



2012 Youth Mission Team Application

(Application Due: Sunday, November 20th, 2011)

Talamanca, Costa Rica

Trip Dates: July 8 - 16th, 2012



Community Profile of Trip:

The destination for your mission trip is the southeast region of Costa Rica called Talamanca. We will be working on the Bribri Reservation, which consists of miles of some of the least developed areas in Costa Rica.

History

The Bribri are indigenous to Costa Rica, and their traditional culture dates back hundreds of years. They were originally discovered by early Spanish explorers, but because of the rugged mountainous terrain where they reside, their culture has been preserved more than that of most tribes.

Natural Environment

The natural landscape is mountainous jungle. The lush vegetation produces many tropical fruits, and the Bribri will also tell you that there are numerous medicinal herbs and plants. Temperatures are generally hot and humid and mosquitoes can be an issue.

Needs

The Bribri Reservation is the poorest section of Costa Rica with the lowest income per capita and limited access to education and healthcare. In the developed area, there are schools, and there is a medical clinic near the town of Bribri; however, there is great need for improved facilities in both of these areas. Income is so low that people often barely can afford food and clothes and adequate shelter is difficult to maintain. Because of this, many families live in homes that are very small and dilapidated.

Community Empowerment

Leadership Development

Volunteer Mobilization

At Experience Mission we believe that our job as Christians is to be people of hope in the midst of hopelessness. We seek to live out this message of hope by empowering local communities, raising up leaders to develop and refine their community visions, and mobilizing volunteers to come and experience this powerful change taking place. We believe that hope is the driving force behind healthy change. For more information: www.experiencemission.org



Cost: \$400 per person - OR:

4 installments of \$100 deposits:

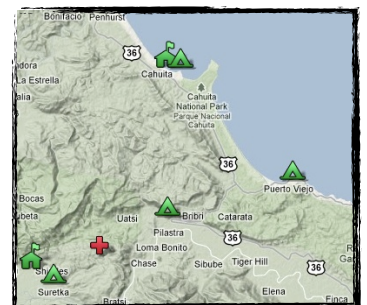
11/20 - \$100 Due (Airfare deposit #1)

12/20 - \$100 Due (EM deposit #1)

2/20 - \$100 Due (Airfare deposit #2)

4/20 - \$100 Due (EM deposit #1)

Please make checks payable to "Grace Presbyterian Church"; "Youth Missions" mail them to 251 E Sterne Blvd. Centennial CO 80122; attn: Matt Syrdal. Thank You!



WHAT'S NEXT? - IMPORTANT!!

Preparation for an international mission trip begins NOW! The following steps need to be attended as soon as possible to make sure everyone is as informed and safe as possible:

- 1) **Do you have a VALID PASSPORT?** You will NOT be able to fly internationally without a passport. Passports can be somewhat expensive and take several months to APPLY FOR or RENEW so please begin the process if your youth's passport has expired.

For more information, visit: <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>

- 2) Are your required **VACCINATIONS up to date?** Each family is responsible to make sure each youth on the mission team is up to date on any and all vaccinations required by CDC for Costa Rica.

For more information, visit: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/costa-rica.htm>

- 3) Experience Mission **TEAM APPLICATION online!** You will receive information to apply online. You will be asked for your INSURANCE INFORMATION. If you do not have insurance, EM recommends good and relatively inexpensive TRAVEL INSURANCE.

Any questions? Please call me at 303-319-9464 or email me at matt@gracecolorado.com

Youth Mission Team Leader Application - Due Sunday, November 20th 2011

Name: _____

Grade in School: _____ School Attending: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper as honestly as possible:

Why do you want to be a part of the 2012 Youth Mission Team?

Who is Jesus to you personally?

What impact would you like to witness and participate in on the 2012 Youth Mission Trip? What change in the youth group? In the YMT? In those we serve? What transformation would you like to experience in yourself?

What other commitments do you plan on having this Winter, Spring, and Summer of 2007, that might conflict with your commitment to the Youth Mission Team?

2012 Youth Mission Team Covenant - This is an important commitment, so please give each of the following standards below careful thought before you make any decisions. Especially important will be our training sessions & team retreat. They will be vital for you to attend; because of this, they need to be a high priority in your life. This covenant is something between you, God, and the mission team. This covenant is an important first step to growing your faith, serving others, and creating strong and healthy friendships.

Before the Trip:

- 1) Go to God in prayer in the months leading up to the trip. I will try to grow as much as I can in the time before the trip.
- 2) I will attend ALL required meetings and training sessions, the Fundraiser(s) and Team Retreat. If an emergency arises I will let the team know in WRITING when I need to be gone no less than ONE MONTH in advance. Missing more than one fundraiser, meeting, or training, or the Team Retreat may result in a forfeiture of your spot on the trip (except for very good reason discussed between parents and pastor).
 - This includes attending fundraising, planning and devotional meetings, the YMT retreat, and YMT Sunday after the trip. Not only will I be at the meetings physically, I will also engage myself and contribute to discussions. (It's a good idea to bring paper, a pencil, your calendar, your bible, and any paperwork from the previous meeting to the meetings.)
- 3) Know what I am getting myself into. This is a big time commitment. I will work hard before and during the trip. (But it will also be amazingly fun too :P)
- 4) Make responsible decisions everywhere in my life. WWJD?
 - You must communicate with the YMT about any issues you are having; we want to support you. But you should also know that if something serious happens (alcohol, drugs, violence, etc.) you can and will be asked to leave the team.
- 5) I will reach out to the other team members; work to get to know everyone on a deeper level. This means I will cooperate and communicate with my team members; we are all in this together.

On the Trip:

- 6) Be proactive! Seek out ways you can be helpful, and carry out all tasks, however frustrating and challenging, with a thankful heart. All we ask for is your own personal best. Use your talents and work as a team with others to achieve bigger results.
- 7) Be polite and considerate of other's needs. I will respect my elders and team members.
 - This also involves including ALL members of the team and eliminating cliques. Put your differences aside, and you will make some incredible friendships in this process.
 - Be willing to learn from and listen to all members of the team. Hear and appreciate everybody's ideas and contributions.
- 8) Represent our church, religion, and location responsibly. Respect the customs and rules of my hosts. I understand that my actions in public reflect on others. Display your own personal faith through your actions. Be a leader through example.

Youth Signature

Parent Signature

Date