

**Holy Spirit Parish
2018 National Mission Trip
San Augustine, Texas**

The Experience

Holy Spirit Parish will run its 5th annual domestic mission trip with our partner Next Step Ministries in February. We will return to San Augustine, Texas for the third year in support of our long term commitment to help the people in the San Augustine and Broaddus communities. By day, the missionaries have the opportunity to serve God by working to improve the living conditions of the residents. By night, the Next Step Ministries representatives and the missionaries engage in worship and team building activities to strengthen their relationship with God and each other. While in San Augustine, the missionaries often have the opportunity to listen to stories and share devotions with the people they are supporting. These tender moments often prove to be the most memorable moments of the trip.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the dates of the trip?

Missionaries depart the morning of **Sunday, February 18th** and return the afternoon of **Saturday, February 24th**.

Who is eligible to participate?

The trip is open to students in sixth grade or older. Each student is required to be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. No prior experience is required. All participants must be current with Fingerprinting and Safe Environment Training prior to the trip.

How do I register for the trip?

On line registration opens on the Holy Spirit Parish web site at **6:00 pm on Wednesday, October 18th** and closes **at 6:00 pm on Monday, October 23rd**.

Does everyone that registers get to go on the trip?

Registration is limited to approximately 50 parishioners on a first come first serve basis. You will be notified of your status (confirmed or waitlisted) via email by **Tuesday, October 24th or sooner**.

How much does the trip cost and when is the payment due?

The cost of the 2018 trip has not been finalized, but it is expected to be \$1,150 or less per person. This fee does not include transportation to and from San Jose airport or Friday night's hotel room (estimated at \$125) and dinner or any incidentals purchased on the trip.

A \$500 deposit is due on **Wednesday, October 25th**. The balance is due on **Wednesday, January 10th, 2018**. Checks should be dropped off at the parish office.

Note: Flight insurance will be available at \$50 per person. Cost of the flight is \$325 per person.

Do the missionaries gather as a group before and after the trip?

The missionaries gather for 2 group meetings, 2 masses, 1 reception and a reunion. (See schedule below.) Group meetings are approximately 90 minutes. Although the meetings are not mandatory, attendance is strongly encouraged because it is an opportunity to get to know your fellow missionaries as well as ensure you have all the information you need for the trip.

First Group Meeting – Thursday, November 9, 2017, 7:00 pm, HSP hall

Second Group Meeting – Thursday, February 1, 2018, 7:00 pm, HSP hall

Send Off Mass – Saturday, February 17, 2018, 5:00 pm

Welcome Home Reception – Sunday, February 25, 2018, 4:30 pm, HSP hall (all family members)

Welcome Home Mass – Sunday, February 25, 2018, 6:00 pm

Reunion – some time in May/June or July (all family members)

What are the travel logistics?

Holy Spirit Parish purchased tickets for all missionaries on the flights listed below. Purchasing a group of tickets reduces the price and ensures everyone gets seats on the flights. Unfortunately, missionaries will not be allowed to use frequent flyer miles to purchase tickets or purchase tickets on your own, but you will get frequent flyer mile credit. The cost of the flights is included in the trip fee.

Departure Sunday February 18, 2018
 United Flight #1777
 Leaves SJC at 7:30 AM
 Arrives Houston at 1:20 PM

Return Saturday, February 24, 2018
 United Flight #1957
 Leaves Houston at 9:40 AM
 Arrives SJC at 11:58 AM

Missionaries are responsible for transportation to and from the San Jose Airport.

Vans will be rented in Houston to drive to the White Rock Baptist Church in San Augustine on Sunday and back to the Houston airport on Friday.

Where do we stay in San Augustine?

Missionaries sleep in sleeping bags on cots, eat and shower daily at the White Rock Baptist Church in San Augustine. Sleeping bags and cots are included in the trip fee. (Although NSM accommodates missionaries with dietary restrictions, exposure to nuts cannot be controlled given missionaries visit home sites.)

What will we do in San Augustine and on Free Friday?

Monday through Thursday are “work/worship days”. “Work/worship days” include 6 to 7 hours of construction-type work (home builds, home additions, drywall, siding, flooring, wheel chair ramps) at homes or community sites with a project team. The rest of the day is filled with time to worship, socialize, play games or simply reflect with fellow missionaries and members of the community. On Friday morning we depart San Augustine and head to Houston. Friday will include lunch and a group activity. All missionaries stay in one hotel, booked by the Mission Trip Team, close to the airport on Friday night. We travel back to the airport in the vans on Saturday morning. (Friday’s lunch and group activity are included in the trip fee. Friday’s hotel room (approximately \$125) and dinner are not included.)

Why should I go?

The intent of the trip is to give HSP families the opportunity to serve God together by not only improving homes and buildings in the San Augustine community, but by showing love for the people of these communities by listening to their stories and sharing worship time. The trip presents the opportunity to strengthen your relationship with God, your parent/guardian and others in the parish.

How do I find out more details about the trip?

The information meeting will be held in the parish hall on **Thursday, October 12th at 7:00 pm**. The meeting will run approximately 60 minutes.

Who do I contact if I have a specific question about the trip?

Patricia Kennedy at kennedy89@sbcglobal.net or Kyle Coulter at kyledcoulter@yahoo.com

The Background**Why do we partner with Next Step Ministries?**

NSM (<http://www.nextstepministries.com>) is a Christian organization that has the experience and the resources that HSP needs and the Christ-centered approach that HSP wants to run mission trips. NSM annually runs over 150 short term mission trips for long term community development both domestically and internationally. Most of their trips occur in the summer, but they are willing to accommodate our mid winter dates and give us the flexibility to create our own worship programs lead by our parish staff. (Two to three members of the parish will be traveling to Texas.) We have been partnering with NSM since 2014.

Where is San Augustine and Broaddus?

San Augustine and Broaddus are about 150 miles northeast of Houston. San Augustine is a town of approximately five square miles with a population slightly over 2,000. Broaddus is about 1/5 the size, in both population and square miles, of San Augustine.

Why are NSM and HSP committed to San Augustine?

San Augustine county, not unlike other counties around the country, face many economic and physical hardships like dilapidated homes and rising poverty which can lead to neighborhood separation, isolation and hopelessness. In 2014, NSM decided to invest in San Augustine because it has a strong base of church and community leaders that are committed to seeing their community thrive. The local team has aspirations to not only to see the standard of living raised – through home repair and building – but also to see the community bond together through love and outreach programs based on the love of Christ.

After HSP's first trip to San Augustine in 2016, the parish decided that we could best serve God and the community if we also committed to a long term relationship with NSM and the San Augustine community leaders.