



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are so excited that your church has decided to take the Urban Plunge! To ensure that you feel informed and ready to send your student on a mission trip with us, this letter details our most commonly asked questions and their answers. We want to start off by sharing that the health and safety of your child is our top priority, and that you are always welcome to contact us directly at any time with questions or concerns.

What is the Urban Plunge?

The Urban Plunge is a ministry of a much larger organization called Christ For the City International (CFCI). For over twenty years, CFCI has been working in sixteen countries around the world to help people transform cities by transforming lives.

The Urban Plunge is the ministry that CFCI operates within the U.S.A, organizing weekend and week-long mission trips for students. Since 2006 we have sent over 1,000 students every year, partnering each group with six to ten different inner city ministries. This takes students out of their comfort zones as they participate in serving the homeless, sorting clothes at thrift stores, prayer walking, sharing time with the elderly and disabled, running kids programs, assisting in community clean-ups, packaging meals for overseas aid, and so much more! We currently operate the Urban Plunge in nine different cities within the United States: Dallas, Omaha, Lincoln, Sioux Falls, Phoenix, Des Moines, Las Vegas, Hollywood and Kansas City.

Is it safe?

We will do everything in our power to ensure that your student remains safe. In each of the cities that we work, we partner with organizations and ministry leaders who have been working with the poor and marginalized for many years. Our ministry partners are in the neighborhoods every day, and they have amazing relationships and street credibility with the people that your student will be serving. Your children are, therefore, in very capable hands with people who know a great deal about their surrounding demographics. Furthermore, every single Urban Plunge group is accompanied by a trained facilitator who knows each ministry and the leadership well, and is responsible for looking after all trip logistics, as well as debriefing and encouraging your students.

What will my student be doing?

As mentioned above, your student will be working with six to ten different urban ministries, doing a whole range of service projects. They will be kept safe and busy. There will also be time set aside for debriefing, sleep (of course!) and meals.

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What impact will the Urban Plunge have on my student?

We at the Urban Plunge do not have an overarching 'agenda' or a 'finish line' for your student to cross. We only want to help them move forward in their faith journey, wherever they are, as well as bless our partnering ministries and help facilitate a real and positive difference in our community.

We all have our own gifts and talents, and the Urban Plunge is designed to help people see that God can use them. There is no one-size-fits-all ministry, which is why we offer such a variety of experiences. Most often the feedback that we get from students is that their eyes were opened, their comfort zones were stretched, they had a lot of fun serving, they were encouraged with new thoughts about how God could use them, and they felt closer to God, and encouraged by how He is working in the U.S.A. Here are some personal testimonials from Urban Plunge students:

"The Urban Plunge was unlike any mission trip I've been on because of the enormous amount of needs that I saw, and just how faithful the leaders and ministry partners were. It has given me a new perspective on my life, how I spend my time, my youth group, and everything I take for granted," commented one student from Statesboro First United Methodist Church.

"The Urban Plunge made me open my eyes to see the world around me. It drew me closer to God, because I know He wanted us here. We were here for a reason. It made me want to do more in this life," wrote one student from Belmond Youth.

"The Urban Plunge opened my eyes to the hard time that people live in and through. It really showed me that the small tasks make the biggest differences, and that anyone can volunteer," said one student from Peace Lutheran Church.

We have seen, time and time again, God working through the Urban Plunge and having an impact on students! We look forward to working with your church, and helping your student discover their mission on the Urban Plunge. Please also pray for your child before and during their mission trip!

How do I get more information?

Talk to your student's team leader for further details about pricing, transport or specific trip logistics. Go to our website to find out the exact ministry partners of your team's chosen Urban Plunge location. Or, contact our office to address general Urban Plunge questions or concerns.

Blessings,

Norm Welch

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