



Adult Leader Guide

An important guide for all adult
leaders to read prior to the mission
trip!!!!

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THANK YOU!!!!

We know how much time and energy is given when working in youth ministry. We thank you for taking a week of your summer to serve with your youth on a S.L.A.M TRIPS mission trip!

The goal of this guide is to encourage, equip, and prepare you for your mission trip on our reservation. We ask that all leaders read, understand, and agree to abide by the information contained in this guide. Your group will be better set up for success by knowing what your role is during the mission week.

We're excited to meet you and share this experience with you! Our hope is that you come with a flexible and a teachable spirit and an eager heart, and that you connect with Creator, your students and the reservation community in meaningful ways this summer!

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WHO ARE WE?

S.L.A.M. TRIPS are cross-cultural missions trips where students from around the country come and serve on the Yakama Reservation through relational and ecumenical ministry. Our desire is to immerse your students in our culture, teach them to develop an attitude of mutuality and not superiority with our people, and help them to develop a servant's heart while stepping outside of their comfort zone. S.L.A.M. TRIPS is one of many programs under the umbrella of Mending Wings—a Native American 501c3 non-profit youth organization located in the Yakama Nation. Other programs of Mending Wings include R.B.S (Rez Bible Studies), 4-1 Youth Group, Young Adult Fellowship, Community Healers (community service for Native students), Life Hurts, God Heals (counseling), Dancing Our Prayers Teams (student drummers/dancers who share their faith & culture across the country), Footprints of Our Elders (cultural classes), Family Camp and Pow-Wow, and Trail of Hope Northwest (a Native American youth conference). We have a diverse, talented and dedicated Board of Directors, and are led by full and part-time staff as well as volunteers. To learn more about our Mission, Purpose and Biblical Values go to www.mendingwings.net

Our Work and Ministry

S.L.A.M. TRIPS focuses on teaching students a new missiological paradigm—one that can actually be “Good News” to us Native folk. Therefore, we do not allow groups to teach VBS or Kids Clubs or spotlight repaired homes and clean yards. Instead the “S.L.A.M” in our name is about what italicized will learn from Native people and what Creator will do in your life if you allow Him. While it is important to be challenged in our ministry work, we believe the most important thing you can do is to live out the love of Yeshua by the things you do. These acts of love are more important to S.L.A.M. TRIPS than any work we could accomplish. Come ready to experience the joy of being the hands and feet of Creator!

Our Model of Ministry

Our model of ministry is known as Reciprocity—serve and be served, give and receive. If you practice this kind of missiology among our people than you can expect Creator to use you to impact others. Our Native American people have been on the receiving end of many aggressive and damaging missional approaches over the last 500 years, and many Indian people have come to dislike Christianity. We want you to be open and honest about your reasons for serving and giving while you are here, but we also want you to do that within the context of relationships where italicize can also be served and receive from us. Is that not the Body of Christ working together?

We also want you to understand that you and your youth will be exposed to a way of following and worshipping Yeshua that will be VERY different from your way. Because of that there will be an opportunity each day after evening programming (Worship & Word) to process with your youth all that they have seen, heard and experienced in the context of your faith tradition. Our hope is that you would see these experiences in the Indian community as teachable moments where you can see and embrace the opportunity to celebrate the great diversity among the Body of Christ.

Adult Leader Role What are we asking of you?

Your role as an Adult Leader is very important this week. Please join us in making this a life-changing experience for your students by taking the following actions:

ENGAGE STUDENTS

Processor- Take every opportunity to engage your students in conversation about what they are observing and learning.

Motivator- Get students excited about serving! Be positive. Help them be involved and stay engaged at the work sites. Please don't leave work sites early.

Encourager- Encourage your students to do the work and look for ways to serve alongside them. Help students understand the importance and significance of serving others.

Team Player- Respect the people you are working alongside. Work together with your Adult Leaders. Handle conflict respectfully. Be conscientious of the other groups you might be working alongside. Set an example by exhibiting respect for the diverse beliefs and faith backgrounds of others.

LEAD STUDENTS

Activator- Rally the "troops" by helping everyone to be where they're supposed to be when they're suppose to be there such as meals, work sites, activities, lights out, etc.

Servant Leader- Look for opportunities to serve each other, the students, and our community. You may be asked to do something that is out of your comfort zone. Be flexible and approach every task with a willing heart.

Communicator- - Be proactive about communicating questions and concerns with the S.L.A.M. TRIPS staff. Attend all Adult Leader meetings (this is when details and info about upcoming activities will be given).

DIRECT STUDENTS

Safety Promoter- Safety is top priority. Help us keep your students safe. Make sure your group is staying within the site boundaries and that everyone is following the "Traveling Buddy" rule at all times. Dehydration is a serious danger. Remind students to take breaks and drink plenty of water throughout the day.

Upholder- All students signed a S.L.A.M. TRIPS covenant. Please do your part in making sure students are upholding these expectations and are conducting themselves in a good way.

Throughout all these actions we need your help being an example of what a follower of The Jesus Way looks like. May all that you do be done with the mind of Yeshua. Let your attitude, actions, and speech honor Creator. Lead your students by example.

Where You Will Serve

You will be doing community service projects throughout our 1.2 million acre reservation. You will be working primarily at an elders home. Elders are HIGHLY respected individuals of our Indian community. They are where we have traditionally learned our family values, culture, ceremonies, etc. Depending on the week you come you may also be working at a homeless shelter or at a local pow-wow. We ask that you come with a good heart and a flexible spirit.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Community Service Projects are a tangible way for your youth to serve the community through chopping wood, cleaning up brush and yards, and working on other simple projects. Our goal for Community Service Projects is to create a place where youth can share the love of Yeshua with others while at the same time making a difference with their skills and abilities, all the while building relationships with Native families.

What kind of work will we be doing?

Community Service Projects typically consist of helping elders around their yards by chopping wood to get them ready for the winter, cleaning out old and dead brush, mowing lawns, and cleaning up the garbage on lawns. These are relatively easy tasks, but is something that is really helpful for the elders, and rewarding for the students.

There is a chance you could also be involved in scraping, painting and winterizing homes.

What is the responsibility of Adult Leaders at Community Service Projects?

- To keep an eye out for safety.
- Oversee all aspects of the work project. Our hope is that the youth will step up to take leadership of the work at the site, but adult leaders are ultimately the ones in charge.
- To work alongside the youth. By jumping in and participating in the work with the students, you will have an incredible opportunity to serve the community in a very tangible way and build some great relationships with the youth you are working with.

What types of relationships will we get to build at the Community Service sites?

Not only will you build relationship with people in your work group- people from your own church as well as from groups around the country who are working alongside you- you will also have the opportunity to get to know people that live in the houses you are working at. While there are things that could get in the way of that happening, our hope is that you will be able to build a relationship with the families who live there. One thing to consider is that the culture of the people who live in the community you are going to be working in are very different from the culture of your hometown, and this may or may not have an effect on your ability to interact with and build relationship with the families. Nevertheless, each group will meet the hosts of the homes where they will be working at.

Will there be a supervisor on site with us?

Because there will most likely be multiple service sites running at once our staff will not be on your site with you the entire time but will be stopping by to check in with you at various points throughout the day. You will also receive an orientation and some training before heading out to your Community Service site.

Safety and Policies

Onsite Safety

We are at all times concerned with safety. We have specific on-site procedures in place to help keep everyone safe. On Sunday night's orientation policies and safety procedures will be discussed. Two key items include:

- Site Boundaries- Where you can be at or around the housing site.
- Traveling Buddies- Participants are asked to always travel in groups of two or more. Youth must always have an adult leader present when away from the housing site.

The staff will supply your group with phone numbers and directions to the nearest hospital. The participants release form filled out by each youth and adult leader is sufficient for entry into an emergency room.

Food Preparation

A S.L.A.M. TRIPS staff member will be present in the kitchen for all meal preparation. S.L.A.M. TRIPS provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

More and more people have special dietary needs due to food allergies or intolerance. For people who desire to bring food items because they have allergies or intolerance, we can provide space at the housing site for special necessary items. In regards to allergies to foods, please note that we cannot guarantee that participants will not be exposed to items that they are allergic to. There are too many aspects that we cannot control. Please be prepared with the proper medication for yourself or youth that may suffer from these types of allergies.

Harassment and Abuse Policy

S.L.A.M. TRIPS prohibits sexual harassment, harassment, physical and/or sexual abuse on or off the S.L.A.M. TRIPS premises or in the course of S.L.A.M. TRIPS activities or ministries. S.L.A.M. TRIPS will investigate any allegations of such misconduct in accordance with applicable law. S.L.A.M. TRIPS will not retaliate against the reporting person.

Alcohol, Drug and Weapon Policy

Alcohol, illicit drugs and weapons are strictly forbidden at S.L.A.M. TRIPS housing and work sites. Anyone (leaders/youth) in possession of such items will be sent home immediately. To ensure the safety of your youth, we request that any prescription drugs and other medications be held in the custody of one of the adult leaders from your group.

Clothing Policy

S.L.A.M. TRIPS has a clothing policy that we ask adult leaders and youth to abide by while on the mission trip. Be sure to ask the Trip Leader for this document so that you can lead your youth by example in the way you dress while on the trip.

Discipline

S.L.A.M. TRIPS staff and adult leaders from other groups will leave the discipline of your youth to you. Likewise, we ask that you leave the discipline of youth not in your group to their leaders. Remember that other youth leaders may discipline their youth differently than you do at your church. If a situation arises that the S.L.A.M. TRIPS staff believe is irreparable, the youth involved will be transported home immediately at the expense of his or her parent or guardian. We sincerely hope that such a problem never occurs. Our intention is to work closely and prayerfully with adult leaders in making such a decision.

Background Checks

To promote a safe environment for S.L.A.M. TRIPS participants and for our community we require that a background check be completed on each adult leader attending the mission trip. Knowing that all adult leaders are getting a background check will give peace of mind to other groups that will be participating with you and for our community. It will also fulfill requirements from our ministry partners that want background checks completed on adult leaders that will be volunteering with their organization. Trip Leaders will be conducting checks on all adult leaders. If you have questions, please ask him or her.

Driving throughout the Week

Each church is responsible for transportation throughout the week. This includes not only transporting your youth and leaders, but transporting other youth and leaders to the service locations. During the day you may be at one place all day or serve at one place in the morning and a different place in the afternoon. In some cases, S.L.A.M. TRIPS staff may be available to escort you to our service location. You will also be responsible for transportation to evening activities.

Sample Schedule

Sunday

Arrival- Between 4:30pm-6:00pm

You will be welcomed by our staff. They have planned all the details and logistics of your mission week. They look forward to getting to know your group and helping you get settled in for a great week. On Sunday evening, after dinner, the Director will lead an adult leader and student orientation and give an overview of the week, S.L.A.M. TRIPS' policies, the community and cultural issues/specifics. At the end of this meeting, the trip leaders will split their youth into work crews- please come prepared to divide your students into ministry teams and to be flexible as we work with other groups.

Monday-Thursday

Wake up: 7am

Breakfast: 7:15am-7:45am

Pack Bag lunch: 7:45am- 8:15am

Building Clean Up: 8:15am- 8:45am

Morning Devotions: 8:45am- 9am

Job placement: 9am- 9:30am

Community Service: 10am- 3:30pm

The largest part of the day will be spent working at work sites. Be prepared to serve, develop new relationships, and have fun!

Free time/Shower time: 3:30pm- 5:30pm

Adult Leader's Meeting: 5pm- 5:30pm

Every afternoon there is a mandatory Adult Leader meeting. This time is important to discuss the day, check in with one another and pray together.

Dinner: 5:30pm- 6:30pm

Evening Activities: 6:30pm- 9:30pm

The staff will have evening activities planned that provide a cultural, fun and educational experience for the whole group. We require that you participate in all activities and that you are flexible as these may change depending on weather, availability or transportation.

Worship & Word: 10pm- 10:15pm

The group gathers for singing, games, teaching and prayer.

Small Groups: 10:15pm- 10:45pm

After worship, each group will gather to process all that happened throughout the day. The main trip leader will receive small group discussion questions to help your group process the day.

Prepare for bed 10:45pm- 11:15pm

Lights Out 11.30pm

Friday

Wake Up/Breakfast: 6:30am

Participant send-off 9am

You will depart from the site after cleanup and goodbyes. Breakfast will be provided.

Youth Covenant

Please read the following Youth Covenant. Each Student on the mission trip needs to sign this covenant as well as their parents/guardian.

In order to have a safe and life- changing mission experience, clear expectations are needed between all who are involved. We desire to serve our reservation community without bringing them any harm. As a result, we ask all participants of S.L.A.M. TRIPS to agree to the following expectations in accordance with the purpose of a S.L.A.M. TRIPS mission trip.

The goal of the covenant is to ensure the knowledge of S.L.A.M. TRIPS policies, solidify your commitment to your group, and demonstrate your respect of our Indian community that you will be serving.

- Because I want to truly help others as Yeshua did, I agree to bring a servant, joyful attitude. I understand that I am on the trip to serve Creator, to serve the Yakama Nation community, build new relationships, and learn new things. I agree to come prepared to do so!
- Because I am aware that my actions have consequences beyond myself, I agree to obey all local laws and ordinances pertaining to use of drugs and alcohol by minors. I will not bring weapons, illegal substances or use illegal substances on any S.L.A.M. TRIPS.
- Because I want nothing to distract me in this short week of serving others and because valuables will be susceptible to theft, I understand that I am not to bring to the site an iPod, Discman, electronic games, lap top, mp3 player, portable DVD player or any other devices that could potentially isolate me from those around me.
- Because I want to remain focused on the people and experiences of the Yakama Nation, and out of respect for the policies of S.L.A.M. TRIPS program and partners, I will consider leaving my cell phone at home. If I choose to bring my cell phone, I understand that I will only be allowed to use it during approved times and that I will also risk theft or loss. I understand that my parents will be given instructions on how to contact my adult leaders in the event that they need to reach me.
- Because I am coming and returning with a group, I agree that this mission week is a group experience. I will do my best to build community, create relationships, be welcoming, and include others. I agree to treat everyone- leaders, staff, other groups, and community members- with the utmost respect.
- Because I know that how I treat people's things makes a statement, I agree that I will respect the property of all participants, the community members, and the church building in which we stay. I will conduct myself as a follower of the Jesus Way at all times, remembering the purpose of the trip and my responsibility of respect toward the Yakama Nation community.
- Because I know my parents and leaders care about my well-being, and because I want to be safe, I agree to stay within the designated S.L.A.M. TRIPS boundaries, stay in groups of three or more, respect gender specific areas (sleeping rooms,

restrooms and showers) and refrain from using my cell phone in these areas due to privacy concerns, follow rules and communicate with my group.

- Because I know that I am a follower of The Jesus Way and want to respect the people around me, I agree to follow the clothing policy. I understand that the way I dress can affect my ministry and I will respect my group, the community, and myself by dressing modestly.

S.L.A.M. TRIPS Core Purposes and Values

Our Purpose

Quite simply, our purpose is to provide a life-changing trip where participants are given a new perspective and mode of practice about missions and mission trips—a perspective and practice that will actually be “Good News” to our people. This is our reason for being. We create a fun, perspective-challenging and significant cross-cultural mission trip for students in 7th-12th grades.

By crossing borders of race and culture, and by placing students outside their comfort zones, we find something wonderful happens: Creator gets their attention! Without the distractions of everyday life, Creator uses S.L.A.M. TRIPS to impact the lives of teenagers. By attempting to be faithful to our purpose, we find Creator is also at work in our Native community as well.

Our Values

It is important for people to know what we value and why. We have three things we consider to be our core values. These are our essentials:

WE VALUE STUDENTS

We believe that students have much to offer the Body of Christ. They are the church leaders of tomorrow, but we must invest in them today. Mission trips, if done in a good way, provide students with both leadership training and a place to put what they learned into practice. And what is leadership but serving others?

WE VALUE RELATIONSHIPS

Intrinsic to our Native American culture is relationships. We are taught at a young age that relationships are more important than time or business. Thus, we are relationship-oriented at our core. We desire to pass this value on to our SLAM TRIPS participants. We understand that most participants will be coming from a time-oriented, or task-oriented, culture. We believe that we have much to offer groups coming from this paradigm.

WE VALUE THE YAKAMA NATION

Because we love the church so much, and we love our people so much, we so desire there to be reconciliation between the two. We desire there to be healing from past abuses and injustices. We love the church too much to let her continue to abuse and treat our people unjustly. And so, we present to the church and our people, a different missiological paradigm within which to think. A model of reconciliation. A model of forgiveness and asking for forgiveness. A model of the church listening before she ever gives a word of teaching. When the church models these things then healing can begin for our people. And when healing begins for our people then healing can also begin for the church.