## Parent Info Letter for 2024-2025 S.O.M.E. Missions Trip to Hidden Acres Mission Camp

7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders: Hidden Acres, Kaufman, TX <a href="https://www.hiddenacres.org/hamissioncamps">https://www.hiddenacres.org/hamissioncamps</a>

- Dates: July On Monday, students arrive at Hidden Acres for introductions, training and planning
  On Friday, parents will pick up students from Hidden Acres possible dinner and/or retreat for de-briefing and fellowship
- Costs: \$425 additional if we plan post-retreat at cabin
   Expenses covered: t-shirt, 3 meals a day, activities, lodging at Hidden Acres, \$75 refugee camper scholarship, \$25 towards chaperones' costs

Optional Activity: stay one night at cabin in East Texas (additional \$100 for lodging and 3 meals)

**Fundraising**: We will provide students with a fundraising letter template to send out to friends and families who may be interested in sponsoring part of their costs. Students will be able to find a digital fundraising template on the website once our dates are confirmed for the summer of 2025.

A \$80 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit and signed Written Commitment is required to be placed on the roster. Registrations with Hidden Acres will need to be completed by February 15<sup>th</sup> to save our dates and receive the \$25 credit. Instructions for registering will be given to the students by March 1<sup>st</sup> to complete online. The student's balance will be paid directly to Hidden Acres and can be paid in increments.

You will be able to mail a check or pay online for the deposit. You can mail a check to REACH Global Inc, 316 S. Goliad #207, Rockwall TX 75087 or go online and pay: <a href="https://reachrockwall.churchcenter.com/giving">https://reachrockwall.churchcenter.com/giving</a> and choose SOMEthing for Jesus. In total, each student will collect \$425 to cover most of the costs of the mission trip. Any team fundraising will be divided amongst the team members and subtracted from this total. I do recommend that each student personally commit to working towards a portion of their monthly payment. If in the event of an emergency that your student is not able to commit or attend the mission trip, your balance will be returned minus the deposit and any expenses lost by S.O.M.E. As the mission leader, I do not receive any funds at any time for my service to your family and students.

Chaperones: As the mission leader, I will be one chaperone. Depending on the number of students going, we will need another adult female and two adult males to attend the mission trip as chaperones. We will be responsible for serving alongside the students in their respective areas at Hidden Acres. No student on our team will serve without one of our chaperones with them at all times. A background check will be required for all chaperones. Chaperones will receive a partial payment towards their costs of attending the mission camp.

**Bi-Weekly Meetings**: Students and parents will be placed on a GroupMe chat for communication purposes. Once a month, meetings will be in-person for team building or fundraising. The rest of the bi-weekly meetings will be by Zoom.

**Bible Study:** Starting in January, we will begin reading through the books of Proverbs and James, approximately a chapter every other week, and discuss at our meetings. I will provide a template that asks a couple of questions about each chapter to guide their study.

**Service Opportunities:** As service opportunities arise, we may exchange a meeting time for a time to serve the community as a team. We will discuss different ideas that interest the team in January.

**Absences**: Absences to meetings, fundraisers, and service opportunities will be allowed if kept to once a month. We all understand sickness, athletic games, and family responsibilities, but students will need to try to make most of the events to build our team and servant leadership skills.

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If you have any questions, please call or email the Mission Leader. Shari Nelson, 214-395-8454, sharianne77@gmail.com