

Mission Trip Planning Guide

We know that CityReach is a big trip for you. Some of you will be traveling many hours if not days to make it to Swedesboro, NJ. You have spent hours making phone calls, raising funds, making reservations, praying to the Almighty, and begging students to be a part of something huge. We want this trip to be as smooth as possible. On top of that we want your students to walk away changed and ready to do something big in your city. Here are a few things that will help make your ride just a bit easier...

1. Start meeting once a week with your CityReach attendees. Take them through a mission trip prep bible study. Challenge them to be preparing themselves spiritually.

One youth pastor prepared a prayer journal for his group that gave them a daily Bible reading and prayer time. He also met with them once a week over dinner, starting in May, to challenge their hearts.

2. Use a church gathering time to talk to your church about CityReach. Ask them to begin praying for CityReach and Grace Baptist Fellowship. Go ahead and ask your Pastor. You would be surprised at what he might let you do.
3. Schedule a parent meeting prior to your departure. Hand out your trip itinerary, packing list, any last payment info, and answer questions.
4. Download the following document. This will give you excellent info on preparing for the trip. **14 Travel Tips – by Group Work Camps**
5. Print maps. Know where you are going and how you plan to get there. Maps needed for your time in Swedesboro, NJ can be downloaded off the site.
6. Be financially ready. Each church handles this differently. You will have fuel cost, meals, hotel cost, etc. Also be prepared to handle any extra cost that might come up on the trip.
7. Make sure you have all the necessary medical info from your students. CityReach must have this info on the day of your arrival. It is also a good idea to have a waiver filled out by students from your church. CityReach is not responsible during your travel. At least make a copy of the CityReach waiver for your use.
8. Spend your travel time building relationships with your students. Don't have an adult ride shotgun, get a student up there – rotate different students as you drive. When you're not driving get in the back to hang out with your students. When you stop for meals sit with your students. Encourage other adult leaders to do the same.
9. Schedule a church gathering to recap your trip. This is a great time to give your students the opportunity to share what they experienced.

*some of this info has been taken from "14 Travel Tips," a Group Work Camp trip guide.