

Taiwan Missions Trip 2024

Thank you for allowing your child to participate in this missions experience. We are doing all we can to make this process a blessing to your entire family and the team. More than anything, we want our young adults to become people who love and serve others with the heart of Jesus. We are committed to our mission of providing young people the opportunity to serve within a broad spectrum of *intercultural* experiences as they develop unique gifts and abilities with the purpose of serving others.

On this trip, we intend to use basketball to know Jesus and make Him known.

When we think about goals for this experience, it always, always, always comes back to relationships, both outside the team and within the team. On these mission trips, our desire is to see young people choose to embrace and include rather than reject and exclude. Our hope is that they would feel convicted to serve others in love and compassion rather than serve themselves in self-centeredness. This mindset goes against everything the western culture teaches them. And, yet, this is how God intended life to work when he created humanity in His image. The relationships are not a distraction from the mission, but fundamental to it. Our team will hopefully get a glimpse of the love, joy, freedom, and beauty of how God intended life to work within a community. We really believe it will be a slice of heaven on earth, God's kingdom come "*on earth as it is in heaven!*"

On this trip, we will be traveling to a different country and experiencing a different culture. And, although we are only there for two weeks, our desire is to expose these young men and women to what God is already doing there and invite them to participate in it. I firmly believe that short-term missions can be an vital part of the life of discipleship. They take us out of our comfort zones, requiring us to learn how to depend on God. After all, that's also how He designed us, to live in complete dependence on Him. But in our normal, everyday life in the West, we are so capable of doing "life," we can so easily forget about Him. So, our desire is for these young adults to go on this trip, together with others, so they can experience first-hand the mighty ways God can use them, both individually and collectively. Our hope is that this trip might build a deep community within the team, a deep love and appreciation for the Taiwanese people and might be a great encouragement as they continue in their life of faith.

Thank you for allowing them to be a part of this learning experience with us.

Shawn and Suzanne Reese

Trip Purpose: *To use basketball to know Jesus and make Him known*

In the New Testament, Jesus declared and lived out an upside-down kingdom based on love, compassion, grace and truth. In Mark 10, after two disciples came to Jesus seeking to be “great ones,” Jesus called them together and explained to them the upside-down nature of his kingdom. He said that the rulers of this world seek to lord power over others and exercise authority over others. Then He said this, *“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”* (Mark 10:43-45). The kingdom of God is certainly not of this world because it is a kingdom of “under-ness,” of servanthood, following our king, King Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve and give his life away. The values of this kingdom are love, compassion, grace and truth. And, we seek to live and teach these values on this trip to Taiwan.

In partnership with Sports Ambassadors and committed parents, our purpose is to create a Jesus-centered trip that will provide students the opportunity to serve within an intercultural experience. The hope is that this cross-cultural experience will allow them to develop their unique gifts and abilities while being transformed spiritually, relationally, and with a selfless heart so that they may become servants like King Jesus.

We recognize that Jesus is already in Taiwan. Our job is to help our students discover God’s handprint and His presence in Taiwan. We seek to do a lot of listening, listening in on the conversation God is having with each person we meet and engaging as His Holy Spirit leads us.

We won’t go with all the answers, but will engage with a posture of learning. Many times, our human tendency is to want to make things right, or try to fix what isn’t broken. Yet, for this trip, we desire to engage with humble hearts, seeking to learn what we can. To this end, we are preparing by reading portions of the book *When Helping Hurts* to learn how to enter other cultures with humility.

Jesus desires transformation, not change. We change our clothes, our address, and sometimes our jobs. Meanwhile, God brings transformation to our minds, hearts, and lives. Rather than just changing circumstances (which are often symptoms of deeper realities), we long to see how God is at work on root issues. Transformation takes more time, but is more holistic. We desire to help students to participate with God’s transformative work in themselves and in communities.

Parent Covenant

We believe a mission trip should be a family experience. Our prayer is that the entire process can be experienced together and will lend itself to healthy communication and open dialogue between the whole family. Parents are much more than a checkbook or a chauffeur. Prayer, communication, and support from you will make a huge difference in the experience a student has not only on this trip, but throughout their lives.

PRAYER SUPPORT – Committing to pray daily for my child’s journey; inviting others to pray on their own or join with me for particular prayers.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – Giving a certain amount of money before, during, or after my child’s work; or helping your child reach out to your community of friends and family.

COMMUNICATION SUPPORT – Staying on top of communication from us; or designating a time each week to talk through the experience; share what you’re learning about the culture or expectations, etc.

POST-TRIP SUPPORT – Helping your child figure out how to be involved in serving at home; engaging in God’s work as a family; continued talk and prayer about what God taught them on the trip.

Student Behavior Guidelines

STAYING WITH THE GROUP

- Students should never wander off individually or attempt to sight-see individually.
- When split into groups, students must remain in groups no smaller than four with their assigned leader. Students are allowed to pair up and do periodical checks with the leaders during airport layovers.
- Students may not enter any vehicle or form of transportation other than the transportation identified by program leaders.
- All students must be on time to designated meeting times.

CURFEW EXPECTATIONS

- Students must follow the “lights out” times set by the leader (lights off and quiet).
- Members of the opposite gender are not allowed in each other’s room at any time, unless as an official team meeting.
- Students may not leave their room after curfew, unless it is to contact their leader about a concerning issue.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

- Everyone on the trip is choosing to go and represent our faith. This spirit of Christian service should guide all dress, behavior, and speech.
- All students need to continually remember that we are visitors and to be respectful of other cultures and standards while visiting.
- Students are instructed to avoid the appearance of impropriety or doing anything that could be criminal or construed as criminal in nature.
- Students should be very thoughtful before taking pictures of others. Consider, “How would my mom/dad or sister/brother feel if someone took a picture of them if they were in this scenario?”

TRIP ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

- Scheduled activities are not optional. They are the focus of the trip.
- If a student feels unwell or stressed, he/she needs to immediately notify a leader.

MEDICATION

- All medication must have the **Medical Consent Form** filled out with appropriate signatures, including doctor’s signature if prescription or over the counter medication, and be turned into trip leader at the start of the trip with medication in the original prescription bottle.
- Leaders, when appropriate, will provide over-the counter medications unless specifically asked not to do so. We will work with parents on any plan for which they give consent.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Many U.S. cellular phones do not work internationally. As a result, parents who want their child to have their own cellular phone access are encouraged to check with their cellular service provider regarding international coverage and take appropriate action.
- We encourage students to not use their phones while on the trips, except for necessary parent communication.
- PBCC recommends that students leave expensive electronic devices at home.

REQUIRED TRIP MATERIALS

If the below items are not submitted by the trip deadlines, the student's place on the trip may be forfeited.

- International permission slip
- Medical Consent
- Passport and other minor related travel documents
- Notarized travel letter

CHOOSING TO LEAVE A TRIP EARLY

If a student or the parent wants the student to return home before the scheduled time, the parent should contact the trip leader and explain the reason and the level of urgency. The trip leader will work with the parent to decide the timing of the return, collectively weighing the family's needs with the overall trip team's needs. The family is financially responsible for all actions needed to return the student.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

PBCC is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Students should not bring any valuable or sentimental items. Students should immediately notify their leader if an item appears to be lost. The trip leader will work with the student and take appropriate actions to attempt to locate the missing property.

PBCC CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

The trip leaders have complete authority over students on the trip. Students are expected to be cooperative, courteous, and orderly and to respond properly to correction (Hebrews 13:17). There are different levels of correction used to help students develop their own personal self-discipline and responsible behavior.

Note that trip participation is a privilege. Failure of the student or parents to comply with all policies, rules, and regulations of PBCC is grounds for removal from the trip, either prior to the trip departure or prior to the trip, with no refund of fees. Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino reserves the right to remove any student from the trip for violation of any policy, rule, or regulation by the student or parent, or if PBCC determines that either the student or parent is not in agreement with the Philosophies of our church or the trip purpose.

PROFANITY/VULGAR SPEECH

How we speak influences our entire ministry and impacts everyone around us, which is why inappropriate and vulgar language is not acceptable on these trips. Students should use uplifting language and not bring profane/vulgar music or videos on the trip.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Public displays of inappropriate affection are not permitted. This includes kissing, lying on each other, prolonged hugs, sitting on laps, and other inappropriate physical contact.

GENERAL DRESS CODE

- Remember this is a mission trip. Only bring attire—even for travel—that wouldn't draw attention to you or wouldn't be awkward to move around in while working with little children. Think very conservative.
- Our general rule is to have shoulders, chests, and knees covered for both male and female.
- No one—guys and girls—should wear any tight-fitting clothes or anything remotely see-through. CAREFULLY evaluate white clothing or thin cloth.

GENDER-SPECIFIC DRESS CODE

GUYS

- Shirts must be worn at all times (with the exception of swimming).
- Trousers must be at the waist with no undergarments showing.

GIRLS

- Pack conservative undergarments and wear them (be culturally sensitive). Think sports-bras, due to the daily activities.
- Dresses need to cover shoulders and crew-neck necklines.
- Pack a modest swimsuit

GENERAL PACKING LIST

1. One personal Bible or E-bible
2. A pen and a hi-lighter
3. Notebook for personal diary
4. One nice dress or shirt that normally you would wear on Sunday church service.
5. 4 or 5 T-shirt for going around the city
6. 2 sets of official playing uniform (1 dark or light) or reversible jerseys.
7. One swimsuit / sun block lotion / aloe Vera sunburn gel
8. Personal toiletries / medicine for headache, diarrhea, fever, cough drops or for sore throat, Band-Aids, allergies, vitamins, insect repellent.
9. One towel for court usage
10. One nice blue jeans for formal functions
11. 2 nice shorts for going around the city
12. Underwear enough for a week travel
13. 4 pairs of playing socks / one pair for official functions
14. One or two pairs of playing shoes / One pair for official functions
15. A pair of sandals to walk around the city and hotels.
16. Books or magazine for leisure reading and maybe to give away.
17. Favorite treats (chocolate, candy bars, granolas, chewing gum, snickers)
18. \$200 personal pocket money to purchase souvenirs, drinks, snacks, and others.

You will also be bringing your standard SA uniform, t-shirt, and polo which will be added to the packing list. You can also pack some special gifts that can be handy to give to special friends.

Optional

Bandana for back of neck
Musical instrument
Camera
Hats
Sunglasses
Windbreaker jacket
Umbrella

Dear Parents and guardians:

As you know, our church has provided an incredible opportunity to travel internationally. Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino (PBCC) is excited about this incredible opportunity for the team to minister to and experience other cultures. However, PBCC remains concerned about possible safety issues and wants to advise parents of the general concerns as well as notify parents of the precautions which the church is taking to try to address those concerns.

TRIP RISKS

As with any form of travel there are always associated risks. These risks are magnified when travel is outside the United States, particularly given the current political climate. PBCC wants to advise parents that it makes no representation or warranties regarding the safety of your child and cannot guarantee the safety of any child participating in this trip. PBCC specifically warns parents that there is a risk of permanent injury, disability, death, terrorist activity, kidnapping, arrest, plane and car accidents, separation from the group, disease, sickness, lack of adequate medical care or treatment, and other similar dangers which could result in a child failing to return from the trip.

STUDENT SAFETY

In an attempt to address these possible concerns, PBCC has formulated some general recommendations and procedures in an attempt, to the extent possible, to facilitate a safe and enjoyable travel experience. These are provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a guarantee, representation, warranty or contract. We hope that the following recommendations and procedures will assist to facilitate that everyone will have a pleasant, safe experience:

- PBCC intends to have an adult-to-student ratio of less than 1 adult for every 9 students.
- PBCC, before taking students to any local areas, will check with partner missionaries and others about safety of the area and areas where students may safely be permitted.
- At each destination, students will be provided a contact information sheet with the contact information for the lodging, a cellular phone contact for an adult or adults on the trip, and information for the U.S. Embassy in the event of separation from the group.
- PBCC will plan time in the schedule periodically in the morning or evening for briefing on trip issues, plans, and other concerns which may arise that day or the following day.
- Sports Ambassadors has been in contact with the U.S. State Department for suggestions for traveling in this region and assistance with addressing potential dangers and is incorporating their suggestions and recommendations.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

- PBCC intends to have adult supervision while conducting activities in the country we are visiting. If the team breaks into groups, an adult will be assigned to each group. Students are allowed to pair off when inside the security of airports during extended layovers.

- If students are permitted to break up into their defined groups to do work, adults will also be monitoring the defined areas.

STUDENTS BEHAVIOR

- PBCC asks parents to reinforce with their children that we are visitors and to be respectful of other cultures and standards while visiting.
- PBCC asks parents to remind their children of the importance of adhering to expected standards of conduct and behavior.
- Students will be instructed not to, under any circumstances, wander off individually or to attempt to sight-see individually.
- Students will be instructed that they must remain in a specific defined area and will have periodic check in times with their assigned adult.
- Leaders review the student behavior expectations prior to the trip.
- Failure to adhere to defined parameters of student behavior and trip expectations will result in loss of future privileges and/or requirement to return home at the expense of the parent.

MEDICATION

- All medication must have the Medical Consent Form filled out with appropriate signatures, including doctor's signature if prescription or over the counter medication, and be turned into trip leader at the start of the trip with medication in the original prescription bottle.
- No student is allowed to carry their medication unless they are crossing the border, at which time they may have to carry it.
- Leaders, when appropriate, will provide over-the counter medications unless specifically asked not to do so.

DOCUMENT SECURITY

- PBCC intends to collect all passports of students at each destination and keep them in a secure location. Students will be instructed to keep copies of the passports on their person at all times.
- A copy of the student emergency information will be with the trip leader at all times.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Parents are advised that many U.S. cellular phones do not work internationally. As a result, parents who want their child to have their own cellular phone access are encouraged to check with their cellular service provider regarding international coverage and take appropriate action.
- PBCC recommends that students leave expensive electronic devices at home.

COMMUNICATION WHILE ON THE TRIP

- One trip leader is in charge of parent communication. At least every other day email update will be sent out by the trip leader.
- We encourage students to not use their phones while on the trips, except for necessary parent communication.

- The adult attending the trip and monitoring students on behalf of PBCC has been provided a phone capable of working internationally.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

If the below items are not submitted by the trip deadlines, the student's place on the trip may be forfeited:

1. Parent Letter Acknowledgement and online registration
2. International Permission Slip
3. Medical Consent Form
4. Notarized letter
5. Passport

PBCC wanted to follow up with parents, in writing, regarding the potential dangers created and the efforts taken by our church to address those concerns. Any information provided herein is provided merely for informational purposes only. PBCC strongly encourages parents to address the potential dangers with their children and to instruct their children of the necessity to remain in groups, avoid wandering off from the group, and obeying the parameters of those in charge on the trip.

We would ask parents to be prayerful for the trip and experience of the entire group. If for some reason, parents have further concerns regarding the above information, please contact your trip leader.

Parent Letter Acknowledgement (1 of 5)

I have been advised of the potential dangers and agree that any information provided herein is for informational purposes only and that nothing contained herein constitutes a contract, warranty, or representation by or on behalf of Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino.

I understand the expectations (materials to be submitted and behavioral standards) to be allowed to participate on a PBCC mission trip.

Student Printed Name

Parent Printed Name

Parent Signature

Date