



Scottsdale Christian Academy
Missions Handbook
2017-2018

THE VISION - Why Missions at SCA?

The mission of Scottsdale Christian Academy is to maximize the God-given potential of each student, preparing them to live lives of distinction, by impacting the world for Jesus Christ. We go on mission trips to discover our God-given potential, live lives of distinction and impact the world for Jesus Christ!

Ultimately, we go on mission trips “not to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45). Our school verse this year says, “Love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength**.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31) How can we love God and love others on our mission trip?

The one foundational reason that we go on mission trips needs to be to serve our Lord and Savior. To see His enormous sacrifice for us, to realize our need for the lost to hear His message, and to serve Him only. When signing up for our trip we can easily begin worrying about the wrong things – Am I with my friends? Is this location more fun? Which trip is the most exotic? These questions are “me-centric” and do not have Christ at the center.

A better question to ask is, “What kind of missionary do I want to be?” As you spend time praying about which team the Lord wants you to join, please approach Him with humility and know that He has the perfect plan for you. Ask Him to prepare in advance all kinds of encounters with people during missions week so we can encourage the downhearted, show love to the unlovely, bring joy to the broken, and bring light into the darkness.

Love God and love others,

Jared Utterback
Director of Spiritual Life

THE GOALS

- To develop a Biblical theology of missions.
- To experience various types of mission trips.
- To develop compassion for the poor.
- To share faith through a variety of evangelistic and witnessing techniques.
- To grow in the knowledge of God's character.
- To minister cross-culturally and develop an appreciation for other cultures.
- To discover and use our spiritual gifts and talents.
- To minister as part of a team.
- To develop a lifestyle of prayer.

THE PROCESS

Students select their mission trip online at www.managedmissions.com. Half of the trips are open to the entire student body, and the other half of the trips are specifically for upperclassmen (11th and 12th graders). When assigning trips, priority is given to students in order of seniority and the date they signed up. Students that are dating may not sign up for the same team. Also, students may not sign up for an international trip where they have already served unless a special arrangement has been made with the mission team leader. We pray diligently about who will be placed on each team, and ask that you also pray for God's guidance in forming our mission teams. The administration of SCA has the final word in mission trip placement for each student.

SCA Mission Trip Covenant

Scottsdale Christian Academy along with the various ministries that we will be working alongside will endeavor to make your mission trip meaningful. The mission experience is designed to encourage your walk with Christ. It is our belief that your experience – wherever you are serving – will be enjoyable, rewarding and challenging. Growing in the Lord requires an understanding that taking responsibility for your own life and conduct provides a reflection of Christ to others. With that in mind, please read the following prayerfully and then sign as indicated.

A. Christian growth involves self-discipline, which means accepting personal responsibility to live “as unto the Lord”, therefore...

I will be on time and attentive in all group devotions, worship, training, and outreach activities. I will keep my belongings and my room neat and clean. I will respect the property, privacy and rights of others. I will demonstrate respect toward my fellow team members, staff, guests, and those in the community. I will seek to have a positive influence on those around me.

B. Neat and modest clothing must be worn at all times.

I will respect others and myself by wearing appropriate clothing while participating on my mission trip. I will respect all SCA team leaders’ and other site leaders’ requests to meet the terms of the ministry dress standards. These include: long shorts and skirts, shoes or sandals, shirts covering the stomach and shoulders (no spaghetti straps), jeans, modest one-piece swimsuits and baggy swim trunks for men. For church ministry, I will comply with the standards set by the ministry where I am serving.

C. Media influences often distract us from developing friendships, thinking clearly, and reflecting on how to develop a deeper walk with the Lord, therefore...

I will not bring anything on my trip that will distract from these goals. Smart phones and media players are welcome but are only to be used at designated times. I will not view pornography; I will only view ‘G’ rated or pre-approved ‘PG’ movies. I will intentionally avoid music and movies that mock God, use profane language or promote/describe immorality.

D. The Bible instructs us to respect authority, therefore...

I will not complain or contest the mission trip upon which I am placed or place undue pressure on the trip coordinators to change my trip assignment. The only way I may request to change trips is due to medical or financial circumstances. If I do not attend my mission trip I will still make the full trip payment and will be expected to complete 6 hours of community service for every day that I miss. I will abide by all guidelines established by SCA and the other ministry partners.

E. The Bible says that Christians should “think on things that are excellent,” and “avoid the appearance of evil,” therefore...

By signing below, I specifically agree that I will maintain an exceptional code of conduct as per the rules and expectations of SCA, and will NOT consume alcohol, tobacco products, vape/juul, or partake in the use of any illegal drugs at any time during this trip. Further, I acknowledge that violating a requirement may result in my immediate return home at full cost to my family, wholly at SCA’s discretion.

Student Printed Name: _____ **Grade Level:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PARENTS:

We are truly excited to lead and serve alongside your student on this trip! As we represent the hands and feet of Christ, it is our strong desire that our entire team be a *light* wherever we go. Subsequently, certain actions including viewing pornography, consuming alcohol, tobacco products, vaping/juuling, or illegal drugs are prohibited.

By signing below, you acknowledge that should your child violate the SCA code of conduct, he/she may immediately be returned home at SCA’s full discretion and at your expense. By signing below, you also agree that you will not contest the mission trip upon which your child is placed. A request to change trips may only be made due to medical or financial circumstances.

Parent Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This form must be signed and received by your advisor before being assigned to a trip. Additional waivers, health forms and permission trips will be provided upon trip selection. No student may attend their trip without all forms and payments being submitted by the deadline.