

Hello! The following document outlines the progression of a student's mission experience throughout their time involved in Journey Student Ministry. This is meant to be a general guideline to help students discern what would be best for them as they respond to God's call to love their neighbor as themselves. There can, and will, be exceptions to these guidelines based on students' personal experience, needs, levels of maturity, and the input of their family and ministry leaders. Ultimately, the goal is to help students discern where God is calling them, while also putting them in positions which will be most helpful for their own growth, for the growth of the team, and for the mission.

While age may be one helpful factor in determining a student's readiness for a trip, the more significant determining factors will be a student's spiritual, emotional, physical, and relational maturity milestones (as outlined below). This is the beginning of what will become a larger discipleship pathway which we will use to more intentionally disciple students into the likeness of Christ.

Below is a brief outline of each trip offered by the Student Ministry and what the progression looks like. More details can be found in the pages to follow. My intention is for this to be an open, clear, and prayerful conversation between myself, ministry leaders, students, and families as we discern together what would be best for each student to help students in their call to be the hands and feet of Jesus in York and around the world! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. I'm on your team and want to walk with you and your family!

With you,
Taylor Sharp

--> Progression & Trip Outlines -->				
	Connect	Urban Trip (Washington, D.C.)	El Salvador (summer trip)	International trip outside of Student Ministry (VBS, construction, Thailand, Gabon, Macedonia, etc.)
Dates	June 25 - 30	July 14 - 19 or 21 - 26	July 25 - August 6	Misc.
Prerequisites	Finished 5th grade, able to stay overnight for five days	Participated in Connect	Completed Connect & an urban trip	Completed Connect, an urban trip, and an overseas trip
Target Students	Anyone interested in growing in their faith, relationships with others, and ability to serve.	Interested in deepening faith and relationships with others, ready to be stretched in serving.	Taken ownership of faith and value relationships with other believers. Ready to be stretched outside of comfort zone in all areas. Evidence of some emotional, spiritual, and relational independence.	Operate independently in faith and relationships with other adults. Higher level of emotional, spiritual, and relational independence.
	Can be done in the same summer.			
		Should not be done in the same summer.		

Connect

Dates: June 25-30, overnight

Goal of trip: Be the hands and feet of Jesus in York City, to share His love with our neighbors while growing in relationships within the family of the ministry. Can be a students' first exposure to mission work.

Prerequisites: Finished fifth grade & able to stay overnight for five days without going home.

Target students: Connect is open for all students (rising 6th-12th grade).

Students will be learning basic yard work skills, how to build relationships, how to be away from home, and how, as believers, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Students applying to take on some leadership responsibilities have taken ownership of their walk with Jesus and have served several years in Connect. These students may lead in teams, projects, devotions, block parties, set up / clean up, and any other needs which may arise throughout the week. These students will be able to recognize when other students need help navigating challenges (physical, spiritual, and emotional).

Washington, DC

Dates: TBD: July 14-19 or 21-26

Goal of trip: This trip is meant to expose students to a greater level of need, to broaden their perspective of the world, and to challenge them relationally (by being away from home for a week) and spiritually (by exposing them to other religions, practices, and levels of need in the world). This trip also intends to help students take greater ownership of themselves, their relationship with the Lord, and their care for one another.

Prerequisites: Completed a week of Connect.

Target students: Students who are ready for an urban trip have shown an interest in deepening their faith and relationships with other believers, and are ready to be stretched in serving. Age range could be, but is not limited to, rising eighth through tenth grade students.

Students may be learning how to be out of town without their parents for the first time, while also learning how to serve in an urban context, to live with others, to resolve relational conflicts, and to grow in a deeper knowledge of the love of Christ for them and for the people they are serving.

Students who have taken ownership of their walk with Jesus and have served in an urban context before may aid in engaging faith conversations, helping other students to navigating challenges (physical, spiritual, and emotional), and partnering in all projects assigned.

El Salvador - Summer trip

Dates: July 25-August 6

Goal of trip: This trip is meant to be a student's first exposure to overseas mission-work and has long-term opportunities. This is an entry-level overseas trip meant to challenge students' current understanding of faith, while exposing them to a new culture and different styles of worship and serving. This trip will allow for students to return to intentionally build friendships, creating service opportunities with students from the Church of Faith & Worship.

Prerequisites: Completed Connect and an urban trip. Have displayed a level of emotional and spiritual maturity which would enable them to be successful in another country with little communication home.

Target students: Students who are ready for El Salvador have taken ownership of their walk with the Lord and value relationships with other believers. These students are ready to be stretched outside of their comfort zone in every way. This trip requires a level of emotional, spiritual, and relational independence. Age range could be, but is not limited to, high school students.

Some students will be navigating an international trip for the first time. These students must be willing to be uncomfortable, to ask for help, and to engage in all planned activities, conversations, and opportunities. Students will need to be open to new experiences, especially those which will broaden their perspective of who God is.

Students who have served in this type of El Salvador trip before, may take on more leadership responsibilities by helping other students to navigate challenges (physical, spiritual, and emotional) that come with international mission trips. These students will need to be intentional to help bridge the gap between other students and the people in El Salvador.

International Trip (outside of Student Ministry)

Dates: Misc.

Goal of trip: Differs depending on the trip (ie - construction, ministry, medical, etc.). From a student ministry perspective, the goal is to equip students and launch them into the larger church body. A mission trip, outside of one offered by Student Ministry, will allow students to grow in relationships with other adults in the church, to be challenged spiritually by those further along than them, and expose them to more difficult and/or specific styles of mission work.

Prerequisites: Completed Student Ministry mission trip progression.

Target students: Students who are ready for these trips are able to operate independently in their faith and in relationships with other adults. These students are ready to be stretched outside of their comfort zone in how they live, eat, interact with others, hear from God, and serve as an adult, alongside other adults. This type of trip requires a higher level of emotional, spiritual, and relational independence. Age range could be, but is not limited to, rising eleventh through twelfth grade students.

In partnering with the larger church body, students must remain in a humble heart attitude, with a posture of learning as he/she experiences new mission opportunities, new cultures, and new people.