

Uganda Mission Trip Application 2024



Trip Details:

Trip Dates: July 23 - August 4, 2024 *Subject to slight change

*OPTIONAL: In January there will be a Zoom informational meeting with Africa Renewal. This will be a chance to ask questions and understand more about their ministry and trip details. Please email JLoehle to receive the Zoom link. jloehle@mandarinpres.com. *Date to be added here ASAP!

Trip Cost: \$3,000 (This is the individual share of the estimated \$4,000 total/person) In addition, Yellow Fever Vaccination is required, Malaria and Hep B are recommended.

For questions, please contact Jenn Arnold at jennarnold@mandarinpres.com or Brandon Gober at bgober@mandarinpres.com.

*NOTE: Trip details (team meeting dates/times) are still being finalized and will be updated here. Jenn and Brandon will be traveling to Uganda on a vision trip with Africa Renewal in February. Following this we will put our exact trip itinerary together.

Trip Description:

This summer we are extending our reach in the world! We are offering THREE unique experiences – in Costa Rica, Georgia and Uganda. We understand there are many motivations behind why you may be applying (friends, adventure, service hours, desire to grow deeper with God, wanting to serve significantly) and the list could go on!

These trips are first and most importantly about what God is doing in our world and how we can join that and support ministry partners in Costa Rica, Georgia and Uganda.

*For information about our Georgia and Costa Rica trips, please see those applications.

This summer we will be taking a Next Level trip to Uganda, Africa. MPC Senior Pastor, Andrew Stepp, is good friends with the founder of Africa Renewal Ministries, Peter Kasirivu. In November, Pastor Peter came and spoke in both MPC worship services which can be viewed on our website. They regularly host mission teams and are experienced in arranging accommodations, meals, and meaningful ministry. You can get more information about Africa Renewal at <https://africarenewal.org/>.

This is a trip for High School students who have previously participated in an international mission trip (does not have to be with MPC). Our hope for this team is to expand students' understanding of mission and God's work in the world. We want to challenge students to take deeper steps in faith and world engagement. Africa Renewal is Ugandan founded and led, we will be coming alongside their work to learn and serve within their many ministry areas.

This High School trip will additionally include 5-6 adults who will join as team members. They will be selected in an application process, go through background checks and agree to following student ministry policies. We feel that expanding this team to include others in our MPC community will expand students' experience and connection with the larger church community. *Adult applications will be available in January on our website.

This trip will include 10 days in Uganda, including a 2-day safari at the end of our time there.

Who Should Apply:

- High School students who have been on a previous international mission trip (does not have to be with MPC) and who feel God leading them to this deeper level experience.
- Students who are willing to set aside their personal comforts and fully participate in all aspects of the week. This trip includes physically challenging work, relational connection, community engagement, and spiritual growth.
- Students who will have a great attitude at all times and who will be open to what God is doing.

*Note: Students on this trip will only be allowed to bring cell phones for use on travel days. Phones will be locked in a safe during the week and MPC is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen phones. Parents will have emergency numbers, and we will post daily updates on a private Facebook page.

A trip of this size and cost is no small undertaking! For everything to run smoothly and be fully funded, we need the following from team members and their families - (these are NOT optional):

Team Members:

- **Complete application** and turn in a \$300 non-refundable deposit by Monday, January 29! (Anyone not selected for this year's team or put on waitlist will have their total deposit refunded)
- **Attend Parent/Student Meeting:** February 25 from 1-3:00pm
- **Current passport** (expiration cannot be less than 6 months after the trip)
- Vaccinations - Yellow Fever is required, Malaria, Typhoid and Hep B are recommended.
- **Help sell mulch** to family and friends and distribute flyers in neighborhoods - we are asking each participant to have a goal of at least 10 orders from family/neighbors outside of the church
- **Help with spreading mulch** on 4 of these 6 dates: March 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 13, 20. *If you do not complete 4 spread days, \$250 will be added to your balance for each missed day. You can have a parent or another person work for you if needed.
- **Mulch days are from 8am – 5pm.**
 - **Students are responsible for being there the entire time OR getting someone to come fill in their spot if they have to leave early/arrive late.**
 - **At least one of your four days needs to be April 13 or 20 as these are our two biggest weeks!**
- **Pay remaining deposits:** \$1,000 by March 6, \$1,000 by April 6, and \$700 by May 19.
- **Participate in Crave or Wednesday Bible Study at least twice a month.** (It is important to be connected with peers and growing in faith year round – not just on trips!)
- **Attend Training Days - Dates TBD - check back for updates!**
- **Commissioning Service:** Sunday, July 21 during the Costa/Georgia Mission Trip Service
- **Actual Mission Trip:** July 23 - August 4
- **Team Sharing Lunch: Date TBD - check back for updates!**

Parent Requirements

Parents (or an adult in family):

- **Attend Parent/Student Meeting:** February 25 from 1-3pm at the Mandarin Road Campus.
- Sign up for at least **2 days of the following** (Signup Genius)
 - Selling mulch at the tent on Saturdays on mulch spread dates
 - Mulch Deliveries – Every Thursday and Friday before spread dates (or other day as available)
 - Selling mulch at the table on Sundays – each Sunday counts as ½ a day
 - Drive and spread on mulch Saturdays
- **Make sure your child is available to attend and fulfill all of the listed requirements and that payments are made at the designated times**

*For questions or more information, contact Brandon Gober at bgober@mandarinpres.com or Jenn Arnold at jennarnold@mandarinpres.com

Please read trip description and carefully review team and parent requirements before filling out application! Then answer the questions below as honestly and openly as you can. There are no “right” answers – we are looking for your honest reflections!

All applications submitted will be carefully reviewed. Submitting your application DOES NOT guarantee your spot on a team. We will consider a variety of factors for team selection (not limited to but including) involvement; maturity and leadership; experience on past trips; and thoughtfulness of answers.

This trip is open to all HS students who have previously been on an international mission trip and are able to commit to the team requirements.

Applications MUST be submitted online – www.mandarinpres.com/hsmisions

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING AT 10 PM ON JANUARY 8 THROUGH MIDNIGHT ON JANUARY 29. Deposits are due January 29 to hold your application. We will notify everyone of team selection no later than February 5, 2024. We will deposit checks at the time of team announcements. Anyone not selected for a team or waitlisted will have their deposits returned. AIRFARE AND MANY OTHER TRIP EXPENSES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE. IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR YOU TO DROP AFTER THE TEAM SELECTION, WE CAN ONLY REFUND WHAT YOU HAVE PAID BEYOND OUR EXPENSES TO THAT POINT.

FUNDRAISING

Mulch is the main fundraiser for this trip and is the only way we can offer participants the discounted trip cost. Even if you could pay the trip cost, many others cannot. We couldn't pull it off and assist others without everyone's efforts – that is why it is a requirement. We will be taking orders and then doing all deliveries and spreading over a 6-week window of time. Participants will choose 4 of the 6 spreading Saturdays to work. See dates page for details.

In addition to mulch, team members have the option to sell TPC tickets and keep \$40 per ticket sold for their trip cost. We will also give you a sample letter that can be sent out to family and friends if you would like to raise money that way. *TPC tickets can be sold immediately – you do not need to wait for team selection. Contact Jen Loehle if you wish to get that information - jloehle@mandarinpres.com