



*Equipping Leaders to Empower Kids
to Fulfill God's Call to Serve, Minister, and Be Missionaries*

**L.I.T. Mission Trip
Church Planning Packet 2024**



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14, KJV)

God was not content only to proclaim His Message. God was not fully satisfied that prophets could reveal His Message. God was not willing that His Message be solely confined to a book. No, God's Message was found in Jesus Christ Himself. God became human flesh to live as one of us. This made grace accessible, touchable, and available to us. Yet even in human skin and being burdened with human frailties, God's glory could not be hidden. Grace and truth were revealed in Jesus. God came near. God became touchable. God's Message became real.

This is the message of L.I.T. Mission Trips. Just as Jesus "moved into the neighborhood," we are called by God as Christ's representatives to go to people and persuade them to give their lives to Him (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

L.I.T. Ministries is involved in communities in multiple states through a partnership with local churches. Rather than expecting people to come to us, we go to them to BE the Church.

What began as a desire to get outside the walls of the church building has turned into a movement of taking Jesus to the people rather than waiting for them to come to us. In 2004, we took our first mission trip to Corpus Christi, Texas, and witnessed our preteens being the Church to a lost world. Since then, we have participated in 36 mission trips in eight states with more than 3,700 preteens and leaders involved.

We are excited that you have chosen to join us, the Church, going out and sharing Christ with people on this year's mission trip. It has been a fantastic ride so far, and we are anticipating great things as you and your group help bring hope to many communities.

As you prepare, please call us with any questions or if we can do anything to help. You can text or call 817-475-5542, or you can email me at clint@leadersintraining.com. We are praying for you as you prepare for a great experience. Thank you for helping us build a bridge to people!

Blessings,
Dr. Clint May
President, L.I.T. Ministries

This handbook is adapted in partnership with Mobile Missions Network in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.
mobilemissionsnetwork.com

Mission

To Empower The Next Generation

Vision

Equipping leaders to reach, disciple, and empower kids to fulfill God's call to serve, minister, and be missionaries of the Gospel.

Our L.I.T. Mission Trip vision is to partner with churches to go wherever the Church is not and plant the Gospel. We desire to see people who are far from God come to know Him. We aim to get outside the walls of the church building to rescue people from being eternally separated from Jesus.



New for 2024

- **Children's Pastors are free!** This includes lodging costs plus a free T-shirt.
- We are passionate about missions being a lifestyle for the whole family. We want to invite your Children's Pastor or main leader and their family to join you on your mission trip at no cost. (Background checks are required for everyone age 18 and up.)
- We want to invite families to join us on our mission trips. Please contact us for a discount rate for families with more than four children.



Testimonies

“I have enhanced my belief that children are capable of anything. God is limitless and can equip anyone to do anything if they accept God's will.” —Janet Bergen

“I saw Him giving my girls compassion for others and opening their eyes to see lost people. I saw Him bring out their gifts.” —Emily Mullis

“They are powerful vessels. They have a position and place in ministry, and we as the Church need to make room for them.” —DeAnn Noyes

“I saw the joy in the kids full of the Spirit. Even during ‘chores,’ they were laughing and enjoying working for the Lord and being filled with the Holy Spirit.” —Tammie Thibodeaux

“I saw boldness overcoming fear. I saw kids (L.I.T.s) convicted of sin and fully surrendering to the Lord, committing to change when they come home.” —Nancy Ruth Bailey

“Oh, my goodness—they can do it! After doing L.I.T. since October and then the nine-week training, we felt our kids were prepared. But seeing the whole program work, working together—it truly is a mighty work of the Holy Spirit. I will go home trusting the Lord more to let loose and watch.” —Lou Duncan

Ministry Opportunities

Kid Power Camp

Kid Power Camp (KPC) is the name of our backyard bible clubs. They consist of music, games, crafts, and the Word of God. These evangelistic Bible studies are led by preteens who attend the mission trip.



Mission Projects

We want to meet both physical and spiritual needs, to be the tangible hands and feet of Jesus. Mission Projects could include doing clean up, painting, lawn care, lifting furniture for residents, sorting items for our food pantry, or working alongside another ministry we partner with in the area where we are working. Please bring appropriate clothing and protective gear (i.e., work gloves, closed-toe shoes, etc.).

Important Visionary Things to Know

As you prepare to partner with L.I.T. Ministries, here are a few things we think are important for you to know:

Greatest Message in the World

“We are not dealing with some vague philanthropic exercise. We are dealing with life and death and we had better get on with this business of proclaiming the Gospel!” —Alan Hirsch

Remind yourself and your team why we are doing this. We have the greatest Message in the world and a Message of hope and healing. There may be times when you don't “feel” like you are making a difference, but recognize that the Word of God will not return void (Isaiah 55:11).

Build Bridges Not Barriers

Every community's culture is different. How you live and what you expect may be different than what you encounter in the communities we are trying to reach. Keep this in mind and remember you are a missionary stepping into their world. Respect them and encourage them. Have fun with them and be the hands and feet of Jesus to them.

Be Flexible

You may have a great plan in place; however, allow God to modify your plans. Follow His lead. Times may change and plans may change, so be flexible and let the Lord guide your efforts.

Spiritual Warfare

You will experience spiritual warfare. A lot of times, this will happen within the mission teams. That is why it is so important to be prayed up. Struggles within a group are not coincidental. It is the enemy trying to disrupt what God is doing in your midst. We believe mission trips are the greatest experience for kids and students because, hopefully, you will learn to follow His lead.

Don't Be "THAT" Group

Being a missionary is a lifestyle and not an event or activity. Mission trips are great opportunities to teach this lifestyle. When you leave a community, we want the community to remember all that God has done, not things your group did that were careless or created dissension. The people and children in communities watch to see if what you are saying and living is legitimate. Hence, before going out into the communities each day, we will commission the group to set the tone for the day. (See "Build Bridges Not Barriers" above.)

Safety and Security

We take safety and security very seriously, both at the facilities where we stay and at the ministry sites. A few things to remember:

- Never be alone with anyone. Maintain groups of three at all times.
- There must be at least two adults in each lodging quarter on site.
- When walking kids back to their homes after the Kid Power Camp, always go in a group consisting of three or more team members with an adult leader present at all times.
- For your safety, please do not enter people's homes without prior approval from Mission Trip staff or your on-site Group Leader. You must get permission daily if returning to the same home/site.

Accommodations/Costs

The cost is \$270 per person for a Sunday through Friday trip. This covers lodging, utilities, food, block parties, craft supplies, promotional flyers, and our 2024 T-shirt. L.I.T. Ministries will have additional T-shirts, hats, and water bottles available for purchase for \$10-\$20 each. All proceeds help fund our ministry efforts. You may also want to bring spending money for road snacks, etc.



Conduct

- Be focused on the essential thing: building bridges. The words that come from your mouth and the actions you show may be that final link in the chain leading the children and their families in our communities to know Christ. Ask yourself: "Are the words I am saying and the actions I am presenting helping these kids draw closer to Jesus?"
- Be good stewards. Our host churches have been gracious in hosting your mission team. Appreciate them by being good stewards of their facilities. Clean up after yourselves. Do your best not to leave your personal items at the church. Always leave the locker rooms and showers cleaner than you found them.
- Teams will be assigned cleaning duties in different parts of the church daily. Have a positive attitude as you serve together.
- Please, no roughhousing.
- Help us present a good image to everyone. Be courteous and grateful wherever you go, even when not in a ministry environment. Everywhere you go is your mission field.

A Word on Relationships

Because our main thing is to do Jesus' ministry, we do not want anything to distract from this. Therefore, we do not allow any romantic relationships while serving on a mission team. Public displays of romantic affection and flirtations are a distraction for you. The objective is to work with your team and for the people you are ministering to. Please do not put anyone in the uncomfortable position of needing to have an awkward conversation regarding this.

Social Media/Phones/Devices

We desire for you to grow spiritually while you are on the mission trip and not be disconnected due to social media. For the sake of spiritual growth in the teams and in those we serve as well as for everyone's safety:

- L.I.T. Ministries asks leaders to refrain from using their phones for phone calls and social media as much as possible during the trip and in the evenings. Our staff and youth are asked not to use their phones unless they are assisting us with logistics, photography, or publicity.
- Please refrain from sharing your personal contact information, including Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, etc., with students, children, staff, and others while you are with us until your last day.

- We desire that God use you to pour biblical encouragement into the children, students, and families you serve and to develop God-honoring friendships with them. Maintain contact with them that is above reproach and gender appropriate, preferably in a group chat conversation.
- After your trip, if our staff or interns reach out to you, please maintain contact with them that is above reproach and gender appropriate, preferably in a group chat conversation.

Note: *Students/preteens are not permitted to bring cell phones or electronic devices on a mission trip.*

Dress Code

- Dress modestly. We understand that everyone has their own definition of modesty, but please make sure you represent Jesus well by what you wear.
- Shorts: Rule of 5. Must have at least a 5" inseam or be no more than 5" above the knee. Please no running shorts or short shorts. If you have to ask if they are too short, they probably are. 😊
- Shirts: Loose-fitting T-shirts are best. Please do not wear crop tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps, or any kind of sleeveless shirt. Girls, do not wear tops that are low-cut at the neck. No inappropriate logos or images on shirts.
- Pants: Please do not wear skinny or tight pants, including leggings and yoga pants. (Leggings/yoga pants do not count as pants. They can be worn under a dress or skirt that is no more than 5" above the knee only.)
- Shoes: Wear comfortable shoes for running and playing games. We recommend tennis shoes for some mission projects.
- Swimwear: Females will wear modest swimwear that fully covers chest and midsection. Males should not wear tight-fitting swimming trunks. Everyone will need to wear shorts and a T-shirt or tank top over your swimwear at all times. While going to and from the recreation sites, all campers must wear shoes.
- Trends to avoid: No bra straps or bralette showing. No short shorts or skirts. No tight-fitting shirts or pants. No leggings/yoga pants as pants. No fishnet hose.
- If a participant chooses to dress in something that does not fit our dress code, an L.I.T. staff member will ask them to change before beginning the day. Please remember that certain items you would wear at home might not be the right image for knocking on doors and asking parents to let their children go with you.



Kid Power Camp Overview

Ministry begins before you arrive at your site! As you travel to your site, rather than talking about silly stuff, spend time praying as a group for what God will do AND spend some time in worship to prepare yourself spiritually.



When you arrive, have an adult leader check-in at the office to let them know you are on site. Go and start knocking on doors to invite kids to come to Kid Power Camp. Those leading the games and the attendance taker will stay on site. Please do not go alone to knock on doors—go in groups of three.

As children arrive, have the attendance taker write down the names of each child, their address, parent's name(s), phone number, and any food allergies. If parents stay with their children, please make a note of this as well.

1. Always start with **Games!** Have plenty of games planned in advance. Spend about 30 minutes in games the first day—this allows you to spend time building relationships. It is essential that all team members participate in the games to encourage the kids to play.
2. **Songs:** L.I.T. will provide the songs and motions before the mission trip. You will receive the training videos several months before your trip. Preteens lead these at each Kid Power camp site. Have fun with it! The kids will enjoy this only as much as you do. Lead by example, and remember, you are singing God's Word over them.
3. **Testimony:** Be prepared to share your testimony of how you came to know Christ and how He has changed your life or helped you through a difficult situation. If possible, tie your testimony to the theme of that day's story.
4. **Small Groups:** Break into groups of 3-5 and share the Bible lesson for the day. The small group format helps you to build better relationships with the kids. You will do the story, the craft, and the meal/snack in your small groups.
5. **Crafts:** These will be simple crafts, including power bands, picture frames, power necklaces, and wordless books, that go along with that day's Bible study. L.I.T. will provide everything for this. If you would like to provide any additional activities, please bring any supplies required.
6. **Food:** Food will be delivered to your site. Please help your small group get their food and then sit down with them as this is another opportunity to get to know them more personally. Please feed the kids in the community first (before yourselves). We try very hard to send extra food for the kids and your team, but sometimes more people come than we planned. There will always be snacks and drinks back at your lodging site when you return.
7. **Share the Gospel:** Every Bible study is a clear presentation of the Gospel. Use the ABC Counseling Card. That way, your preteens and students will be able to properly assess where children are spiritually. One thing we encourage is not to flippantly share the Gospel and get numbers for numbers' sake. Remember, you represent Christ, and this is a very serious decision. You must take time to make sure they understand the message. Please have an adult sponsor step aside with each person who surrenders to Jesus to make sure they understand the basics of their decision. We will provide discipleship materials for each person that makes this decision.
8. **Take children home in groups of threes.** Please do not allow them to walk home by themselves.

9. **Debriefing:** Close each ministry session with a time of debriefing. This will allow you to share God moments and to plan for the next day. You can pick up your planning sheets when you arrive.

Training Checklist (Participants)

All leadership, preteens, and students are required to go through the mission trip training so that everyone on your team is fully prepared in advance. Leaders, students, and preteens are required to complete the daily devotionals as they prepare for the trip.*

___ Go over the expectations set by your leaders and those of L.I.T. Ministries. You will have access to the video training by February 2024.

___ Start spiritually preparing by being in the Word and praying for the mission trip weeks and months before.

___ Practice sharing your testimony. There is a Testimony Worksheet in the mission trip preparation devotional. Please keep your testimony simple and share the full story of repentance, forgiveness, and restoration to a right relationship with God through Jesus. Start by practicing out loud in your group. Then share with your friends. Even if you don't usually talk about Jesus with them, they will most likely be open to listening when you explain you are practicing for your mission trip. Maybe this will be the first time they hear and respond to the Holy Spirit. This is an excellent opportunity to start Gospel conversations and hopefully help your friends to Christ before you even go on this trip!



___ Start working on the songs regularly and as early as possible. Wouldn't it be awesome if the kids go home and start singing Scripture? Include them during your children's worship services and on Wednesday evenings. That way, you do not have to schedule extra time to learn them.

___ You will need to begin your preparation nine weeks before the mission trip using the Devotional and the Leader Guide "Preparing For My Mission Trip." You will be able to download this from the "Mission Trip Download" page.

___ Practice sharing the Word of God. The stories from "The Gift" Bible study will need to be told with excitement and passion, not just read. Allow the Word of God to come alive. If possible, do a whole camp at some point during training as if your friends/family are those you will be ministering to.

___ PRAY. PRAY. PRAY. Really seek the Lord and His plan for you, your team, and the communities in which you will be ministering.

**The L.I.T. Mission Trip is a life-changing event. Be open to what the Lord might do in a struggling child's life. If said child is not a discipline problem, we would suggest allowing them to attend the trip. If you have any questions, contact clint@leadersintraining.com.*

Requirements for Leadership

In order to go on the Mission Trip, your L.I.T. leaders must meet the following requirements:

- Member of your church for at least six months
- Faithfully doing daily quiet times
- Faithfully memorizing memory verses
- All leaders are required to have a Criminal Background Check and go through Sexual Abuse Training through www.ministrysafe.com. There are no exceptions—*ALL leadership must go through this training or a similar training approved by the Mission Trip Director.*
- Churches are required to bring a list of leader names printed on your church's letterhead and signed by your Pastor or Administrator signifying that those leaders are in good standing with your local church.
- Leaders will be held to a higher standard and will be greatly challenged on the Mission Trip. A person who causes dissension or problems on the trip may be asked to leave.
- L.I.T./Leader ratio will be one leader to five L.I.T.s (1:5).
- Leaders must be trained and able to use "The Gift" Bible study.
- Leaders must be trained and able to counsel unsaved children or adults if the need arises on the Mission Trip.
- If leaders are going to be there only one night or a few nights, all of the above requirements must be followed for them to stay at the church.

Medical Needs

There will be medical professionals on the Mission Trip at the location where you will be staying. *All medications must be turned in to this person upon arrival at the church. All medications are required to be in their original containers.* Each person's medication must be in a re-sealable bag with their name and church labeled on the bag along with detailed instructions inside.

**In the event that we are unable to provide a medical professional on the trip, your church leader will be required to administer medication to children in their care.*

Special Dietary Needs/Food Allergies

For those with food allergy concerns or dietary limitations, we recommend that parents plan to bring any necessary menu substitutions to check in to supplement the meals served on the Mission Trip. We do offer a wide variety of meal choices, including salads, fresh fruits, and vegetables as well as vegetarian options. However, we are not able to cater to specific individual needs, such as gluten-free, allergen-free, or similar custom-made dishes. Access to a refrigerator, freezer, and microwave will be available in the dining hall. All food should be stored in a bag/container and labeled with your child's name and church name.

Please contact Vicki May at vicki@leadersintraining.com to discuss specific dietary concerns or if you need an emailed copy of the food menu.

Social Media

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCswSeOb5NXp7YKo5u2HJ7mQ>

I-Go Mission Trip promo video: L.I.T. Mission Trip Video

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LeadersInTraining>

Instagram:

Church Packing List

This list will help you make sure you have everything for your mission trip to be successful:

- Two copies of the student applications. One to turn in upon arrival and one to keep for your travel to and from your church.
- Bring signed copies of your leadership applications, background checks, preventative sexual abuse training certificates, and signed copies of the mission trip code of conduct.
- Bring one five-gallon water jug for every ten people attending the trip with you.
- Bring one medium-size cooler that will be used to deliver food to the ministry sites for every ten people you bring.
- CD players and batteries for every ten people in your group/blue tooth portable P.A. system.
- Canopies, if you have them
- Plastic tarps for the ministry sites
- Kids Blitz songs and videos on CD or thumb drive (for your practice)
- We will have a special offering during the trip for our international ministry work.
- Work gloves for ministry projects
- Bring copies of "The Gift" Bible study for your group to use to teach the lesson.
- Candy/small prizes to give away (i.e., from Oriental Trading)
- Soccer balls, basketballs, and volleyballs all the time. If your church can bring a few and a ball pump, that would be excellent!
- Jump ropes, Frisbees, or sidewalk chalk (and/or other things that might be fun)
- Supplies for work projects (gloves, trash bags, rakes, and other yard tools, if applicable)

Mission Trip Timeline Planning Sheet

Be sure to mark these important dates on your planning calendar so that your group will be prepared.

Mission Trip Discount Pricing and Payment Information

An initial deposit of \$50 per person is required to hold your mission trip location. Discounts are offered if fees are paid by designated dates. All deposits are non-refundable after March 1.

- o \$270/person (if the \$50 deposit is paid on or before January 15)
- o \$280/person (if the \$50 deposit is paid on or before February 1)
- o \$290/person (if the \$50 deposit is paid on or before March 1)

If you are planning to attend the Spring Break mission trip, please email clint@leadersintraining.com for an updated timeline planning sheet.

February

15..... Start singing Mission Trip songs and learning the motions on a weekly basis. You can incorporate them into children's worship, Sunday school assembly, or your Wednesday evening program. This way, there is no need for special practices. By the time of the Mission Trip, they will have the songs down perfectly.

March

1..... **Second Payment Due: 50% of balance due***
**After March 1 payment is received, these funds will be non-refundable. Make sure your final number count is correct. You may add to your number, but any removals from your count after March 1 will not be refunded.*

April

19..... Begin Mission Trip Bible Study/Training*

June

3..... **Mission Trip Final Balance Due for June Mission Trips**
5..... Deadline for submission of list of divided teams for mission trip
11..... Applications and other documentation due upon arrival at host church for June trips.

July

1..... **Mission Trip Final Balance Due for July Mission Trips**
1..... Deadline for submission of list of divided teams for mission trip
..... Applications and other documentation are due upon arrival at host churches

***Make sure that all applications are properly notarized and signed before arrival. Children are not allowed to stay at the facility without completed applications.