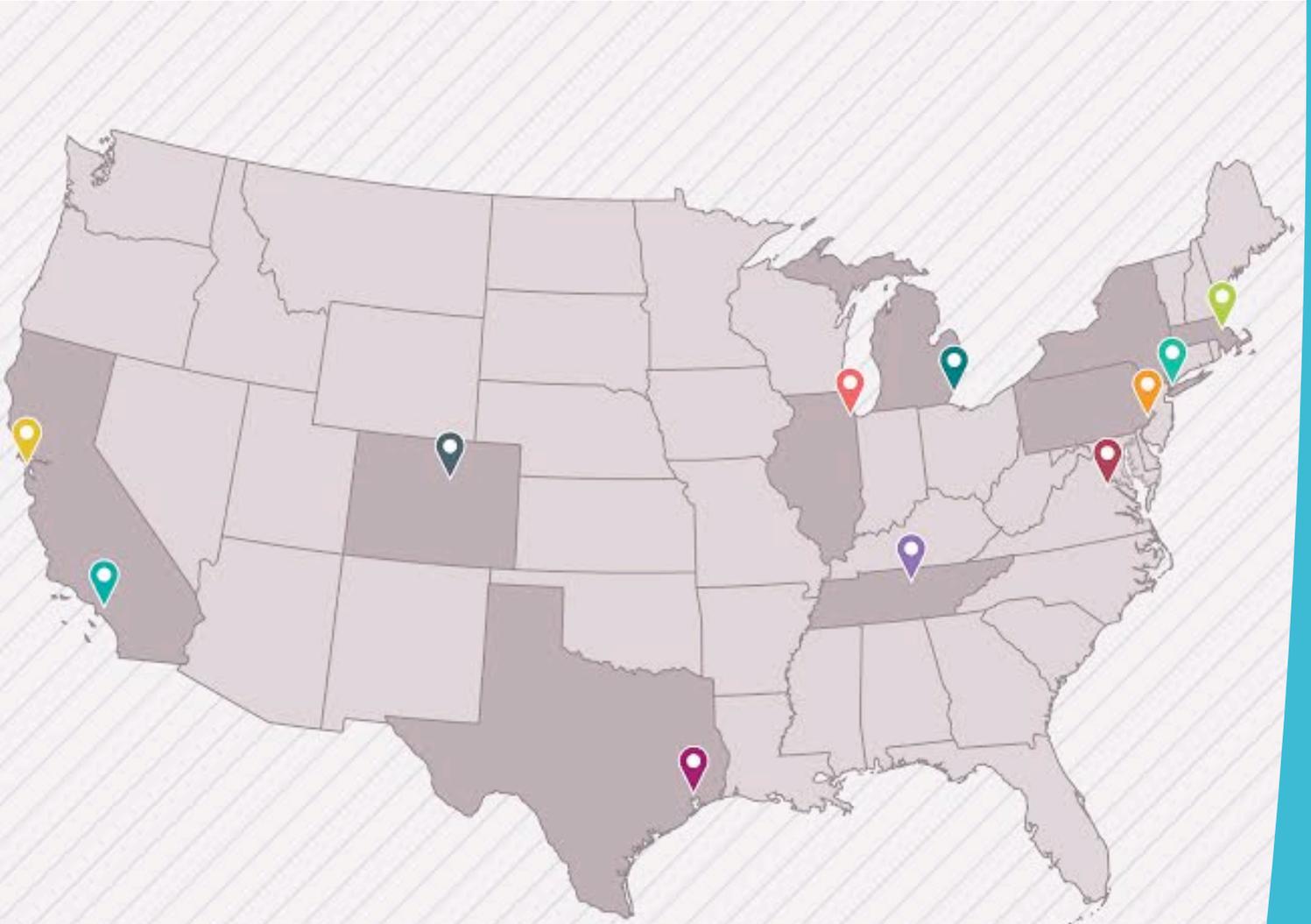




# Confirmation Packet

## Chicago





# What to Bring

## ...and What NOT to Bring on your Mission Trip to Chicago

---

### Things to remember about the City:

**The people who live in the city come from many different places, backgrounds and cultures. Different isn't good or bad.**

1. The people of the city work hard at preserving their cultures...they are proud to be Korean, Thai, Salvadoran, Honduran, Mexican, African-American, etc.
2. You will bring your own culture (suburban/rural/urban) with you. You will naturally look, act and talk like people from your own culture, which may be different than those that you are serving.
3. Sometimes these cultures are in conflict. Please remember to respect the cultures of the city that are different from your own. Do not make fun of or speak negatively about the dress, actions, food, or music of the cultures with which you come in contact. This also includes different religious groups, ethnic cultures, sexual orientations, political views, etc.
4. The city is inconsistent. We ask that dress be modest and appropriate to the situations you will be in. This is regardless of the attire that you may see others wearing who are not part of CSM. Many work sites that deal with food require long pants and tennis shoes or other closed shoes with non-skid soles (no open-toed or open-heeled shoes such as sandals, flip-flops or clogs).

### Things to bring with you to the City:

- An attitude of FLEXIBILITY! And remember, Chicago is in the Central Time Zone!
- Please make every effort to use VANS for your group's transportation. Make sure there is room for your CSM City Host in your vehicle.
- Depending on the length of your trip, written record of a TB test within the past year may be needed.
- Sleeping bag or single sheet set, pillow, towel, wash cloth.
- Personal toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, sunscreen, etc.)
- Money for CSM t-shirts and water bottle (available for \$10 to \$20 USD each)
- Your Bible, a pen and a journal.
- Work clothes: most sites prefer jeans/long pants, t-shirts, closed-toe shoes with non-skid soles.
  - Some ministry sites are OK with shorts, fingertip length or longer. Most prefer jeans/long pants.
  - Shirts that expose the shoulders (tank tops, halter tops, muscle shirts, etc.) may NOT be worn outside of the housing site.
  - Shirts must be long enough to raise arms without exposing midriff or underwear.
  - Sturdy, flat, closed-toe shoes with non-skid soles for use at most ministry sites.
  - Sandals or flip-flops may be worn around the CSM buildings, but be prepared to change.
  - Be prepared for hot, cold, rain, wind, whatever!
  - Leather work gloves may be needed for work projects.
  - One-piece swimsuits with modest cut for females, only in summer.
- Church clothes (only if you will be in Chicago on Sunday morning): Please check with your CSM City Director because different churches that we visit have different requirements.

OPTIONAL: Air mattress (twin), Sheet to lay your sleeping bag on, Flip-flops (ONLY for showers), Fans in the summer.

LEADERS: Alarm clock, cell phone.

### Things NOT to bring to the City:

- Radios, iPods, MP3 players, portable gaming systems, TVs, computers, iPads. (We prefer that students not bring cell phones. If you do, they must be left at the housing site.)
- Anything that is not replaceable or has significant value, like expensive jewelry.
- A lot of money (CSM t-shirts are available for \$10 to \$20.)
- Hats, bandanas, college or professional team clothing, or sports logos (Nike, Adidas, etc.)
- Drugs, alcohol, knives, guns, weapons of any kind, etc.
- If planning VBS activities, please be creative and **do not** use the "Salvation Bracelet" craft, as the colors can easily be misinterpreted and offensive to certain cultures.

# Rules and Guidelines

## Chicago

---

The best attitude to take into this experience is to pretend that you have arrived in a far-away land where the customs, language, food and thinking are very different from your own. Thinking about the inner-city this way will help you prepare for your time in the city. Safety is our number one priority and the following guidelines are to help you understand the culture of the city a little better.

1. While in the city, you will be guided by CSM staff. These are people who know the city and how to make your experience safe and meaningful. Please listen to CSM staff at all times and do not question decisions on the spot (wait until you are out of the immediate situation).
2. It is important that students are never outside of the CSM housing site without an adult sponsor. At night, no one should be outside without a CSM staff person.
3. There can be no yelling, whistling, gesturing, etc. out of the buildings or vehicles. This can be misinterpreted and may be dangerous.
4. Money should be handled out of sight so we do not create temptation for anyone. In addition, we ask that group members not give money to anyone. If you think that someone has a legitimate need, please refer him or her to CSM staff. This is for your own protection. If you have money that you want to give to people who need it, it is best to give it to one of the organizations where you will be serving, as money goes further that way.
5. You should always be aware of your surroundings and not so wrapped up in conversation that you don't realize what is going on around you. The best way to avoid danger is to not walk into it.
6. The culture of the city is different from suburban or rural areas. People will not be offended if you don't smile and wave at them. However, if someone speaks to you, or if you are speaking to him or her, it is okay and encouraged to look him or her in the eye.
7. Bathrooms and showers are at a premium. Due to limited space, we ask that your showers be five minutes maximum.
8. Lights out will be at 11 p.m. each night.
9. Most ministry sites do not allow photographs to be taken because it takes away from your effectiveness to do ministry. In addition, many people don't want their picture taken and some children cannot be photographed for legal reasons. If you want to take a picture, first check your motivation, then check with your CSM host.
10. Part of your CSM trip is experiencing the many cultures of the city through eating at ethnic restaurants. The people at the restaurants are very proud of their food (it's an important part of their culture), so please be open to trying everything and being polite.
11. The key to inner-city ministry is flexibility. We have a schedule prepared for you, but sometimes things change at the last minute. Please be patient and flexible.
12. It is important to remember that wherever you go, you are an ambassador for Jesus Christ. It will be quite obvious to city residents that you are not from the area, and many can also tell that you are with a church. Therefore, you will want to behave well towards each other and strangers. In addition, public displays of affection between men and women (students, leaders and/or CSM staff) such as teasing, roughhousing, and backrubs are inappropriate when with CSM and especially at ministry sites.



1755 North 13th Street, Box #211  
Philadelphia, PA 19122

P 267 928 2620  
W [csm.org](http://csm.org)

## Housing Covenant

We at CSM deeply value the relationships we have with both the groups that come into the city to serve and the housing sites we partner with in each urban center.

During your trip, we ask that you please respect the housing site your group stays at as well. If anything is broken or damaged by a member(s) of your group, your group will be financially responsible for that repair. Please inform CSM staff of any damage, so that it can be repaired for future groups.

We thank you, in advance, for treating our housing sites with the utmost care!

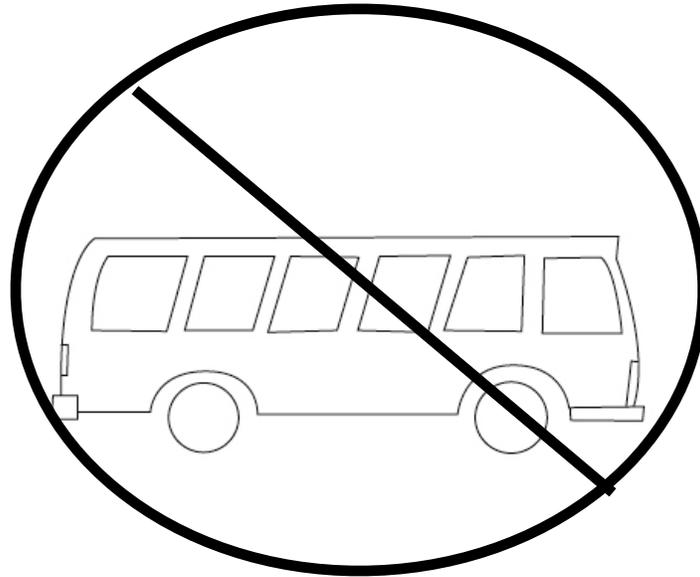
Sincerely,

Justin Perry  
Director of Operations & Training

*To provide an effective urban  
ministry experience that transforms  
lives, influences churches and  
communities, and honors Christ.*



## Transportation Policy



Please use VANS for your group's transportation.

Buses, Shuttle Buses and Mini Buses are not permitted in the city.

Also, make sure there is room for your CSM City Host(s) in your vehicle.



## Share the Experience!

[www.csm.org](http://www.csm.org)

You've registered your group and are ready to head on into the inner-city – now it's time to get your church excited about your upcoming trip!

- Fill out the form at the bottom of this page and pass it on to the individual responsible for your church's bulletins. It can easily be used as your primary announcement. The more your congregation knows, the better prepared they will be to act as the sending component of your mission trip. Help them get involved by teaching about the city you're serving in, sharing specific prayer requests for your trip and even informing them as to how they can help financially if you will be fundraising.
- Show the CSM promotional DVD at your different worship services. If you did not request one already, please call 267-928-2620 to have our Home Office send you a copy. Let your congregation know what you'll be doing in the urban center you're headed to. Share about the different ministries CSM works with (can be found at <http://www.csm.org/cities.php>) and in what ways your group is excited to serve.
- Utilize the free promotional material on CSM's website (<http://www.csm.org/csmpromo.php>). You'll find awesome posters and logos!
- Use CSM's handy News Advisory Template to inform your local news stations about your upcoming trip. It can be found in the Group Leader's section of the website (<http://www.csm.org/leader/leaderindex.php>)!
- After returning from your trip, schedule a time during an upcoming worship service (or an entire sharing night!) specifically for the team to share about their trip. This would be a great opportunity to present a slideshow or video that helps the congregation learn about the experience your team had. Incorporate testimonies, a new song you learned or perform a drama you used in the city.
- For all you social networkers out there - create a Facebook Event (if your youth are on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) already). You can even become a fan of CSM! Our page is entitled "Center for Student Missions (CSM)".
- Please email any reflections, videos or pictures to [alumni@csm.org](mailto:alumni@csm.org) – we'd love to hear how God used your group in the city!

---

Hello! Please include the following in our church's next bulletin:

We're headed to \_\_\_\_\_!  
(City site)

\_\_\_\_\_ for a short-term mission trip with the Center for Student Missions.  
(Departure date)

We will be serving in the urban center until \_\_\_\_\_. To learn more about  
our \_\_\_\_\_  
(Return date)

trip please talk to \_\_\_\_\_ or log onto CSM's website ([www.csm.org](http://www.csm.org)).  
(Group leader)

We are excited to share our experience with you!



## Talking Points to Share

[www.csm.org](http://www.csm.org)

---

- CSM provides ministry opportunities to serve the world's fastest growing mission field.** With the population explosion in and around the world's urban centers, cities are quickly becoming the world's largest (and most complex) mission field. CSM provides groups with an opportunity to serve through local ministries that have a year-round presence in their specific communities.
- CSM handles the details, you get to serve.** As a leader or group member, you will be joined by one of CSM's resident staff on your trip. They handle the specific details (from directions to meals) while you have the opportunity to whole-heartedly serve.
- CSM provides a long-lasting experience during a short-term trip.** CSM staff live year-round in the city they serve in. They've formed relationships with the ministries we partner with and you become the vital link, as these ministries depend on the volunteers CSM provides to remain a vibrant presence in their communities.
- CSM's service projects are working with people.** When serving in the urban center with CSM, you will be coming alongside ministries that focus on serving people. Whether you're serving food at a homeless shelter or playing with children at an after-school program, you will be cultivating relationships throughout your entire trip.
- CSM allows you to not just serve the city, but to learn about who you are serving.** By participating with CSM, you will have many opportunities to learn about who you are serving. By becoming better informed we can better know the needs of the city and, in turn, learn where we can best serve the individuals in the city. Learning about different people and cultures can also help us to learn more about ourselves.
- CSM provides training and follow up to all of its groups.** We believe that both pre- and post-trip training are crucial – not only for the trip to run smoothly, but that participants would be personally changed as they serve. CSM provides in-depth training materials for both before and after your time of service, free of charge.
- CSM allows participants to experience the rich cultures that make up the city.** Groups have the opportunity to serve at ministry sites and eat at different ethnic restaurants that expose them to the multitude of cultures that make up the city. Experience brings understanding.
- CSM provides an experience that changes the trip participant and the people being served.** Our goal is for each person who serves with CSM to leave not only more aware of the needs and issues of the city, but also with a heart to serve those that are lost and less fortunate. Awareness brings empathy.



## Get Prepared!

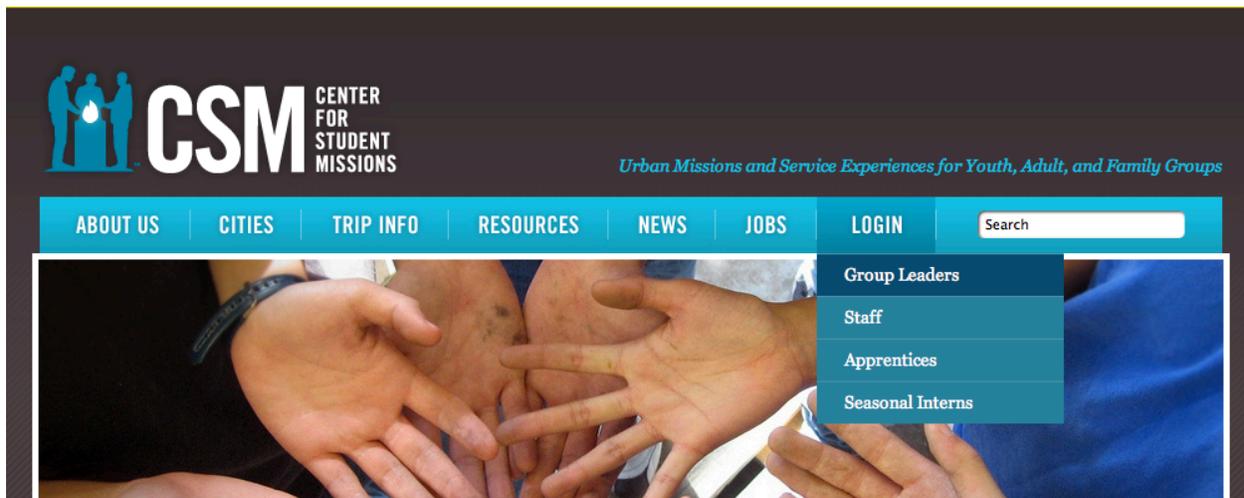
“I believe that the preparation that we put into the trip through training came out in the teens’ ability to open themselves to people and really love and learn from their experiences. Our team had a goal each day: Listen to people, Love people, Learn from people. We felt like we were able to do this every day!” – CSM Group Leader

Now that you’ve signed up, remember to go to CSM’s group leader section:

[www.csm.org/leader/leaderindex.php](http://www.csm.org/leader/leaderindex.php)

Username: “hope”

Password: “city”



You’ll find resources to help you prepare as a team and to help your group pursue what God has for you when you get back.

Plus, check out links to culturally relevant VBS materials, videos, books, online newspapers, and more!

For up to date City News and resources, visit our blog:

<http://csmurbanupdate.blogspot.com>



## Send Us Your Photos!

Dear group leader,

Thank you for registering your group to serve with CSM! We are so excited to partner with you in the city.

If you plan on taking pictures during your trip, we encourage you to have each member of your group complete the Photographic Image Release. CSM Photographic Image Releases can be completed using the following links:

For Participants 18 and Over: <https://signfromreader.echosign.com/public/hostedForm?formid=94IU4VFXB4VE7A>

For Participants under 18:  
<https://signfromreader.echosign.com/public/hostedForm?formid=94IU4W4T3KXD74>

Each participant (or their legal guardian if they are under 18 years old) must electronically sign and date this form in order for CSM to be able to share photographs of your group.

Please remember, when taking pictures, ask your City Host first whether it's appropriate to photograph the ministry site you are currently serving at.

Many times we use photos from groups that serve with us on our website ([www.csm.org](http://www.csm.org)), on our blog (<http://csmurbanupdate.blogspot.com>) and in our email marketing.

Please do not hesitate to call (267-928-2620) or email ([info@csm.org](mailto:info@csm.org)) if you have any questions.

Blessings,  
The CSM Home Office Team