



# Muskegon, Michigan Sr. High Mission 2025 Information and Application Packet

Register Now!



# Muskegon 2025



## Muskegon, Michigan Mission 2025

### Kids Belong

With over 400 kids in foster care in the Muskegon area, Kids Belong provides support groups, fun activities, meal support and more to families within the foster/adopt/kinship world. This encouragement is quite literally life-changing and helps families continue their work. Come alongside their vision to love and serve kids who are often left-behind and the families giving of themselves to provide a home.

- **Join a caring community:** Step into the world of individuals who are passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of foster children.
- **Provide a lifeline:** Offer respite to foster families, allowing them to recharge and continue their important work of caring for children in need.
- **Become a beacon of hope:** Come and learn about the need to foster families and support communities everywhere in the world. Help foster families navigate the challenges they face, providing them with the support and encouragement they need.

Come see where God is at work! While foster care is needed everywhere, come and partner with Kids Belong and zoom into a community where people are making a difference. Be inspired as you provide much-needed support and respite for foster families who are in the daily grind of loving on kids who are worthy of so much more love than the world gives them.

### Work Projects

Teams will help support foster families who do not have enough energy to go around. Practically speaking, this may be helping with projects to provide more housing for foster kids, or it may be showing a simple act of kindness by helping with yard work or household chores that are often set aside due to the unique circumstances and needs of children in their care.

### Outreach Ministry

Opportunities to have an impact on people's lives on a spiritual and emotional level by offering care, compassion, and meeting real may include: meal preparation and distribution, helping sort clothes at a "foster closet" ministry, activities with foster teens, providing "respite date nights" for foster parents, and participating in community dinners.

Volunteer groups will also likely have opportunities to lead a "Kids Club" VBS-type kids ministry 1-4 times during your week of service. Kids Club outlines and materials lists are provided by EM as your team prepares and leads the program for kids in the community, which includes skits, games, stories, crafts and more.

## **Learning Opportunities**

Teams will hear from local foster families about some of the complexities of the day in/day out of foster care. They will also be able to hear about the vision and dreams of EM's local partner ministry Kids Belong and how they can best support foster families in your own community.

## **Typical Schedule**

Each morning, there is time set aside for devotions and quiet time. This is a valuable time and we strongly encourage all team members to spend it with God, journaling their thoughts and experiences as the days unfold. EM will provide a physical or printable devotional journal.

Our staff will lead a time of debriefing and a short devotional in the evening (what we call "Evening Gathering") and it is always a great addition to have musical worship. Our programming does not include musical worship as we can't guarantee that our staff will have this ability. Please let us know if you have anyone who sings or plays guitar on your trip so that we can help to coordinate the musical aspect of worship when able. If teams aren't able to help in the area of music, it may not be a part of the trip.

### **AVERAGE DAILY SCHEDULE**

#### **Day 1**

3-6pm Groups Arrive  
5pm - Leader's Meeting  
6pm - Dinner  
7pm - Orientation Meeting  
8:30pm - Team Time (a time for your group alone)  
11:30pm - Lights Out

#### **Day 2-5**

7:15am - Breakfast  
7:45am - Devotions and Quiet Time  
8:15am - Group Prayer  
8:30am - Teams leave for Work Sites/Ministry Areas  
12pm - Lunch  
3:30pm - Finish work for the day  
4pm - Break and Clean-up  
5pm - Leaders meeting  
6pm - Dinner  
7pm - Evening Gathering / Team time

#### **Day 6**

7am - Breakfast  
7:30am - Cleanup/ Packing  
9am - Pictures and Good-Byes

## **Lodging**

Teams in Muskegon, Michigan, will stay in a secured local church in the area.

## **Sleeping**

You will be sleeping on the floor and should plan to bring an air mattress or a mat. Team members should plan to bring light bedding or a sleeping bag and a pillow.

## **Showers & Bathrooms**

There will be showers and bathrooms available at the housing location. Larger teams may need to go to the local YMCA for showers.

## **Water**

Tap water is clean and available to drink in Muskegon!

## **Food**

Experience Mission field staff will be preparing and serving your meals. Breakfast and dinner will be served buffet-style, and your team will pack their own lunches each morning. Curious about EM's ability to accommodate specific food restrictions? View [EM's Food Policy](#)

## **U.S. TRIPS - FOOD POLICY**

**Peanut Allergies:** If there is a team member who has a peanut allergy we will serve anything with peanuts on a separate table. This includes the Peanut Butter and the granola bars and anything else the team member feels might not be safe to come in contact with.

**Vegetarians:** We will provide a meatless alternative at meals serving meat. This will include tofu hot dogs and veggie burgers. meatless pasta sauce, meatless burritos. Peanut butter and Jelly for lunches in place of lunch meat and cheese.

**Lactose Intolerance:** We will provide either soy or almond milk at breakfast. The lunch and dinner menu should provide sufficient options for those with lactose intolerance.

**Gluten intolerance:** We will provide gluten-free cereal for breakfast and gluten-free pasta noodles and if possible, gluten-free granola bars for lunch. As there are many preferred varieties of gluten-free bread, we ask team members to bring their own bread of choice for use at all meals.

If we have prior knowledge of a gluten intolerant team member, our staff will be sensitive to taking care not to cross-contaminate foods and cooking utensils. We will also look to utilize gluten-free products wherever possible provided they are readily available for meals like pasta sauce or BBQ sauce or hot dogs, taco seasoning, mixed seasoning packets, etc. If a team member needs to cook separately we will make our kitchen and refrigerator available wherever possible.

*\*It is important to note that our pans, utensils, dishes, etc. will have been used for foods containing gluten in the past.*

Upon arrival our field staff will take time to talk with the Team Leader about any special dietary limitations present on the team and share what special considerations have been put in place. They will discuss the menu alternatives provided at each meal, where they can find them and any additional precautions that need to be taken to help accommodate these dietary needs.

### **Transportation**

*Your team's transportation to, from, and while in Michigan is not covered.* You will need vehicles throughout the entire week to transport your team to various locations for work and ministry. **Using a school bus as your main mode of transportation while in this community is not recommended as teams may be split into smaller groups for projects and ministry opportunities.** It is recommended teams flying in plan to arrive at Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

# Muskegon Financial Information

## **COST OF MISSION (estimated):**

This cost is *before* fundraising.

Experience Mission Fee	\$ 400
Flight	\$ 600
Travel/Meals to/from Omaha	\$ 200
Rental Vehicles	\$ 150
Mission Expenses/Prep/Materials <small>(devotionals, shirts, meals at meetings, donations, etc.)</small>	\$ 150
	<hr/>
	\$1,500

## **FUNDRAISING:**

Craft Show Concessions (November)  
Christmas Bake Sale (December)  
Easter Breakfast (April)  
Silent Auction (June)  
Stock Sale (April – May) with Dessert Banquet in August  
RFK Camp Finale meal (May)

Options beyond these are certainly welcome, but will need to be arranged/coordinated by families. 😊

# Muskegon Mission dates to remember

Wednesday, November 20:	Applications/Payment #1 Due
Sunday, November 24, 12:00 p.m.	First Team Meeting (with Lunch) Parents for first 15 minutes only
<small>*High School and Leaders. In the event that we create a college team, there will be a separate meeting schedule. Meetings will be for youth, leaders and team members only in November, January. Starting in March there will be monthly large group meetings, as well as monthly small group meetings.</small>	
November 2	FSP Craft Show Concessions
December 14 – 15	Holiday Bake Sale
Sunday, April 20	Easter Breakfast
Wednesday, July 16	FINAL MISSION MEETING (parents/youth)
Sunday, July 20	Depart for Omaha
Sunday, July 20	Fly to Grand Rapids (early – 5:30 p.m.)
Sunday, July 20 – Friday, July 25	Muskegon
Friday, July 25 or July 26	Fly to Omaha - Arrive in Hastings
Sunday, August 10	Stockholder's Banquet

# Muskegon Team Member agreement

As a member/parent/guardian of this mission team, I understand and agree to the following principles:

1. Be actively involved in First St. Paul's Youth Ministry (Soul Café or Small Group) and worship in the coming year.
2. Be actively involved as a First St. Paul's volunteer (Sunday School Teacher, Confirmation Assistant, Worship Team, Ichthus Volunteer) in the coming year.
3. Be an active team member, recognizing that preparation for this mission requires my time, talent and financial support.
4. Attend all trip meetings, which are mandatory, and understanding that absences are emergency only and must be cleared with trip leader **prior** to the meeting.
5. Attend/contribute to all fundraisers and the follow up banquet.
6. Will take responsibility for due dates, meeting dates and information that pertains to this mission.
7. Will adhere to all deadlines for paper work, forms and deposits/payments.
8. Will travel with the team as a whole for all portions of this mission.
9. Passports, vaccinations and other trip related costs are incurred by the team member and are not covered by fundraising.
10. I understand that all payments are collected to cover incurred costs at the time. As a result, payments are **non-refundable**, regardless of the circumstances that may prevent me/my child from completing the mission.
11. I understand and agree that if I/my child does not participate as required, it will affect their ability to complete the mission, regardless of financial commitment. In this case, payments remain **non-refundable**.

Youth Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_