



Global Youth Mission

A program sponsored by
WORLD MISSION MINISTRIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

An Invitation to Participate in Global Youth Mission (GYM)
An International Immersion Experience for High School Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors

- Working side by side with people of other cultures you will discover truths about yourself, your God and your world that will impact you for a lifetime
- Forming a sense of community with those you serve and your travel companions will allow you to grow emotionally and spiritually
- Experiencing the life of people economically poor yet culturally rich will bring you awe, wonderment and a sense of true international solidarity

2009 MISSION SITES

NOTE: dates are general timeframes, you must be flexible with the actual dates

Working Boys Center, Quito, Ecuador (June 20 – July 3 /4)

Working Boys Center provides services for entire families: education, job training, home management and faith development. Our work includes tutoring, guiding arts/crafts/recreation activities, and some minor building projects while living in community. **Participants must be able to communicate effectively in Spanish (third year Spanish required).

Archdiocese of Castries, St. Lucia Island (July 19 – August 2)

Our work will be with the parish of Micoud assisting in providing a morning Vacation Bible School to the youth of the parish. Participants must be prepared to teach simple bible school lessons therefore those with some experience in teaching children will be given a priority for this site. Involvement in other work projects may take place in the afternoons. St. Lucia is English speaking.

Yalpemech, Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala (July 11-26)

Yalpemech is a remote village in the state of Alta Vera Paz with a primarily indigenous population. The Sisters of St. Francis are our hosts. Living is in their “compound” of a parish, a community building, and their home. Participants will be housed in large tents in the community building. Work will vary depending on the needs of the village – simple construction, assisting in the day care, harvesting crops, organizing library materials are some work we have assisted with in the past. Spanish is not required however some basic Spanish may enrich the experience.

Managua, Nicaragua, (Dates TBD: two-week period between July 11 – August 1)

The Sisters of St. Agnes, based in Fond du Lac, support missions throughout Central America. In 1988, *Cantera*, a non-profit organization was formed. *Cantera* provides many programs with an overall mission of developing strategies that will better the lives of families, especially the lives of children. GYM participants will live in community with the sisters at the Center. Work will include involvement at the Center schools, one of which is a “construction” school in which high school youth learn skills in the building trades. *Cantera* also operates an experimental farm—our youth will work on this project as well. Spanish is not required. (To view pictures go to www.csasisters.org, then see What’s New--Photo Albums.)

Selection, Preparation, and Cost Information

Selection Process:

- **Complete the application form**, send it along with a **letter of recommendation** from a parish/school staff member to Cathy Pinter **no later than January 16, 2009**.
- **An in-person interview with both youth and one parent** to be scheduled in January. Call 414-758-2280 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00pm) to schedule the appointment **as soon as you send in your application**. Do not wait to be contacted; you must schedule your appointment.

The available times and dates are January 17, 18, or 24, at 12:30, 1:15, 2:00, 2:25, or 3:30. (Appointments are made on a first come, first-served basis, so it is best to apply and call as soon as possible.)

Preparation Process:

*Commitment to this mission experience begins with the preparation meetings.
Bonding with fellow travelers is critical for a successful experience.*

Participants must attend each of the following:

- An introductory meeting for both the youth and at least one of their parents, Sunday, March 15th, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., at the Sacred Heart Center, 1545 S. Layton Blvd (27th & Greenfield) in Milwaukee. (Parking in rear, off Lapham or 29th Street).
- A one-day retreat to be held on Sunday, May 3, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.. A parent or guardian **must** attend the liturgy that begins at 3:30 p.m. Location: Sacred Heart Center.
- At least three additional preparatory meetings will be held with your particular site group. Dates for these will be determined as a group at the Parent Meeting on March 15th (**bring your calendars!**). Participants need to attend each of these three meetings – attendance at two of the three is mandatory.

Financial Obligation:

Each participant is responsible for raising a minimum of \$2,100.00.

This all-inclusive fee covers air and ground transportation, formation of site teams; the retreat; adult chaperones; program coordination; materials, simple meals/lodging; and donation to mission site.

(The actual cost of the program significantly exceeds this amount. Contributions raised beyond the \$2,100.00 are contributed to the operations of the program.)

The recommended (and historical) contribution breakdown is:

- Some money should come directly from the youth/family but not more than half of the total
- A significant amount be raised through individual fund-raising effort by the youth – soliciting individual sponsors and/or community group sponsors
- A contribution from the youth's parish or school may be pursued by the youth – the dollar amount is at the discretion of the institution

The TOTAL dollar amount (no exceptions) is due June 05, 2009.

A non-refundable down payment of \$200 is due at the parent/youth meeting on March 15th. The remainder is paid in increments, with the total due three weeks prior to departure.

Personal spending money is the responsibility of the participant.

Other expenses may include the cost of a passport, immunizations and supplies such as mosquito netting, special water bottles, work gloves and appropriate dress.

World Mission Ministries would not like finances to deter participation. A limited amount of financial assistance is available. Contact Cathy Pinter for an application.

*****Notice to Parents*****

Each GYM site has work for our groups to be engaged in yet our main goal is to expose participants to the culture, history and environment of each site in order for them to have a rich experience with a third-world country. Mission, from a Social Catholic Teaching perspective, means, “walking in the shoes of the other person” which ultimately is the purpose of GYM. To accomplish this effectively safety and protection is integral. GYM works with reliable organizations through the Catholic community and has done so for twenty years.

Parental approval, involvement and support are critical to the success of the overall program and to your son/daughter’s personal experience. From helping to choose the most appropriate site, to helping with fund-raising, to reminding them of their obligations to attend planning meetings, to helping pack the suitcase with appropriate clothing – we, and they need you engaged throughout this experience. Please be sure you fully understand this commitment before signing their application.

QUESTIONS?

**Contact Program Coordinator: Cathy Pinter, 414.962.8155 or cmpinter@sbcglobal.net
Send applications to Cathy at: 3518 N. Cramer, Shorewood, WI 53211**

*This program is sponsored by World Mission Ministries
Archdiocese of Milwaukee*