



## MISSION YOUTH

**SERVES:  
POOR / COMMUNITY**

**TIME:  
ANYTIME**

### PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM



Have you ever visited the poor, orphans or those who are sick? It is a completely profound experience that can change your life. There are tens of thousands of extremely poor people in our own country today. There are hundreds of thousands of poor people in other countries as well. Some countries such as Haiti and the Philippines have had natural disasters that have not only devastated the poor, but created thousands more. Other countries like Mexico have the majority of the people living in complete poverty.

Most people living in these conditions just want to know that someone cares about them, that someone can show love to them. What can I realistically do to help? I can give of myself, so they can experience the love of Christ. Every mission has a story, what will be my story?

### LET'S ORGANIZE A MISSION YOUTH MISSION!

#### OUR CALL TO SERVE

There are options we can choose to do:

**Holy Week Mercy Missions** – serving here in our own country. We can organize a local Holy Week mission. (See options in handout “Mercy Missions.pdf” on the Team Leader Resource Center online or Team Leader Resource USB drive.)

**International Missions** – We could organize our team to participate in a week long mission trip to Haiti or Mexico. Visit [www.missionyouthmissions.com](http://www.missionyouthmissions.com) for the latest updated list of mission dates.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
1	<p><b>Decide:</b> Decide with the team what type of mission they would like to organize locally. Some options they could do are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meals on Wheels</li> <li>• Visit to a soup kitchen or homeless shelter</li> <li>• Street mission</li> <li>• Assist Sisters of Charity</li> <li>• Boys and Girls Clubs of America</li> <li>• Etc.</li> </ul> <p>If they really want to join an international mission, contact the Mission Youth National Office at (855) 556-6872 for available dates. Fundraising will be necessary for an international trip. An average international mission trip cost is \$735 per person (not including airfare).</p> <p><b>Plan:</b> Plan first the dates. If organizing a Holy Week Mercy Mission, Holy Thursday through Saturday are good dates to plan activities and visits. Make a calendar and obtain permissions if needed.</p>	
2	<p><b>Budget:</b> make a budget to see how much each team member will need to pay or fundraise. Things to consider are meals for the team, items to hand out, transportation, etc..</p> <p><b>Invite:</b> Invite parents to help assist with this project and to chaperone and provide transportation.</p>	

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
3	<p><b>Make List:</b> Make lists of planned visits by location, activities, items needed, etc. Assign responsibilities among team members. Each member should have at least one responsibility in this project that is completely dependent upon them.</p> <p><b>Follow up:</b> Contact the place(s) you will visit to confirm dates, times and any requirements / needs the team can help with.</p>	
4	<p><b>Prepare:</b> Prepare the items and activities for the mission.</p> <p><b>Schedule:</b> Make a detailed schedule and ensure all members receive a copy before leaving this week.</p>	
5	<p><b>Final Prep:</b> Make sure all responsibilities assigned are completed by this week. Ensure parents that volunteer have detailed schedules.</p> <p><b>Training:</b> Train the team on working with the poor, elderly or sick. Ensure that they use good common sense and explain what is appropriate and what is not (such as taking pictures, etc.)</p>	
6	<p><b>Mission Youth Mission!:</b> Make sure to pray as a team prior to executing the mission, that they can bring the joy of Christ to those they will meet.</p>	

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

# TACTICS BY AREAS

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## LOCATION

Locations that you will visit are important to plan well in advance. Some possible locations could be:

- A local soup kitchen or homeless shelter
- A local trailer park
- Partnering up with another outreach organization such as Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Habitat for Humanity, Sisters of Charity, Meals on Wheels, etc.
- A local Veterans Center, Hospice, or Children's Hospital.
- A local mall or shopping center with lots of foot traffic (street missions)

## PROVISIONS

Depending on the mission type you choose to organize, here are some possible items that could be used:

- Prayer Cards / Holy Cards
- Rosaries
- Donated items such as clothing, food, etc.
- Pre-prepared meals such as sack lunches
- Bottled water
- Brochures (on Mass, Confession, etc.)
- Any specific needs requested by the place you will visit – such as diapers, baby clothes, toys, etc.
- Transportation (adult volunteer drivers and chaperones)
- Permission forms (from parish)

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# TACTICS BY AREAS

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Team Members – Should each have their own responsibility assigned to them, that they are fully responsible for. This ensures that they have their heart in this project and mission.
- Adult Volunteers – Should have their local diocesan certification for working with youth completed prior to assisting with the project. They should also register with the parish / institution to be volunteer drivers (some require proof of insurance and copies of drivers license.)
- Priest – Ideally, a priest should accompany the team on the mission (if possible) to offer confession and advice to the team during the mission.

## CONTACTS

- Each Facility or Center Director where the team will be visiting for the mission.
- Adult Volunteers – for chaperones and transportation
- Parish / Institution Business Office – for obtaining permission forms for off-site club activities and certification of adult volunteers.
- Priest – to hopefully be able to accompany the team during the mission.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW



# DEBRIEFING

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## SPECIAL OPS

- Adult Chaperones should ensure that the team members are always within their sight. Team members should not enter homes (if door to door mission) or be in rooms by themselves with patients, etc.
- A priest should offer confession to people if he is able to accompany the team on the mission.
- Preparing the team for first time encounters with the homeless, sick or dying and poor is crucial. They should not take this lightly, and be shocked and quiet and not knowing what to say or do. They need to receive some sort of coaching ahead of time, preferably by someone who has experience and can share their experiences.

## CONTINGENCY PLAN



Any type of mission to help bring Christ to others can be organized. However, some sort of mission should be done, even if it is only a few hours long. The team needs to experience complete giving of themselves in very uncomfortable circumstances in order to grow spiritually. Something as simple as organizing a soccer game for kids in a local trailer park can have a huge impact on both them and the poor community.

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**NOTES:**

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