

2010 Summer Mission Experience

(for High School Juniors)

Sponsored by the Pontifical Mission Societies Office, Diocese of Scranton

PURPOSE: To provide high school students with an opportunity to know Christ amongst the poor, gain a better perspective on their own lives, and a greater understanding of their Catholic/Christian faith and what it means to be missionary in today's world.

PLACE: Mission Sites in the Diocese of St. Louis, Missouri (Gateway to the West)

DATE: July 12 – 24, 2010

ACTIVITIES: This is a faith-based mission journey which involves experiential and Christian presence, learning, service and interaction among children, youth and adults at the mission sites. The group will connect with other missionaries – priests, religious, and lay persons – serving disadvantaged children and adults in various ministries and programs. Some of the activities may include work projects, summer school programs, assistance at day cares, nursing homes, feeding centers, shelters for the homeless, and other reach-out services in the area.

COST: Total cost includes transportation, rooms, meals and other miscellaneous expenses and may amount to approximately \$1,000.00. If you feel called to this mission experience, don't let the cost keep you from applying. There are ways to raise the money.

APPLICANTS:

Students in their Junior year of high school – from Catholic schools, public high schools and home schools.

Seminarians, teachers, mission moderators, and DRE's – invited to apply as Chaperones.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

1. All applicants must understand that this is a faith-based mission experience – not a vacation.
2. Parent or guardian permission is required for high school students. Parents must read this announcement and fully support the student's decision to apply.
3. Because of the interaction with people of various cultural backgrounds, all candidates (students and chaperones) must have the temperament to get along with different kinds of people and personalities.
4. Must be able and willing to travel and live in somewhat inconvenient circumstances, adapt to unexpected changes, and capable of taking responsibility for oneself and one's actions.
5. Must follow the Mission Office's directives and rules (Code of Behavior and Dress) required for the group's safety and well-being while traveling and while at the mission sites.
6. Must be available for scheduled Interviews and the Weekend Retreat in order to be considered for the mission. Parents are required to attend the interview with the student.
7. Must be willing to share the experience with others whenever possible upon return – in schools, parishes and communities.

(See other side for "How to Apply")

HOW TO APPLY

For the 2010 Summer Mission Experience

After reviewing the Criteria for Applicants, submit a letter directly to the sponsoring office – Pontifical Mission Societies (see address below) – stating that you would like to be considered as a candidate for the summer mission experience. No lengthy essay-type papers are necessary. Just write a simple letter with the following information:

1. Tell us why you are interested in this kind of experience.
2. Your name, address, phone number, and Email address if you have one.
3. Include the name of your school, your parish, and your parents' names.

This letter of interest must be received in our office (address below) **by or before January 20, 2010.**

Interviews:

The interviews will be held at the Chancery Building, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, on the following dates:

Saturday, January 30, 2010 – between 11:00 and 3:00 PM
and/or
Sunday, January 31, 2010 – between 1:00 and 4:00 PM

After your letter is received in our office, we will send you an acknowledgement and include the time scheduled for your interview. Parents must attend the interview with the student.

Interviews for prospective chaperones will be scheduled separately by arrangement with the Pontifical Mission Office. (See contact information below.)

Weekend Retreat: **March 12-14, 2010 at Fatima Retreat Center in Dalton**

- All candidates – students and prospective chaperones – must attend the Retreat. (Details will be given to each applicant at the interviews.)
- If other school, parish or personal activities conflict with the above dates, please try to clear your calendar. In order to be seriously considered for the mission experience, all applicants must attend their scheduled interview and the retreat weekend.
- Letters of interest are not a guarantee of acceptance for the mission. Final selections will be made by the Mission Office after the Retreat Weekend in March.

Send letters to: Miriam Heverline
Mission Education Coordinator
Pontifical Mission Societies
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

or by Email to: miriam-heverline@dioceseofscranton.org

Telephone #: 570-207-2259

FAX #: 570-207-2268