

Mission Trip Preparation

Bo Simms

The changes that are taking place in the way Baptist churches are involved in missions mean that local resort/leisure ministry leaders will have an increased responsibility in preparing the mission groups that come to work with them. This outline should help a mission group start off in the right direction.

Just what is involved in getting a group adequately prepared for a mission trip? Why is training necessary anyway? What are the things a group leader should do before the training sessions actually begin?

I. Securing a Mission Project

- A. Assignment through North American Mission Board or similar source
- B. State convention referral
- C. Direct contact with mission setting

II. Gaining Church Support

- A. Budget
- B. Publicity
- C. Involving others
 - 1. Woman's Missionary Union/Baptist Men
 - 2. Prayer partners
 - 3. Craft supply pounding
 - 4. Support projects
 - 5. Training sessions-use others to help train

III. Pre-Project Visit

- A. Housing and meals (budget)
- B. Transportation (budget)
- C. Finalize project design
- D. Medical and security needs
- E. Getting familiar with the community
 - 1. Take a camera
 - 2. Finalize housing

IV. Project Design and Schedule

- A. Design based on needs
- B. Identify your resources
- C. Determine what your group can do
- D. Make a daily schedule

V. Enlisting and Training the Team

- A. Sign-up or application/interview
- B. Training components
 - 1. Biblical basis for mission trip
 - 2. Personal Bible study and prayer time
 - 3. Doctrine study
 - 4. Witness training
 - 5. Curriculum training
 - 6. Specialty skills preparation (music, puppets, clowning, drama, etc.)
 - 7. Miscellaneous
 - a. Money
 - b. Expected behavior
 - c. Attitude
 - 8. Representing the mission area

VI. Financing the Trip

- A. Church budget
- B. Fund raising
- C. Scholarships

VII. Medical and Insurance Needs

VIII. On the Road

Considerations for hitting the road

Adapted from an article by Bo Simms in the 1993 National Resort Ministries Conference notebook. Used by permission