

Frequently Asked Questions- Wenatchee Trip

What is the schedule like for the Wenatchee trip? We travel to Wenatchee on Sunday afternoon and arrive at our host church just before dinner. Students will lead an outreach at a local park that evening and then return to the church afterwards. Each day, teams will serve in 5 local ministries for 2-3 hours at each location. They rotate in order to learn how each ministry is serving the community. The team eats together for all meals and we spend an hour and half each day at the local pool to 'clean up' and have some fun. Each morning begins with a devotional and each evening with a time of sharing and prayer together. We try to make this experience similar to our Kids Chile Trip to give the team an idea of what they can expect.

Can you give us some idea about the facilities where the team will be staying? We stay in a local church in East Wenatchee (Faith Presbyterian Church) that has been hosting us for more than 15 years. The girls stay at one end of the church in the Fellowship Hall and the boys are at the other end in classrooms. Since we're staying in a church, the team brings sleeping bags for nights on the carpet. Each side has their own restrooms and we meet in the middle of the church for our meals together. The church has a very large lawn where we play a bit and do some group times.

We haven't done many sleep-overs and our child has not been away from home much. What about their apprehension (and ours!) of being away from us for 4 days? We know how important it is for kids and parents to be comfortable with the distance and time away from each other. Some of these students may be interested in going with us to Chile so we designed the Kids Wenatchee Trip, to see how kids would do for 4 days away, working and living with a different schedule and with folks they are just getting to know. We encourage families to get to know the Family Group leader for their child knowing that they will stay together for the entire trip. We will also communicate several times a day on Twitter so that parents and family can stay updated on what we're doing.

We're fairly new to the church and don't know a lot of people. Who are the folks in leadership on the Kids Wenatchee team? We want to give some of our regular leaders, as well as some parents, the opportunity to serve with us in Children's Ministry. All of the leaders will have completed applications to serve with kids, had their references checked and a national background check will have been completed. We want to know them as we serve together. If you are interested in serving as a parent leader on the trip, please let us know. Most times we will have parent and child assigned to separate Family Groups to allow the child to grow even more while still having the same experience as their parent. However, when mom or dad is not there, we see kids step up and serve, share and lead in a way that helps them grow and take the next step spiritually. This is really a ministry trip designed for kids and looks very different than a Family Missions Trip.

Our child has some health issues or dietary restrictions. Can they still participate? Normally, those do not pose a problem but you should check with the team leader or pastor. Most of our meals come from 'fast food' places so it's fairly traditional food for kids. We have the ability to do a little modification when necessary. As long as we know about the health issues, they are currently being controlled or dealt with and we have all the information we need, it shouldn't prevent them from participating.

What happens if my child gets sick or injured on the trip? Fortunately, we're staying very close to a walk-in clinic and we also carry a good size stock of over the counter medications and treatments. Parents will sign a release form in case we need to see a doctor. Of course, we will also call home to get permissions and advice from parents! Our team is made up of one adult for every three kids so there are plenty of folks ready to give care and emotional support when needed!

We have family plans near Wenatchee, can we drop off or pick up early? Each year we have several families who ask to drop their child off once we arrive in Wenatchee or pick up before we return for home. We can get you our schedule in advance so that you'll know where we'll be and at what time. It usually isn't a problem when the drop off or pick up time is at the very beginning or end of our trip, but becomes more difficult when it's in the middle of our time together. Make sure you discuss this with the ministry leader or pastor.

Our child is only 10 years old and we're not sure they are ready for a missions experience. What's your opinion? Before we began taking 10, 11 and 12 year olds on their first international trip, we heard from several mission sending agencies. They reported that nearly 80% of the missionaries serving on the field today were called to missions between the ages of 8 and 14, with many of those at about 11 or 12. So we decided to give kids of that age, who already had a heart for the world, an opportunity to experience what God is doing. This trip is designed specifically for 10 and 11 year olds, so if your child is acting like a kid, thinking like a child, and eager to learn like most kids, then they are just the kind of kid that this trip is meant for!

We know the cost of the trip is reasonable but we might need some help. Are there options for us? The trip cost for everyone, leaders and students, is usually about \$100 and that covers everything from transportation, food, work supplies and swimming. We encourage you to let family and friends know about this opportunity because you'll want them to be praying but some of them may also want to support you financially! You can also make some smaller payments in advance of the trip and catch up afterwards. But please, don't make the decision not to participate because of finances. Let us know and we'll work with you!