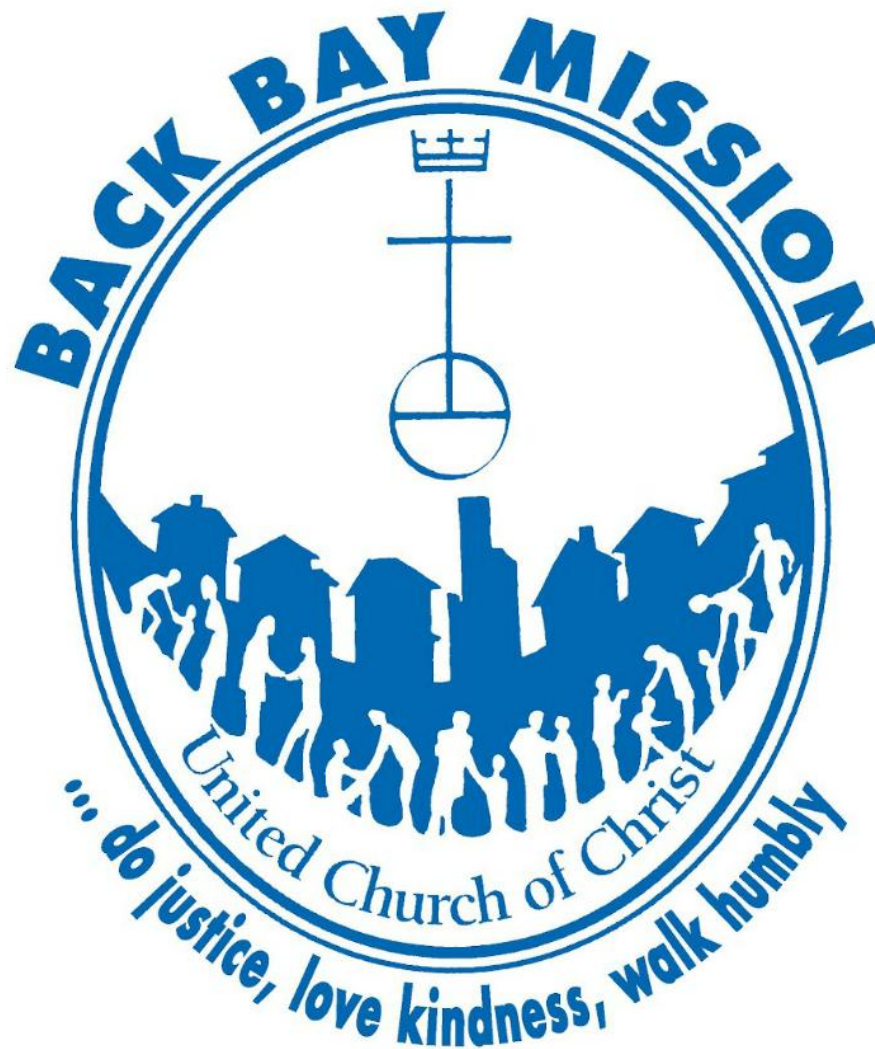


Mission Trip Guide for Group Participants

Revised 2017



Back Bay Mission: An Overview

The mission trip program at Back Bay Mission is focused on serving the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. But we're also focused on making your time with us an opportunity for faith formation and learning. Among other things, you'll have the opportunity to learn about poverty on the Mississippi Gulf Coast (and in your own community).

Back Bay Mission is a national leader for mission trips in the United Church of Christ. We believe that providing these experiences for members of the United Church of Christ and others is a benefit for participants, their congregations and communities, and the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We hope that you will return home to tell others about your experience and lead the way in helping your community and ours.

Program Goals

The volunteer program at Back Bay Mission isn't just about serving the poor and marginalized. It's also about serving our volunteers! This is an opportunity for you to learn and grow while serving others. Goals of our program include:

- Demonstrating how an agency of the United Church of Christ lives out the Christian faith by meeting the immediate needs of the people we serve and helping them grow towards long term sustainability.

- Providing opportunities for increased self-understanding and personal growth for all participants.

- Exposing participants to cultural patterns and value systems that may differ from their own, and provide an opportunity for dialogue about that experience.

- Helping participants understand the ministry and commitments of Back Bay Mission.

- Providing opportunities for meaningful service to others.

How You'll Spend Your Time

Mission trips at Back Bay Mission are divided between work, learning, and time for play.

Most volunteers will work with our housing rehabilitation ministry. There are also some opportunities to work in the Micah Day Center and the food pantry. Depending on need, there may be the chance to work with our other ministries or with partner agencies.

There are two important discussion sessions – in addition to orientation sessions- during the week on Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon. During these sessions, you'll have the chance to learn about Back Bay Mission, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and poverty and related issues. You'll also have the opportunity to talk about your experiences and how what you've learned applies to your community.

Finally, there's plenty of time to enjoy the Mississippi Gulf Coast and fellowship with your group! Many groups even plan an afternoon (usually Thursday) to explore the Coast or take a trip to New Orleans.

The Typical Weekly Schedule

The schedule below is typical for a week at Back Bay Mission. We recognize that every project, group, and week is unique and that changes may have to be made. In general, though, this is what you can expect.

Sunday	7pm	General orientation
Monday	7:30am 8am – 4pm	Work assignments and safety orientation Work
Tuesday	8am – 4pm	Work
Wednesday	8am 9am – 4pm 7pm	Discussion with Mission staff Work Optional worship at local Missionary Baptist Church
Thursday	8am – 4pm	Work
Friday	8am – 4pm 4pm	Work Final discussion and evaluation with Mission staff

General Orientation

When you arrive on Sunday, you'll receive a general orientation from the volunteer coordinator or Mission staff. This will familiarize you with the Mission and the Mission House.

Work Assignment and Safety Orientation

On Monday morning, you'll learn about the work assignments that are available. While most volunteers will work on construction sites, there may also be opportunities to work in the food pantry and Micah Center. Depending on needs, there may also be opportunities to work in other ministries or with our partner organizations.

You'll also be given a safety orientation to ensure that you know how to stay safe on your work site.

Wednesday Discussion with Mission Staff

On Wednesday, you'll have a discussion with Mission staff, including the Executive Director and/or the Director of Client Services. You'll learn about the work of Back Bay Mission, poverty on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and issues that affect our community. You'll also have the opportunity to ask questions about the Mission.

Worship at Local Missionary Baptist Church (Optional)

On Wednesday evening, we invite you to experience worship at a local Missionary Baptist Church. This will likely be different from the worship you experience at home and is a great opportunity to explore faith on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Final Discussion and Evaluation with Mission Staff

Friday afternoon, you'll meet with Housing Recovery Staff to process your week and evaluate your mission trip experience.

Work

Groups should plan on working from 8am to no later than 5pm each day (though you'll notice that the schedule has you stopping work at 4pm). A lunch break of about an hour is built into each day by the group.

Many groups also plan an afternoon to explore the Mississippi Gulf Coast or take a trip to New Orleans. Most groups do this on Thursday.

Where You'll Stay

Volunteer groups at Back Bay Mission stay in the Mission House on our campus. This beautiful building offers the perfect place to rest, relax, and develop a sense of community. The Mission House includes two dormitory style bunkrooms accommodating 22 people each (for a total of 44), a commercial-grade kitchen, a large dining and gathering area, and a large front porch.

The Mission House also has pillows, a washer and dryer for laundry, and wireless internet.

Your group is responsible for bringing:

- Bed linens or sleeping bags
- Toiletries, including toilet paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry detergent (HE)
- Hand dish detergent
- Hand soap for the bathrooms

Please note that the Mission does not host RVs or motor homes. Groups should not plan on parking these kinds of vehicles on the Mission campus. Groups and individuals who want to travel to the Mission in a motor home or similar vehicle (or any vehicle requiring an electrical or sewage hookup) should contact RV resorts in the area.

What You'll Eat

Groups are responsible for purchasing food and preparing their own meals. The Mission House has a commercial-grade kitchen equipped with two ranges, two convection ovens, a walk-in cooler, a large freezer, a dishwasher, dishes, cooking utensils, a coffee

pot, and other amenities. Spices, seasonings, and various staples left behind by previous groups are regularly checked for freshness by Mission staff.

We highly recommend using some time on the day of your arrival to do some initial grocery shopping. Some groups also choose to assign a 'cook' to do shopping and prepare meals each day. If you are staying at the Mission House with another group, you may want to share cooking responsibilities.

There are also many fine restaurants and a proud history of cuisine on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Mission staff are happy to make recommendations.

Who You'll Work With

During your time at Back Bay Mission, you'll have the chance to meet and work with several of the Mission staff. You'll be working most closely with the Housing Rehabilitation Department staff as well as volunteer construction supervisors.

What You'll Pay

Back Bay Mission offers a highly competitive fee structure.

For 2017 the fees are::

- A \$200 per group reservation fee is due upon reservation of your week.

- A \$100 per person materials fee is due upon arrival at the Mission.

- A \$75 per person lodging fee is due upon arrival at the Mission.

For 2018 the fees are::

- A \$200 per group reservation fee is due upon reservation of your week.

- A \$250 per person work camp fee is due upon arrival at the Mission.

In addition, participants are responsible for travel to/from Biloxi, shared meal costs, and other personal expenditures. Many groups receive sponsorships from their congregations or join together in fundraising activities.

Packing List

Please note that clothing should be suitable for hard physical labor and offer some protection from the bright sun (depending on the time of year).

- ☐ Shirts (you may prefer long sleeved shirts for sun protection)
- ☐ Long pants (required for some projects)
- ☐ Work shoes or boots no open toed shoes, sandals, or crocs are permitted on job sites)
- ☐ Work gloves
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Bug Spray (we recommend Avon Skin-So-Soft)
- ☐ Bed linens or a sleeping bag
- ☐ Toiletries, including towels and washcloths
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Beach towel
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Bible and Journal