



**mission trips**  
your trip starts here.



where short-term  
**MISSION TRIP** **TRIP**  
collide with long-term  
**DEVELOPMENT**

NEXT STEP MINISTRIES  
MISSION TRIP INFORMATION

# WELCOME.

As you prepare for your trip, let us ask you a simple question: Why are you going on a mission trip? At Next Step we believe it's important to understand why you are serving and what your goals are.

Here at Next Step Ministries it's pretty simple. **We have two goals.**

Our **first goal** is to provide a trip experience that genuinely guides your students into the next step of their faith. Our prayer is that many would enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our **second goal** is to provide a bridge between your one-week trip and the long-term development of the community you are serving.

We believe in serving with a community, which is why we are thrilled to partner with

you, your students, and the dynamic community leaders you will be working alongside. It is our prayer that your trip is a glimpse of heaven on earth with people from all nations serving together to glorify Jesus' name. Serving each other, learning from each other, and worshiping together.

We are committed to making this the best trip experience you have ever had. If there is anything we can do to make your trip more special, please let us know day or night!

Thank you in advance for your hard work, sleepless nights, and servant hearts as you work along side this community. We are honored to have your team serving as the hands and feet of Next Step and appreciate you representing our ministry and most importantly the Kingdom as you serve.

Thanks again and have a great trip!

*Barak Andy Todd*

Barak, Andy and Todd  
Co-Founders and Directors



# BACKGROUND.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Next Step Ministries is committed to providing opportunities for students to explore their faith, experience God and extend services to those in need, all in the name of Jesus Christ.

## WHO WE ARE

As a faith-based nonprofit organization, it is the goal of Next Step Ministries to provide students with the opportunity to develop and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, while mobilizing them to make a real difference in the world. This is accomplished during life-changing, one-week mission trips to various places across the globe. It is also our goal for our short-term mission trips to collide with long-term community development. This is achieved through our full-time commitment to empowering the communities we serve along side.

## HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The beauty of a short-term mission trip is that it provides an opportunity for long-term growth, both at the student level as well as the community level. At Next Step, we believe that week long mission trips are only effective if ministry continues beyond one week. That's why we are focused on providing the resources to continue students' growth beyond their week long mission trip through programs like MyStep, our 365 day online follow-up program. In the same way,

we are committed to partnering with communities to empower them to thrive long after our teams are gone.

## OUR STORY

During the summer of 2002, two young college students and their passionate youth pastor decided to take a group of students overseas for a week long mission trip. It was here, behind the fancy hotels and sandy beaches, that we discovered a hidden world of mass poverty and fleeting hope. We returned home with heavy hearts, but at the same time, we were truly inspired by what we saw in our students. Something had changed in them. Over the course of one challenging week filled with sweat and tears, forty individuals learned how to work together as one, and in the process, began to learn what it really means to live for Christ. They returned to their families and friends with a newfound enthusiasm for Christ, excited to live their lives differently.

Ten years and many mission trips later, we have had the privilege of watching thousands of students grow in their relationship with Christ while bonding together as one to accomplish seemingly impossible challenges. We have also seen city after city take a small helping hand and turn it into a radical movement of spiritual and physical growth for their community. God has called us, and in response, we have created Next Step Ministries.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH.

Next Step Ministries believes that there is one God in three distinct persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit. We believe that God is love and that He extends His love to all people. We believe that God has created us with the choice to love Him. However, as a result of humankind's original choice not to love God (i.e., sin) we became separated from Him. It is for this reason that the Father has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who was sinless, and was persecuted and died on the cross on our behalf. We believe that God has raised Jesus from death to life to mend our broken relationship with Himself. It is our goal to bring this good news to all people who will listen through our actions and words.

Next Step Ministries holds that the Bible is the inspired word of God and is thereby applicable and authoritative for our lives today. We believe that God is all-loving and all-powerful, and is therefore worthy of all our praise and reverence. We believe God encompasses the fullness of love and calls us to love Him and all those around us regardless of race, political belief, religion, or gender.

We believe that God has called every Christian to ministry to the physical and spiritual needs of those around us. To that end, Next Step Ministries strives to enable and prepare students to further God's Kingdom throughout the United States and around the world. It is our goal to give people the opportunity to take the next step in their lives and come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and experience the real life, the life that only God's true love can give!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.

Five years ago, Next Step Ministries began partnering with a small town in Rosedale, West Virginia. Over those years many of our neighbors there came into a deeper relationship with Christ, and some began a relationship with Him that they had never experienced before. Neighbors who had lived in Rosedale their whole life suddenly became leaders in their community. They worked on home repairs with us during the summer, and eventually we realized that the repairs didn't end when we left. Neighbors loving neighbors took place, and the community realized its own potential from the inside out.

As this process was taking place and we were praising God for His goodness, a deadly flood ravished much of this beautiful state. It didn't take long to understand that this recovery process would not be simple. It would take many years, and many volunteers.

Within 24 hours of the flood waters receding in Clendenin, West Virginia, we were on the ground trying to find where we could fit in the recovery. The first few days after the flood are some that I will never forget. I have never experienced anything remotely similar to the devastation that was affecting this town. Although it was difficult, I'm thankful that God placed us here so soon after the flood. Because of our closeness, we were able to coordinate with the National Guard and American Red Cross to help with the immediate response efforts. Ever since then, plans have been in place to continue the relief efforts here, on a more long-term basis.

While continuing relationships with friends in Rosedale, we hope to create new partnerships and walk alongside new neighbors in need in the Clendenin area. God's faithfulness to open doors in this community and guide us in this change has

been so evident, and the process is just beginning. I am thankful to serve in a state that is quick to help others, and open to the changes God has for us.

The summer of 2017 was yet another display of God's faithfulness to us as a ministry and to the town of Clendenin in their rebuilding process. By partnering with numerous community agencies and homeowners passionate about rebuilding their town, we had an amazing first full summer here in Clendenin. The opportunity to share the gospel has been fruitful and we were able to hear many testimonies of neighbors coming into a deeper, or new relationship with Christ. In 2017 we started projects with the Clendenin Little League and 25045, both as community-wide projects affecting many families. These projects will continue in 2018, as well as continual home rebuilds for families who are now ready to move forward with the best decision based on their current situation from the flood damage.

We are thankful that this work will give us the opportunity to continue to share the gospel and build new relationships. The physical needs of construction work are important, but the true value comes in reaching out to the emotional and spiritual needs that may have become even more apparent from the flooding. Together we'll remind people of their worth and belonging and need for a Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through working with local volunteers and churches, as well as other non-profits in the Charleston area, we are hopeful to be a part of a growing movement of community development within this state. Thank you for joining us in this exciting year of change, and saying yes to the immediate needs here in West Virginia.

## HELLO FROM THE COMMUNITY

My family and I were out of town when the June 23rd, 2016 flood hit Clendenin. It was difficult being away while people you love and care about were going through such a difficult time. We were able to keep up with what was going on through social media and the national news. Someone sent me a picture of the river water halfway up my front door. I looked for my truck in the picture, and it was nowhere to be found. I later realized that the water had entirely immersed it. There were feelings of hopelessness and despair. My wife and I wondered how we were going to do this, but we made the decision to put our boots on and start cleaning up, little by little.

The first few weeks of recovery were the most physically and emotionally draining days of my life. There was mud and debris everywhere you turned. Volunteers brought in food and water to people's homes, because many people would be so consumed with the cleanup efforts, they would forget to eat. The health clinic immediately set up a first aid shelter and gave out free tetanus shots. Eventually they realized they would, too, have to go into people's homes with the shots because they would not stop working long enough to go to a clinic.

The devastation is a sight I will never forget, however, within that devastation, I will also never forget the amount of love our community received through volunteers, willing to help.

In Matthew 19:26, Jesus is speaking with His disciples about how one can be saved. He says: "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Without volunteers

coming into Clendenin, clean up would have been an impossible task. But with the help of volunteers, God has made the impossible, possible. Because volunteers are willing to help our community, life is returning to what many are calling the "new normal".

It is projected the recovery will take five to seven years. The flood has left its imprint on the lives of those who live and shop here. At this point, almost 9 months later (March 2017), there are still people living in secondary housing, some businesses have yet to reopen, properties are being torn down and there is still debris along the riverbanks. The most important thing is helping people get back in their homes. With volunteers working through organizations like Next Step Ministries and the Greater Kanawha Long Term Recovery Committee, this will happen more quickly. Volunteers, especially those of faith based communities, have been the workhorse, returning people back to their homes.

To those coming into this community: THANK YOU!! Clendenin and Elkview sit on the Elk River. We are quiet communities with a lot of heart. We are appreciative for all the help we have received, and don't take it for granted. My hope is that the love of God will continue to shine through the people who live here... that we will be empowered through the strength God provides and go forth in His name sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. With that being said, then the impossible becomes possible. I am very hopeful for a brighter future.

*Scott Ferguson*

Scott Ferguson  
Pastor, Clendenin United Methodist Church

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## LODGING.

**Clendenin First Baptist Church**  
512 Virginia Avenue  
Clendenin, WV 25045

Your home base for the week is Clendenin First Baptist Church. Here we will eat all of our meals, sleep, worship, and hang out. We will use gym space for sleeping, meals, and worship. Half of the gym will be for sleeping arrangements (see below) and the other half for meals/worship. After dinner every day we will reconvert the space into a seating area for worship.

**Girls Sleeping:** We will use half of the gym for girls sleeping arrangements. There will be a privacy sheet splitting the room in half and keeping the sleeping area separate from the rest of the gym. There will be bunk beds set up that can fit twin size air mattresses. The other half of the gym will be used for meals and worship.

**Guys Sleeping:** Guys will be sleeping on the floor in the church basement and everyone should bring their own air mattress or cot. The basement is unfinished as it was completely cleaned out after the flood. Left behind are new studded walls and concrete floors. It may be more comfortable to sleep on cots rather than air mattresses, but either will work fine! It tends to be cooler in the basement so it's a good idea to bring bedding that will help keep you warm.

**Bathrooms:** There are bathrooms available for adult leaders and summer staff, but during the day students will use outdoor porta-potties to cut down on the wear and tear of our facility. After lights out, everyone is welcome to use indoor bathrooms as we will lock the doors to the church.

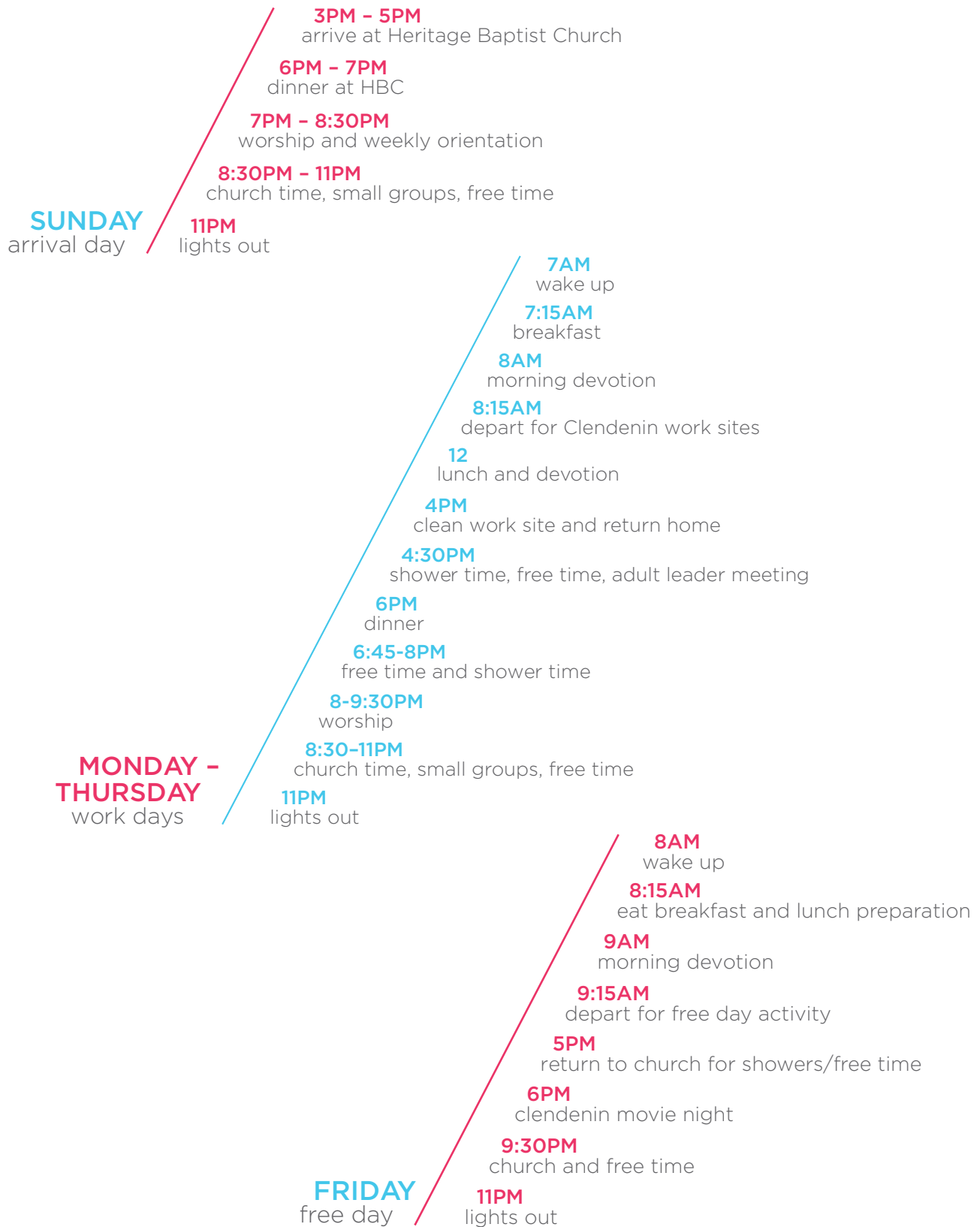
There is a Dollar General, and gas station in Clendenin, as well as a few places to eat. Worksites should be anywhere from walking distance, to 10 minutes from the church.

**Accommodations:**

Air Conditioning  
Bathrooms Indoor for Adults  
Bathrooms Outdoor for Students  
Shower Trailer  
Internet (leaders only)  
Kitchen  
Dining & Worship Area in Gym



# WEEKLY SCHEDULE.



# SCHEDULE

## what to expect.

### WAKE UP

Rise and shine at 7:00 am! You'll have plenty of time to roll out of bed and head to the main area for breakfast. The Next Step staff will have a second table area set up for making lunches. You will have time to prepare your own lunch for the day and throw it into a cooler. Once everyone has finished eating breakfast and preparing lunch we will focus our attention on God while reading through a morning devotional Next Step will provide.

### WORK PROJECTS

You'll head out in a team of 8-10 students to your work project at about 8:30 am. The Next Step construction team will lead you in the work. Around noon your team will enjoy lunch and a group devotional. Soon after, it's back to work until site clean up at around 4 pm.

### SHOWERS, FREE TIME, DINNER & CLEANUP

Once you arrive back at home base you'll have time to hang out with friends and enjoy some snacks while you take turns hitting the showers. Before you know it, dinner will be served by the Next Step staff at 6:00 pm. Throughout the week, each work crew will take turns helping to set up and to clean up after meals. You will have a chance to help clean in the kitchen, take out the trash, and even clean the bathrooms! Don't worry — this cleanup time won't take long.

### WORSHIP

Get ready for an exciting evening with your Next Step band and worship team! We will take time to break into work crews each day to share how we saw God at work throughout the day. We will watch some videos, share some stories, and learn more about how to love and serve like Christ. Once evening programming wraps up, you will have time to meet with your youth group.

### FREE TIME & LIGHTS OUT

Bring some cards or games to play with friends. We'll have plenty of time for enjoying one another's company. Everyone will head to bed at 11:00 pm to make sure we have enough energy for the next day full of hard work!

# WHAT TO BRING.

This is a packing list for every leader and student. The items on this list are items that you do not want to go on your trip without!

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- SINGLE twin size air mattress**
  - Bedding** | sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket
  - Pillow**
  - Bible** | bring your personal bible, as well as a King James Version to share with local families
  - Water bottle**
  - Sunglasses/Hat**
  - Sunscreen**
  - Insect repellent**
  - Snacks** | granola bars or trail mix
  - Shower towel**
  - Swim towel**
  - Swimming suit** | one-piece swimsuit or a t-shirt covering a two-piece is required for ladies
  - Toiletries** | soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.
  - Work shoes** | an old pair of tennis shoes will work well. It's great to wear work boots, but they are not required.
  - Work clothes** | old t-shirts, athletic shorts, cargo shorts, or jeans. Some people prefer to work in long pants. It's up to you and your personal preference of what you will be most comfortable in.
  - Casual clothes** | bring a clean set of clothes to change into after showers in the evening. Dress casually and comfortably!
  - Personal work gloves, safety glasses, hammer**

*Please also consider bringing non-perishable food items for the United Methodist Church of Clendenin's food pantry. If everyone brings a few items, we would be able to stock their pantry for the summer!*

If you have any questions about this list or what to pack, please contact our office at [missions@nextstepministries.com](mailto:missions@nextstepministries.com)

# ELECTRONICS POLICY and DRESS CODE.

## ELECTRONICS

Next Step asks students not to use their electronics (cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc.) during the following times:

**Worksites:** please do not use your phone during the day while serving at the worksites. This is from 8-4PM every day.

**Evening Worship:** please do not use your phone during evening programming. This is approximately from 6-8PM every day. To learn more about dress code rules or electronics policies, please talk directly to your group leader (ie. youth pastor, parent leader, teacher, etc.).

## DRESS CODE

During the mission trip it is important that we make every effort to dress respectfully, modestly, and appropriately. We will be working hard serving in the community so it is best to wear old, comfortable, and modest clothes. Please understand there may be different cultural norms in the community you are visiting for one week. While certain clothing may be acceptable in your hometown, it might not be appropriate for the mission trip. Please review the dress code below and pack accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact our office at [missions@nextstepministries.com](mailto:missions@nextstepministries.com) or 608-514-4051.

Please adhere to the following rules:

**Shirts:** All trip participants should wear either a short-sleeve or long-sleeve t-shirt on the work projects. Tank tops and sleeveless shirts are not allowed during the day while serving from approximately 8AM – 4PM. You may wear tank tops or sleeveless shirts in the evening during free time, dinner, and worship after 4PM. Please note, no spaghetti strap tank tops or ripped/torn cut-off shirts. All sleeveless shirts must have a hem.

**Pants/Shorts:** All trip participants should wear modest pants or shorts at all times on the mission trip.

**Shorts:** please be mindful of the length of your shorts. Follow the “fingertip length” rule to determine if your shorts are appropriate length. To do this, stand with your arms straight at your side and place your palm against the side of your legs. The length of your shorts should be at your fingertips or longer.

Spandex pants/shorts are NOT allowed on the mission trip at anytime. This includes yoga pants or spandex athletic shorts.

**Bathing Suits:** Ladies must wear a one-piece swim suit or wear a t-shirt over a two-piece swim suit. Males must wear swim trunks that are long enough for the “fingertip length” rule mentioned above.

*To learn more about dress code rules or electronics policies, please talk directly to your group leader (ie. youth pastor, parent leader, teacher, etc.)*

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## TOOLS.

Please make every effort to bring all the tools on this list. Next Step will contact you a few weeks prior to your trip if there are any changes to this list. Whatever you are unable to bring, Next Step will make sure to provide.

The tool list below is based on a group of 25 students. If your group is smaller/larger by more than 10 students, please contact Next Step for a revised list. Quantity of tool is in parenthesis.

Again, it is OK if you are unable to bring all tools. Next Step will make sure you have everything you need, please make sure to let us know.

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- Cordless Drills [6]
  - Corded Power Drill [1]
  - Circular Saws [2]
  - Miter Saw [1]
  - Reciprocating Saw [1]
  - Extension Cords [3]

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Please note that nails guns are NOT allowed.

# CONSTRUCTION SAFETY.

At Next Step Ministries safety is extremely important. We believe safety begins with our mentality and attitude. There are four core values to guide all of our construction work to ensure our time together is safe, efficient, and effective:

1. Safety
2. Relationship Building
3. Quality
4. Production Time

## SAFETY

This is our top priority while serving on the mission trip. To help ensure safety at all times, the following rules have been established while working on construction projects:

For certain projects, safety glasses will be required at all times.

For certain projects, hard hats will be required at all times.

For ALL projects, close-toed shoes are required. We strongly suggest boots, but they are not mandatory.

## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Home repairs and construction projects directly meet a physical need within a community. However, more importantly than this hands on work, the heart behind the mission is to connect with the community we are serving alongside. We will work hard to accomplish as much as possible while

building and repairing homes, but there will also be a strong emphasis on taking time to connect on a relational level with the residents. Furthermore, working together on construction projects offers a unique opportunity for students and leaders to continue to grow in their relationships as well.

## QUALITY

Next Step Ministries will make sure all work completed is of the highest quality possible. We will only begin work projects that we are confident can be completed well. Our construction staff will take the time to properly prepare projects, lead your team step-by-step in the building process, and follow-up with every project to ensure that it was completed with high quality!

## PRODUCTION TIME

While working together our goal is to take the time necessary to complete each project well. You may be working on a project that cannot be completed in just one week. Please understand that you are a part of a long-term partnership with the community and the project will be completed by Next Step Ministries. This will help ensure our work is safe, high quality, and allows for time to invest in relationships.

Due to safety reasons, nails guns are NOT allowed on any Next Step Ministries mission trips.

# DONATIONS.

If you, or anyone from your church is seeking to donate various items to a community in which we work, please contact the office at [missions@nextstepministries.com](mailto:missions@nextstepministries.com). At that time, we will guide you through our donation process and explain what steps need to be taken in order to move forward.

## DONATION POLICY EXPLANATION

At Next Step, we want to be intentional in how we distribute donations. We believe donations pose an opportunity for families to receive the things they need. That being said, this process must deliberately foster dignity, as opposed to dependency.

## DONATION GUIDELINES

Below are guidelines we have created for all donations in order to receive, allocate, and distribute each item in a way that does just that: dignifies and empowers the community.

- All donations must be sent to the Next Step Ministries office. Next Step will then distribute the donations accordingly.
- We strongly encourage that every item donated is new. Lightly used donations are accepted as well.
- Please keep all tags on any new items.
- All lightly used clothing must be washed before being sent.
- All electronics must be tested and fully functioning before being sent.
- Donations must be organized in labeled boxes.
- We will not accept any item that is torn or damaged.

Thank you in advance for the donations! You can trust that your donation will be handled responsibly and used effectively.

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# MANDATORY PARTICIPATION.

## PARTICIPANT FORM

Every student and leader is required to complete the online participant form. There is a unique URL address associated with your group's mission trip. To access this unique URL, please talk to your trip leader or call the Next Step Ministries office.

Youth leaders are required to print a copy of every form and bring them on the mission trip.

## INSURANCE

Health insurance is required for every trip participant. Since insurance coverage is mandatory, any individual's without coverage are expected to purchase temporary health insurance. Next Step recommends the Volunteer Card, which is an inexpensive and fantastic program. Please learn more about temporary insurance available for individuals through their website [www.volunteercard.com](http://www.volunteercard.com).



## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO.

We strive to offer your group the best mission trip experience you have ever had! We are available day and night to answer your calls and questions. Please save the important numbers listed below to use in case of emergency or general questions. Again, please do not hesitate to reach out!

<b>Toll Free</b> missions@nextstepministries.com	<b>866-534-2009</b>
<b>Beth Crocker   [Office]</b> beth.crocker@nextstepministries.com	<b>608-514-4051</b>
<b>Barak Tschirhart   [Director]</b> barak.tschirhart@nextstepministries.com	<b>608-286-9534</b>