:	Lunch (Please pack a cold lunch)
11:30-12:30:	Gym Games & Playground
12:30-1:00:	Doodle Session 2
1:00-1:30:	Cafeteria Games
1:30-3:00:	Movie & Snack Time
3:00-3:30:	Set the tables & decorate
3:30-4:00:	Parent Pick-Up
4:00	Mass with parents or Help with Dinner Prep
5:00-6:30	Free Spaghetti Dinner and Doodle Silent Auction

All of this made possible by SMC & SOTH Mission Trip Teens: free will offerings appreciated. This event will be in lieu of 2 collections at either church or Culver's dates and is meant to be the big mission fundraiser. Gift-wrapping will also be available that day. If needed, we will add a Culver's day to the calendar in the Spring.

DAILY SCHEDULE

TUES
WED - FRI
SAT.
SUN

	6:45am - 8:00am breakfast	6:45am - 8:00am breakfast	6:45am - 8:00am breakfast
	8:00am - 8:20am morning session	8:00am - 8:20am morning session	8:00am - 8:30am AIY highlight reel
	depart for worksites	8:20am - 2:45pm individual parish off-site activities	8:30am - 9:45am closing mass
	9:00am - 3:00pm work locations		
1:00pm - 3:00pm groups check in		groups return	
3:00pm - 4:00pm unpack	groups return	3:00pm - 5:45pm keynote and workshops	
4:00pm - 5:30pm opening session	4:00pm - 5:30pm free time mass, sports, etc		
5:45pm - 7:00pm dinner	5:45pm - 7:00pm dinner	5:45pm - 7:00pm dinner	
7:00pm - 9:30pm opening witness and mass	7:00pm - 9:00pm evening session	7:00pm - 10:30pm evening session adoration concert parish time	
9:30pm - 10:15pm parish time	9:00pm - 10:00pm parish time		
10:15pm - 11:00pm free time	10:00pm - 11:00pm free time	10:30pm - 11:00pm free time	
11:00pm lights out	11:00pm lights out	11:00pm lights out	

Packing List - Mission 2019

You will be packing 2 bags and ONLY 2 bags due to the room under the bus. One bag is for everything you will need while on the bus (to and from St. Louis, MO). The other bag is for everything else that you will need once we arrive at the school in Mobile.

Bag #1:

Anything you want for during the bus ride. When we stop during the night, we will not be going into our other bag and getting anything out!

- You will be wearing comfy clothes already
- Pack your official SOTH mission 2019 shirt for when we arrive.
- Stuff for getting read to sleep (toothpaste, toothbrush, face wash, deodorant, glasses).
- Stuff for sleeping on the bust (pillow, sleeping bag, blanket) YES you will be sleeping on the bus!
- Anything you want to do on the bus - phones, tablets, journal, books, cameras, money, etc. (Please keep track of your valuables at all times. The less you bring, the less there is to keep track of).
- We will have places to change when we stop for breaks.

Bag #2: Everything Else

- Comfy clothes for bus- sweatpants, shorts, tshirts (to and from)
- Pajamas (no tank tops), T-shirts, shorts (so really short shorts), sweats
- Socks
- Underwear and that stuff
- Shoes/sandals - you will need at least one pair of good shoes to wear for the Saturday part of the trip. FYI- your work shoes might be ruined by this part of the trip.
- Casual clothes for evenings - jeans, T-shirts, etc.
- It's gonna be HOT! Think shorts and Tshirt for most of the trip.
- Shampoo/Conditioner, Body Wash/Soap, Shower shoes
- Bible
- Towel
- Swimsuit
- Sunscreen... Sunscreen... Sunscreen...
- Any prescription Medicine (Make sure that it is written on the medical form as well)
- Garbage bag or some kind of plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Your own spending money for meals (this includes before and after the Alive in You portion of the trip, as well as Saturday's Explore St. Louis, MO. \$75 spending money seems to be plenty for this).
- Clothes for the themed dinners- don't be afraid to go above and beyond! It's fun- we promise. But remember the two bag packing rule!!!

Work

- Closed toe shoes= nothing nice because they will be getting used!
 - Either tennis shoes or work shoes
- T shirts- at least 3 for work. ... Nothing nice.... NO spaghetti strap tank tops or cutoffs.
- Shorts or capris- at least 3 for work... shorts should be close to your knees.
- A set of pants/jeans and long sleeves is a MUST! In case we have an activity that we need to be covered for.
- Headbands/hats in case we are working outside because it tends to get a bit warm!

Extra Information:

- SINGLE!!! Air Mattress... It can be a tall one, but it needs to be single-wide.
 - Make sure that your air mattress is labeled. They will be stored somewhere else on the bus and don't need to fit into one of your two bags.
 - If we stay at a college campus an air mattress is not needed.
- Sleeping bag/blanket if you don't bring it on the bus (it will be cold on the bus). This isn't a joke- please bring a warm blanket for sleeping on the bus in the air conditioning.
- Flashlight... depending upon your bladder situation you might want a flashlight (especially the ladies) to navigate around after lights out. When the lights go out, they aren't coming back til the sun comes up! Lights out is 11pm each night.
- We will supply a few snacks for the bus ride, but please plan on bringing spending money for food on the trip there and back. Once we are to Mobile and at Alive In You all of the meals are covered with the exception of our free afternoon. **\$75 in spending money is a ballpark number if you are looking to know how much would cover expenses there and back.** We won't be stopping anywhere extravagant to eat. You can bring as much as you like but remember- you are in charge of keeping an eye on your valuables/money.
- Plan on bringing an additional \$10-20 towards ice/water while we are there. It will be hot!