



# **Cabo Spring Break 2025**

March 29- April 3

Informational Packet

# SENIOR CABO SPRING MISSION TRIP COMMITMENT DATES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th	APPLICATION DEADLINE <b>GET DEPOSIT TO BETH @ KESLINGER CAMPUS</b>
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th	DEPOSITS AND PAPERWORK DUE <b>PICK UP SUPPORT LETTER SUPPLIES- SEE BETH @ D-GROUP</b>
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26th	SUPPORT LETTERS DUE <b>BRING TO D-GROUP &amp; GIVE TO BETH!</b>
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th	TEAM MEETING- 12:30-2PM, Keslinger Campus
SUNDAY, MARCH 9th	STUDENT MISSIONS AUCTION, Keslinger Campus <b>Team members will serve at a specific time between 12:00-8:00PM</b>
MARCH	TEAM SERVE DAY Date/Time TBD
SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd	TEAM MEETING- 12:30-2PM, Keslinger Campus <b>FINAL TRIP BALANCES ARE DUE!</b>
SATURDAY, MARCH 29th	TEAM DEPARTS! <b>PARENT DRIVERS CARAVAN TO O'HARE</b>
THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd	TEAM RETURNS! <b>PARENTS PICK-UP AT O'HARE</b>
APRIL (TBD)	TEAM FAMILY DINNER

# Mission Trip Involvement

Student Missions experiences are more than just a trip to serve others, but an integral piece of the Biblical community we strive to create within our student ministry program. For this reason, high school short-term mission trips are intentionally designed for students actively involved in Chapelstreet Students small group ministry (Axis for current 8th grade students, D-Group for current 9th-12th grade students). At Chapelstreet Church we believe the following regarding High School Short-Term Mission trips:

- **Small Group Involvement:** Active involvement in Axis/D-Group means students have gathered together regularly in community, have studied Scripture & been taught what the Bible says, and have been held accountable in their faith by peers and adult leaders. Though discipleship isn't always clear cut & simple, Chapelstreet Students believes students who have sought this type of discipleship are best prepared to enter the mission field and share the elementary truths of the Gospel with others.
- **Being Known:** We believe that in order to best shepherd & lead these mission trips, students participating must be *known*. With hundreds of students involved at Chapelstreet, the best way to know each student who joins a mission team is if they have been faithfully discipled by a trained & devoted Chapelstreet Students small group leader. It's important to know who is being sent out to share the Gospel with our mission partners, and we will trust our volunteer small group leaders & their discretion to help decide if students are ready for a mission trip.
- **Other Involvement at Chapelstreet:** Students who are actively involved and/or serving at Chapelstreet Church, but not currently involved in Chapelstreet Students small group ministry may be considered for a missions team. For students who fall into this category, we ask that they provide a reference from a Chapelstreet Church staff member or volunteer who knows them and can speak to their readiness to participate in a mission trip. We would ask these students to intentionally get involved within Chapelstreet Students small group ministry.
- **International Trips:** In order to join an International mission team, students must have previously been on a Chapelstreet Students mission trip & be actively involved at Chapelstreet Church.
- **Not actively involved at Chapelstreet?** If you have any questions about your current level of involvement or how to get further involved in Chapelstreet Student ministry, please email Beth [bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com](mailto:bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com) or Jay [jsias@chapelstreetchurch.com](mailto:jsias@chapelstreetchurch.com).

# Trip Logistics and Requirements

- **Application and Trip Cost**

\$1875 (Deposit of \$800 and support raised to help cover the balance)

Trip application link and all additional required forms are available at [chapelstreet.church/cabo-spring](http://chapelstreet.church/cabo-spring).

**Application deadline is Sunday, December 15th at midnight.**

- **Scholarships**

Scholarships for student trips are always available! Do not let cost be a barrier that prevents your student from applying to join this team. The scholarship application can be found on the website.

- **Passport**

If you do not hold a current US Passport, you will need to apply for one **ASAP!!** Passport applications are available at a US Post Office, Kane County Government Center, or online at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

- **Paperwork and Deposit**

All paperwork and the deposit **must** be turned in by Sunday, January 12th. Required paperwork includes: Chapelstreet Student Participation Waiver, Chapelstreet Medication form (if applicable), 3 colored copies of your passport, and 1 copy of your insurance card.

**The deadline to get everything turned in is January 12th.**

- **Support Letters**

We require that each student and leader send 25 support letters to help raise their trip cost balance.

Those who choose to pay for the whole trip without raising support will need to send 15 prayer support letters. **Supplies will be handed out at D-Group on January 12th. Completed letters are required to be turned in by January 26th!**

- **Attend All Team Commitments**

There will be 3 Team Meetings, 1 Team Serve Day, and the Student Missions Auction leading up to the trip. Each of these commitments provide the training and team building opportunities that are essential for our group to work together as a team in Mexico. We ask that you commit to participating in each one of these commitments. If, for some reason you are unable to attend one of the dates, it's required that you notify Beth [bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com](mailto:bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com) beforehand.

## Support Letters

Each team member is asked to create a support team of 25 people to whom they will send a support letter. The purpose of the support letter is to invite people to be a part of your experience through excitement, prayer, and financial support when possible.

### What should I include in my support letters?

- The name/location of the trip and the dates. (Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, March 29-April 3)
- Purpose of the trip and a brief description of the service opportunities while there (light construction projects and community outreach)
- Reason you have chosen to go and the ways you are praying for God to move throughout the trip.
- Invitation for them to join your support team through prayer and a financial donation if possible (You can specify the amount you need to raise, and any financial support beyond that will be applied to the team.)
- Gratitude for their interest, support, and prayer.

### Who should you send letters to?

- Family members
- Teachers, school counselors, coaches
- Community organizations (especially any that your parents may belong to)
- Organization leaders at school (Key Club, etc.)

### What if my family chooses to pay the remaining trip balance on our own?

If you have already paid for your trip in full, we ask that you send out 15 prayer letters (rather than 25 support letters). Your letter can look similar in nature - but your focus should be an emphasis on asking them to support you in prayer. So, the support letter process will look the same, but you can adjust the wording to reflect your request - and you won't need to include a return envelope for them.

### When are my support letters due?

We will have the envelopes and labels for your letters available for you to pick up at D-Group at Keslinger Campus on Sunday night, Jan 12th. We ask that all letters be turned in NO LATER than Sunday, January 26th at D-Group, so we have as much time as possible to mail and receive funding for the trip.

## Sample Support Letter

Use this as a guide, but make it personal!

*Dear Friends and Family,*

*I am writing to let you know about an exciting opportunity I will have for Spring Break, when I will be joining our Chapelstreet Church Student Ministry on the Student Mexico Mission Trip with other high school seniors. Our church has a long-standing relationship with a ministry in Cabo San Lucas and we'll go serve alongside them on this high school mission's capstone experience!*

*We will be serving in Cabo from March 29- April 3, and will be doing different kinds of work, varying from general construction/improvement projects for our ministry partners to interacting with the local families and children.*

*I am excited to be a part of this team because I know that God loves people and wants us to reach out beyond our normal comfort zone to extend His love to those in need. I also believe that as much as I have to offer the people of Cabo, I have much more to learn from the experience of serving them. I am looking forward to serving God and learning by experience at the same time!*

*Each member of our team is forming a personal support team of people who want to invest in this trip through prayers and, if possible, financial support. I would like to invite you to be a part of my team! I appreciate knowing that I have people praying for me as I prepare and go. We are also working to raise the necessary funds for our travel and materials. If you would like to help in this way, I would be very grateful, as I need to raise the remaining \$1075 for my trip. You can donate online by using my URL link at the bottom of this letter. This is the easiest way to donate. However, if you would like to mail a check, please use the enclosed donation slip with my URL link.*

*Thank you for your prayers as I prepare for this trip. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you when I return!*

*Sincerely,*  
*(Sign your name, then type it underneath for legibility)*

**\*\* IF RAISING SUPPORT, TYPE THE ENTIRE URL FROM YOUR DONATION SLIPS. CHECK FOR ACCURACY SO DONATIONS AREN'T DELAYED! \*\***

# Packing List

## **Carry-on Bag** – 1 bag/person (maximum weight = 25 pounds)

- Passport (your travel leader will carry this)
- \$\$\$ (for food while traveling, souvenirs, snacks)
- Bible, journal, pen
- Rescue medications, Ibuprofen, Dramamine, etc.
- Refillable water bottle (empty at airport)

*3-1-1 for carry-ons – liquid bottles restricted to 3 ounces or less. All liquids must fit in a 1 quart-sized, clear zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger. This limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. See [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for more information on carry-on restrictions.*

## **Suitcase** - 1 bag/person (maximum weight = 50 pounds)

- Toiletries
- Work clothes (shorts & pants... no tank or cut-off tops)
- Work gloves
- Closed-toed shoes for work days
- Shoes for free day/beach
- Modest swimsuit and towel for the beach
- Casual free-time clothes
- Nicer outfit for team dinner or church
- Hat/sunscreen/sun block
- Non-rescue medications (anti-diarrhea, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, antibiotic ointment, band-aids, etc)
- beach towel

***Do not pack any important documents/valuables/cash in checked luggage.***

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why Short-Term Missions?**

We believe that Jesus has shown us how to love others through his life and teaching; Jesus himself did not come to be served, but to serve. The heart of missions is an expression of this kind of life that Jesus calls his followers to live. Whether we serve our local community or travel abroad to serve those in foreign lands, we are becoming the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need. As we step outside of our comfort zone and serve in new cultures, we learn more about ourselves, more about God's people, and more about God's heart. When we serve on short-term trips, we get to experience the incredible ways God works IN us as he works THROUGH us!

## **Why do we serve in Cabo San Lucas?**

When we serve in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, we team up with longstanding ministry partners who started the Cabo Ministry Center. Serving alongside this ministry, we work with pastors in the Cabo area in both physical and relational ways. Each day we work on various construction projects that range from cosmetic improvements to concrete and building projects on their ministry properties. We also run a VBS program for the local children surrounding the various work sites. The interaction with these local children is always a highlight for our students.

## **Where will we stay?**

Students will stay at the home of our friends/ministry partners in the neighborhood of the Cabo Ministry Center. Time in downtown Cabo will be very limited and very controlled, as it is a busy tourist time during Spring Break.

## **Are the worksites safe?**

We work alongside local ministries in areas where they have relationships with the community. Our students will always have our adult leaders and/or local ministry leaders with them at their worksites.

## **How are medical emergencies handled?**

Our leaders will use every precaution with any illness/injury that occurs. There is an American hospital nearby that accepts American insurance. We seek guidance from our mission partners' experiences & relationships in their community in situations like these.

## **What if my student needs to take medications while on the trip?**

Our staff team will have a copy of the allergy, medication, and medical needs based on the trip application and medication form completed by parents. Medications will be under the supervision of adult leaders and accessible to students as needed.

## **Can students use their cell phones?**

While students will be allowed to use their cell phones during travel days and for picture taking, we ask for students to not add an international plan to their cell phones. Several leaders will have their cell phones with them at all times & we will regularly post updates on our trip social media page. Students who need phones for medical reasons will be allowed to keep them strictly for that purpose.

## **What is the policy on drugs, alcohol and smoking?**

We have a zero-tolerance policy and students who abuse this will be sent home at the family's expense.



**Can you accommodate dietary restrictions?**

We will do our best to accommodate any special dietary needs. Please make this information available to Beth Miller [bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com](mailto:bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com) ASAP in order to make accommodations.

**Do students need to bring money?**

Spending money will be needed if the student wants to purchase souvenirs, snacks, etc. during free time activities. In that case, \$125 is reasonable, and best in small bills.

**Will students need to exchange their currency?**

The Mexican unit of currency is the peso. In Cabo you can pay with either US dollars or pesos, but if you pay with US dollars, you will probably get pesos as change.

**How can my student apply?**

Team applications are done through ManagedMissions. That application link, the scholarship link and all of the paperwork links are found at [chapelstreet.church/cabo-spring](http://chapelstreet.church/cabo-spring).