

St. Thomas by the Sea
Youth Mexico Mission Trip

P.O. Box 1190 * Orange Beach AL 36561 * missionmayan@gmail.com

Dear Pastor or Youth Minister,

Enclosed is the application for the 11th annual Youth Mission Trip to Mexico that is open to all youth in the Archdiocese of Mobile.

The dates of the trip are July 11-23, 2010. Applications are due no later than March 30, 2010. For early consideration, the applications are due by March 1, 2010. The teens must turn in two copies of the application and two recommendation forms. They will then be invited to participate in an interview.

The trip is open to high school upperclassmen. Any of your teens that are currently sophomores or juniors are eligible to apply. These teens should be active members of your parish and/or youth group.

Between 12-15 youth will be selected from large and small parishes from within the Archdiocese. Once accepted, each teen must raise at least \$500 sponsorship. The trip is set up so that no teen will be excluded because of financial reasons. The \$500 they need for the trip is raised through sponsorship; it does not come from the teen's (or parents) own pocket. Previous team members have easily raised their money, and then some. Upon acceptance, they will receive a sponsorship packet to help them raise money. Again, I want to stress though that financial reasons will not keep anyone from participating in the mission trip.

Please photocopy the enclosed application and make it available to your youth. I have also included a bulletin announcement if you wish to use it. A copy of the application can also be received by e-mailing missionmayan@gmail.com. This trip really is life changing for the youth who participate. We hope to receive an applicant or two from your parish this year.

In the Peace of Christ,

Martha Henderson
Mission Trip Coordinator

A Mission of Justice and Love

Sample Bulletin Announcement:

2010 Youth Mexico Mission applications available.

All high school sophomores and juniors from parishes within the Archdiocese of Mobile are invited to apply for the 2010 St. Thomas by-the-Sea Mexico Mission Trip. The trip will be July 11-23, 2010. If you feel called to help re-roof huts, visit the sick, share your faith and experience the culture of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, then you are encouraged to apply for this summer's mission team. Applications are due March 30, 2010. The early consideration deadline is March 1, 2010. Teens, get your application from (youth minister/church office) or email missionmayan@gmail.com.

St. Thomas by the Sea Youth Mexico Mission Trip

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“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me... whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

- Matthew 25:35-40

Dear Mission Applicant:

Working in the missions is a life changing experience! You will grow in your faith and will have a new appreciation for all the ways that you have been blessed. But most of all, you will be serving Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor. We are excited to be able to offer this trip to the youth of the Archdiocese for the tenth year! We will take 12-15 teens from large and small parishes from all over the Archdiocese.

Here's some information to help you discern applying for the trip:

- Trip dates are July 11 - 23, 2010.
- If you are a sophomore or junior right now you are eligible to apply.
- You must participate in an interview. You will be contacted for an interview after your application is reviewed.
- The trip will be in Temozon, Yucatan, Mexico. You will re-roof palm huts, visit the sick, distribute donations and teach and share your faith with the people of the local Catholic Church.
- There will be a day trip to Mayan ruins so you can experience the culture of the Yucatan.
- If you are selected you will be expected to raise at least \$500 to contribute towards your trip. (It is our hope that your parish will help you raise more than the minimum amount.) You will also collect donations to take with you to Mexico.

This application and the recommendation forms are due by March 30, 2010. For early consideration, have your application in by March 1, 2010. Please send the original and a photocopy of the application and two recent photos of yourself.

Please put your name on the back of the photos. You will then be invited to the interview.

If you have any questions at all about the trip or the application/interview process, please email me at missionmayan@gmail.com

In the Peace of Christ,

Martha Henderson
Mission Trip Coordinator

A Mission of Justice and Love

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Applications are due no later than March 30, 2010 (March 1st for early consideration).
2. Photocopy your completed application and mail it with the original. Please put your name on the top of every page.
3. Send two copies of a recent photo of yourself with the application. Please write your name on the back of the photos.
4. Have your parent(s) read and sign the application.
5. Have your priest and youth minister or teacher fill out a recommendation form. You must turn in two recommendation forms. Fill in your information on the top of the form and ask them to mail it by March 30, 2010 (March 1st for early consideration).
6. Only 12-15 teens will be accepted for the mission team, so don't delay in sending in your application.
7. Please type or use ink for your application, NO PENCIL.

Due no later than March 30, 2010 (March 1st for early consideration).
Send 2 copies of application with 2 recent photos of yourself & 2 recommendation forms to
Mexico Mission P.O. Box 1190, Orange Beach, AL 36561.

All information on the application and essay questions will be kept confidential and reviewed by interviewers for the purpose of selecting participants.

Please type or use ink. DO NOT USE PENCIL.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle initial: _____
Name you go by: _____ Date of birth: ____/____/____ Male__ Female__
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____
Church Name: _____ City: _____
School: _____ Graduation Year: _____

FATHER/GUARDIAN

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

MOTHER/GUARDIAN

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

If parents are separated or divorced, who has legal custody? __ Father __ Mother __ Joint __ Other

Have you ever been on a mission trip before? ___ Yes ___ No

Where? _____ When? _____ Organization? _____

Do you speak a second language? ___ No ___ Yes What language? _____

Do you have a valid passport? ___ No ___ Yes Passport Number: _____
(A valid passport is required for travel to Mexico. Please apply for one if you don't have one.)

If you are in a dating relationship, is this person applying to come on the mission trip?
___ No ___ Yes Name: _____

Applications are due no later than March 30, 2010 (March 1st for early consideration).
Please mail to Mexico Mission P.O. BOX 1190, Orange Beach, AL 36561.

PRIEST/YOUTH MINISTER RECOMMENDATION (CONFIDENTIAL)

Applicant Name: _____
Age _____ Phone: _____
Name of evaluator: _____ Title: _____
Phone: _____ Church: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Serious consideration will be given to your evaluation. We value you as a reference concerning the applicant's character and qualification for the mission trip. Your responses will be held in strict confidence. Your prompt consideration is appreciated.

How long have you known the applicant? _____

How well do you know him/her? ___ By face/name ___ Casually ___ Fairly well ___ Very well

PLEASE EVALUATE THE APPLICANT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

E = Excellent G = Good F = Fair P = Poor U = Unknown
___ Adaptability ___ Spiritual influence on Peers ___ Dependability ___ Maturity
___ Servant hood ___ Spiritual life/Maturity ___ Leadership Ability ___ Self-control
___ Punctuality ___ Response to Authority ___ Ability to follow directions
O = Often S = Sometimes R = Rarely N = Never
___ Critical ___ Irritable ___ Depressed ___ Argumentative ___ Domineering ___ Rebellious

1. Is the applicant active in his/her church? ___ Yes ___ No
2. To your knowledge, does the applicant have a meaningful, personal relationship with Jesus Christ? ___ Yes ___ No
3. To your knowledge, is the applicant's interest in missions influenced by a desire to escape a difficult situation like family problems, financial struggles or a troubled romance? ___ Yes ___ No
4. Are you aware of any mental or emotional illness or instability in the applicant?
___ Yes ___ No ___ Call me
5. To your knowledge, has the applicant used tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs in the last year? ___ Yes ___ No
6. Have you ever had reason to question the applicant's morals? ___ Yes ___ No
7. Do you have any reason to lack confidence in the applicant? ___ Yes ___ No

Please explain in separate paper any "Yes" answers to questions 3-7.

Please elaborate on one of the applicant's strengths and one area of needed improvement (use additional paper if necessary).

Do you know of any reason why this person should not attend this mission trip? Please explain.

We would appreciate any additional comments or concerns you might have concerning the applicant. Please use the space below or attach additional paper.

Based on the above information, the applicant is:

Highly recommended

Recommended

Recommended with reservation

Not recommended at this time

Signature: _____ Date: _____