

GRACE STUDENTS

GLOBAL

OUTREACH TEAMS

2024 GO TEAMS

Detroit , Michigan

Lushnjë, Albania

WELCOME

Dear Students & Parents,

Grace Church believes one of the greatest calls God has given us is to serve others. Grace Student Ministry is committed to challenging and equipping our students to serve and to share the good news of Jesus Christ locally and globally. Go Teams provide an opportunity for our students to step out in faith by serving those in need and sharing God's love. These week-long trips will take students out of their comfort zone by immersing them in cross-cultural and service experiences that will challenge them and grow them in their faith.

There is nothing better than making a difference for Christ that will last forever! Please pray and consider this opportunity. We would love for you to be a part of what God is going to accomplish for His glory.

In His service

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WHERE ARE WE GOING?

God has an exciting adventure for us this summer. We will be sending students on two trips to serve in different communities.

Students who have completed 8th – 12th grade will be going to Detroit, MI.

Students who have completed 11th – College will be serving in Lushjnë, Albania.

The Detroit Go Team will be partnering with Praying Pelican Missions for a trip that will provide a first taste of service projects, relational ministry, cross cultural experiences, and leadership development in a different context than our own.

The Albania Go Team will be partnering with the missions organization, Josiah Venture, to serve alongside Mosaik Church in Lushnjë, Albania. This will be a time of deep relational ministry, cross cultural experiences and peer-evangelism. Both teams will have the opportunity to serve and make a difference in the lives of others. We are confident that the Lord will work in the lives of those we serve and our teams as well.

DETROIT GO TEAM TRIP SPECIFICS

WHO IS THIS TRIP FOR?

The Detroit Go Team is for students who have completed 8th through 12th grades. Any student who has completed these grades, believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and is willing to make the commitment of time and energy can apply. Students should be actively involved in the Student Ministry to be considered for the Go Team. It is expected that every student is actively growing in their relationship with Jesus, and they must attend all the training meetings. This is a great opportunity for students who would like participate in deep relational ministry, cross-cultural experiences, and evangelism training.

WHERE/WHEN IS THE TRIP?

This team will be heading to **Detroit, Michigan** from **Saturday, June 22 to Friday, June 28**. Like most cities in the “Rust Belt”, the city has had its fair share of struggles throughout the years, but recent years have seen a resurgence of excitement, development, and hope. This is a great time join in what God is doing in this incredible city.

WHO ARE WE PARTNERING WITH AND WHAT IS THEIR ROLE?

We are blessed to partner with Praying Pelican Missions this year. PPM is a mission organization that connects churches with ministries and local churches around the world to serve on life changing short-term mission trips. In partnership with Pastor Mike, PPM is planning our team’s housing site, service opportunities, food, schedule, cultural



experiences, and more. During the trip, we will also be hosted by our PPM trip leader, Celia Schwartz, who will work alongside us, ensuring that we have a great experience all week.

WHERE WILL WE BE STAYING?

The Detroit Go Team will stay at Northline Church in Taylor, MI. This is Celia's home church, so they are very excited to have us for the week. Northline is about a 20 minute drive from downtown Detroit. While staying at Northside our team will sleep in classrooms on air mattresses/sleeping bags. We are also blessed that Northside has shower facilities for us to use and they will be cooking meals for our team.

During our trip there will be another church team staying at Northline from Forest Park, MN. We will have some interaction with this team throughout the week, but most of our time will be spent within our group. We will have separate sleeping rooms and shower times from the other church group.

WHERE WILL WE BE SERVING?

The PPM team is still coordinating with service partners, but there are a lot of different ministry opportunities that exist. Some will be geared toward task-oriented work and some will be focused on relational ministry of different kinds. Here are some of the things we could do during the week:

- Sort and distribute donations at Debbie's Closet in Taylor.
- Sort food donations at Fish and Loaves (food bank)
- Serve meals to and spend time with shut-ins from Northline Church
- Serve a meal at Detroit Mission (men's home)
- Children's Ministry with Good News Gang (Metro Life Church)

WHAT IS THE COST OF THIS TRIP?

The cost to take a team to Detroit is about \$800 per student. Grace Church has given a significant amount of budget toward this team to make this opportunity affordable, bringing the price down to \$400 per student. **We are asking each family to contribute \$175** to the trip's cost as an investment in your student. The **deposit amount for the trips is \$75, which is due April 7**. The remaining \$100 of your individual contribution will be due by Wednesday, May 22. The remaining \$225 for your trip will be funded by support raising.

Support raising is part of the faith journey of every missionary. The remaining financial support for your student's trip will be raised through letter writing, fundraisers, and support from the Grace Global Outreach Team. All the money raised will go towards each trip's grand total. We recognize that every student might not be able to raise the same amount. One student may only be able to raise \$200 while another student may raise \$300, but we ask that each student try to raise the required amount. With God's help, and some hard work we believe everyone willing to step out in faith will raise what they need!

Detroit Cost Summary

Total Trip Cost: \$400

Individual Contribution: \$175 (\$75 Deposit Due April 7)

Individual Support Raising (Letters, Fundraisers, Etc.): \$225

Important Note: Every family is responsible for paying the deposit out of pocket, no matter how much money you raise in support. The deposit is your family's financial commitment to the trip, prior to the support raising process. Support raising doesn't reimburse you for the deposit, which is your family's responsibility. If this is a challenge for your family, please let us know so we can work something out. We never want finances to be the determining factor in someone's decision to participate.

ALBANIA GO TEAM TRIP SPECIFICS

WHO IS THIS TRIP FOR?

This team is for students who have completed grade 11 through college. Any student who has completed these grades, believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and is willing to make the commitment of time and energy can apply. Students should be actively involved in the Grace Student Ministry (or another local church in the case of college students) to be considered for the Go Team. It is expected that every student is actively growing in their relationship with Jesus, and they must attend all the training meetings. This is a great opportunity for students who would like to participate in cross-cultural relational ministry, evangelism, and are considering pursuing ministry post high school (though not required).

WHEN IS THIS TRIP?

This team will be heading to **Albania** from **Saturday, July 18 to Monday, July 29 (these are tentative dates and may still shift by a day or so depending on flights).**

WHO ARE WE PARTNERING WITH?

We will partner with Josiah Venture to serve alongside Mosaic Church in Lushnjë, Albania. Together we will host a week long day camp for high school students, teaching English classes as well as leading interest based workshops.

Josiah Venture is a missions organization with an amazing vision; to see a movement of God among the youth of Central and Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society. This vision came from a heart for young people in the Soviet Union. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the opportunity was wide open to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with spiritually hungry young people in this region of the world. To see this vision happen JV focuses on equipping young leaders to fulfill Christ's commission through the local church.

King Josiah began seeking God at age 16. By the time he was 26, God had used Josiah to bring revival to the land, rebuild the house of God, and restore the Word of God to its central place (2

Chr. 34). Central and Eastern Europe desperately needs its own Josiahs, young men and women who lead the way spiritually, as this young king did.

Young people were the primary energy and momentum behind the revolutions that broke the power of communism in central and eastern Europe in the late 80's. But a revolution that changes the government doesn't change the hearts of people. The work is only half done. Young people must be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The energy of youth must be mobilized into a mighty force for the Kingdom of God. The potential is clear. Central and Eastern Europe's young people have already proven they can change the course of history. Now they must change the course of eternity.

ALBANIA AT A GLANCE

During the years of communism, Albania was the most closed country in the world. It was the only country, at the time, that had written into its constitution "there is no god" of any kind. Most people who believed in any type of god were either imprisoned or killed. This instilled a fear in the people and destroyed any type of local church movement. Albania was one of the few, if not only country, that did not have an underground church movement during communism. The Albanian dictator thought that the Russian form of communism had become too conservative and broke ties with both Russia and China. This isolated the country for 50 years and instilled a fear in the people that crushed any dreams or purpose the people of Albania had.



When communism fell, the country was finally opened to the gospel. There was a very large movement of missionaries that came in at the beginning, and a lot of evangelism started happening all over the country. For the first time in 50 years, people heard the gospel. Today, the church is still very young, but it is exciting to see a foundation being laid for the future of the local church. However, because fifty years of spiritual darkness and martyrdom, less than one percent of Albania's 2.9 million people are evangelical Christians.

As Josiah Venture looks toward the future and ministry among the youth in Albania, they see that there are many young people who are seeking satisfaction in everything but the One who truly satisfies the soul, Jesus Christ. A small Josiah Venture team has been working to introduce Christ to young people in Albania through evangelistic camps. They are also working with a youth group and planting youth groups they hope will become church plants.

WHAT DOES THIS TRIP COST?

To take a team to Albania it will cost about \$2,500/person depending on the size of our team. Thanks to the generosity of Grace Church we are able to cover about \$10,000 of the team cost. That brings the remaining cost of the trip down to about \$1,500-1,800 per student. Of that cost **we are asking each student to contribute \$350 toward your trip (\$100 Deposit Due April 7). The remaining \$1,200-1500 of your trip will be funded through support raising** (letter writing, fundraisers, etc.)

Albania Cost Summary

Total Trip Cost: \$1500-1800

Individual Contribution: \$350 (\$100 deposit due April 7)

Individual Support Raising (Letters, Fundraisers, Etc.): \$1,200-1500

Cost Breakdown

Airfare: \$1,500**

- O'Hare to TBD (as we compare flights)
- * Cost is dependent on current airfare prices at time of booking
- ** Once Tickets are purchased each person is still responsible for the full cost of the ticket if they back out.

Mission Expenses: \$800

- Housing, Food, Transportation, Insurance and Ministry

Non-Mission Expenses: \$200

- Shirt, Training, Cultural Learning, and Activities

OTHER EXPENSES TO CONSIDER:

\$100-\$200 Shots and Immunizations based on insurance

\$130-\$160 Passport - New (17 and older)

\$130-\$150 Passport - Renewal (17 and older) - if expires within 12 months of trip

Spending Money

Needed Trip Items

PASSPORTS:

1. If you already have a passport, make sure that the expiration date is later than 6 months from the return date of the trip. This is a recommendation from the U.S. Embassy in Albania.
2. Please make three copies of the front page of your passport.
 - We will leave one copy at the church office.
 - You will keep one copy in your suitcase.
 - We will send a copy to our missionaries before arrival.
3. If you do not have a passport, make sure you apply as soon as possible. To do this, go to the following Web site and follow instructions to download application. http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

Note: If you are obtaining a passport for the first time, you must go in person to a passport acceptance facility such as a U.S. Post Office. You will need to bring the completed application, two passport-sized photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship (birth certificate) and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license.

VISAS:

Visas are not required in Albania for U.S. citizens. Passports will be stamped upon entry.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/> to find out which vaccinations are REQUIRED for entry. Also listed by country or region are suggested vaccinations and tips for traveling.

FAQS

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER GOING?

The bottom line is this: Go Teams can give you an opportunity to make an eternal difference in this world and in the lives of others. Think about that . . . the ETERNAL difference that GOD can make through YOU! Consider going in order to bring glory to God this summer! In addition, when we serve together, we grow together. You will have a chance to build community with fellow believers as you serve alongside your peers and leaders.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR GO TEAMS?

Applications for both Go Teams open Friday on the student ministry webpage. Carefully and completely follow the directions on the online application. Please take your time and answer honestly. Applying for the trip does not ensure acceptance. All applications are due March 20. Please apply online at gracenormal.org/children-families/student-ministry

WILL I HAVE TO BE PART OF ANY TRAINING FOR THE TRIP?

YES! Training and preparation for the GO Team is critical to the success of our trip. All training meetings are mandatory for all students. We understand there may be unavoidable conflicts and ask that we be notified of these ahead of time. A list of training dates is provided in this packet.

WHAT IF I HAVE MULTIPLE STUDENTS GOING ON TRIPS?

Families with two or more students participating on a student ministry trip are asked to pay 100% of the greater deposit for the first student and 50% of each student thereafter. (Please note, you are still responsible to raise the other half of the deposit in your support. The trip price does not change. You just do not have to pay that half up front.) Your family can also share the letter writing process. We suggest adding more letters if you have multiple students going.

THIS SOUNDS FUN! DO YOU NEED PARENTS TO GO THIS TRIP?

Yes! We would love to have you join us. If you are interested in serving as a leader on one of the GO Teams, we would love to talk with you. Please talk to Pastor Mike to get more details.

GETTING READY FOR THE TRIP

GO TEAM MEETINGS

We believe that the GO Team trips do not start when we leave. They actually start today. Each step of the process leading up to the trips, during the trips, and after the trips is key in creating an experience in which students will grow and be a better missionary.

A big part of this is our Go Team Meetings, which are designed with these big goals in mind: basic training for serving on the mission field, team unity, leadership development, and spiritual formation and discipleship.

ARE GO TEAM TRAININGS REQUIRED?

Yes, it is important and necessary to be present at Go Team pre-trip meetings. These are not optional and are required to go on the trip. You have one free pass if you are unable to attend. (However, the last Go Team Meeting is mandatory). If you have any concerns about this, please speak with Pastor Mike.

TRAININGS & IMPORTANT DATES

*****Immediately for accepted members of the Albania Team - Apply for your passport if you do not have one or if yours expires within 6 months of leaving for Albania.**

March 20	*All Go Team Applications are due*
March 30	You will hear back from Pastor Mike regarding your submitted application.
April 7	Team Training #1 (12-2:00 PM in the Crossing; Parents Invited) *Letter Recipient List + Sample Letter + Deposit due by start of meeting*
April 21	Team Training #2 (12-2:00 PM in the Crossing) All support letters must be sent*
May 19	Team Training #3 (12-2:00 PM in the Crossing)
June 2	Albania Team Training #4 (12-1 PM in the Crossing)

June 16	Detroit Team Final Meeting (12-2 PM in the Crossing; Parents Invited) Turn in Final Funds
June 22 to 28	Detroit Go Team Trip
July 7	Albania Team Training #5 (12-2 PM in the Crossing)
July 14	Final Albania Team Training (12-1 PM in the Crossing) Bring final luggage to be weighed. Turn in final funds.
July 18-29th	Albania Go Team Trip
August TBD	GO Team Celebration - Location TBD

GO TEAMS SUPPORT RAISING

WHY WE SEND SUPPORT LETTERS

Each student is given the very important responsibility of sending out support letters and raising funds for our trip. Our ability to do ministry with our partners depends 100% on students raising support. If a household follows the support raising guidelines and schedule, and receives less than the trip amount, the first step would be for us to assist you in locating others who would be willing to receive a support letter from you. After that step and other efforts have been exhausted, whatever amount you received will be accepted as your support raising portion.

We trust that God will provide to meet our needs as a team. Support letters are NOT just a way to collect money. They are also a great way to enlist prayer. It is a privilege for others to join you in prayer and financial support. Many people love to give money to charities and missions.

WHO TO SEND A SUPPORT LETTER TO?

- Family (siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins)
- Neighbors (current neighbors, former neighbors)
- Friends (parents' friends, your school friends, church friends)
- Co-workers (your parents')
- Anyone else who might love supporting you through prayer or finances.

WHEN WE SEND SUPPORT LETTERS

You must mail, hand-deliver, or email your support letters (20 domestic, 30 international) by April 21, 2024. Make sure to offer the "online giving" option. Supporters can give electronically to support you on the church website.

HOW TO WRITE SUPPORT LETTERS

USE THE SAMPLE LETTER AS A GUIDE

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS IN YOUR LETTER:

- A photo of yourself! A quick snapshot of your smiling face is a great highlight for friends and family and makes your letter that much more personal.
- Paragraph #1: A personal greeting and update on your life.
- Paragraph #2: Details about the trip you'll take this summer.
 - Where you're going.
 - When you're going.
 - What you'll be doing there.
- Paragraph #3: Hopes for your trip and ask for prayer.
 - What you personally hope to learn.
 - What you personally hope to contribute.
 - What you're most excited about or challenged by.
 - ASK FOR PRAYER (be specific with requests!)
- Paragraph #4: Ask for financial support.
 - USE THE SAMPLE LETTER WORDING EXACTLY.
 - Be specific about what you're asking
 - EX: I need to raise \$\$\$ by June/July __, 2024
 - EX: Any amount you give would help.
 - Remember that YOU collect all money first and then turn it into us at Grace Church.
 - Request that funds be donated by June/July __, 2024.
 - Remember to mention the ONLINE GIVING OPTION.
 - Close with a big "Thank you!" and a handwritten signature.

Use excellent grammar and write well!

- Be sure to have your parents proofread your letters before sending them out.

Each letter must include a self-addressed envelope.

- People will use the envelope to mail their donations back to YOU.
- You are encouraged to put a stamp on the return envelope as a convenience for those who donate to your trip.

SUPPORT RAISING GUIDELINES

Checks should be made payable to Grace Church.

Families with two or more students participating on a student ministry trip are asked to pay 100% of the deposit for the first student and 50% of each student thereafter. (Please note, you are still responsible to raise the other half of the deposit in your support. Trip price does not change. You just do not have to pay that half up front.)

Please note that deposits are tax deductible donations to Grace Church and are not able to be reimbursed.

Important note: Every family is responsible for paying the deposit out of pocket, no matter how much money you raise in support. We view the deposit as your family's financial commitment to the trip, prior to the support raising process. Support raising cannot reimburse you for the deposit, which is your family's responsibility. If this is a challenge for your family, please let us know so we can work something out.

Each student is responsible to send out support letters (20 domestic, 30 international) by April 21, 2024.

Families with two or more students participating in a student ministry trip are asked to send out their normal support letters plus 10 for each additional child.

You may choose to personally finance your entire trip cost; however, you must still send out letters asking for prayer support. We also ask that you consider noting that you are paying your full amount but include the option to donate for the team at large. We raise support as a team, so any excess money raised by an individual or family will go toward the rest of the team and future Student Go Teams)

All funds must be collected first by students and then turned in at Go Team trainings. (Money should not be directly mailed to Grace Church!)

FUNDRAISING

GO Team members may fundraise alongside sending out support letters. Fundraising is the process of seeking and gathering voluntary financial contributions by engaging individuals, businesses, charitable foundations, or governmental agencies. This can be things like bake sales, garage sales, car washes, etc. Not everyone has the same networks that make it possible to raise support through support letter writing alone. We will have a couple opportunities for fundraising this spring, but if you wish to fundraise independently you may do that as well.

If you wish to individually fundraise you must follow these guidelines:

- We ask that you still send out the required support letters.
- Share what you'll be doing ahead of time with Pastor Mike.
- We ask that you refrain from fundraising at church.

Most importantly we are here to help you in this process. Please let us know how we can be of assistance. We have much experience and know that God can do amazing things as we put our trust in Him.

HOW DO I TURN IN COLLECTED MONEY?

Put all checks and cash that you receive in the manila envelope you receive at the first team meeting. Your name must be clearly written on the top of each envelope. As you receive funds, write the names and contact information of those who gave on the envelope. This envelope stays with you as an ongoing record to send thank you letters to your supporters.

Please turn in any collected money and financial log sheet, in a labeled envelope, at each training meeting. Do not turn in any money on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings.

All checks should be made out to Grace Church. If someone makes out a check in your name, please write "pay to the order of Grace Church" on the back of the check and then sign your name. Please double check each check before turning it in! (The amount donated cannot be credited to your account until this is done.)

If people give you cash, you must be sure to list on the envelope how much cash each person gave and fill in their address. (We cannot credit the amount to your account until the address is given to us.)

Supporters can give electronically to support you online through the church website. You will be notified at each meeting if you have received any online donations. Do not mark these donations on your support envelopes! These donations are accounted for by Grace Church staff, separate from your support envelopes, but still count towards your support total.

Keep a list of everyone who has donated to you. We will keep a list based on the information on the envelopes you turn in, but we want you to keep a list as well. This will ensure that you write thank you notes to all who give you financial support.

Make sure to send thank you notes to everyone who supported you. The best time to send a thank you note is directly after you return home from your trip so you can share some of your experiences with your supporters. However, you will also want to thank each supporter verbally ASAP.

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Dear _____,

I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity that I want to be a part of. As you know, I am involved with Grace Students (the youth group) at my church.

This summer, I will be teaming up with some of my friends and adult leaders from my church and heading to [Detroit, Michigan / Lushnjë, Albania] for our GO Team mission trip. These GO Teams are designed to help me understand how God is moving in different parts of the world and how God wants to use me to be a part of His story of redemption. They are week-long experiences where I learn about missions, grow in my faith and learn what it means to be a disciple in a world that desperately needs Jesus.

During the week, I will be serving alongside the local church and local organizations, working with lots of different people who really need help. We will serve them by taking care of their needs as best we can, but most importantly, I will be telling them about how much Jesus has changed my life. I am excited about this mission opportunity because I know it will challenge me in my own faith. I'm up for the challenge! I am excited to go outside of my comfort zone and experience what God has prepared for me!

I am writing to ask you if you would be willing to partner with me and support me. There are a couple things that I am going to need for this trip. First, I need your prayers. Please pray that God would prepare me for this trip, that I would stay healthy and safe. Pray that our group will support one another and grow closer together. Pray for the people that we will be ministering to and for those who will be impacted by our work projects. Second, I need to raise \$_____ in order to go on this trip.

If you are interested in supporting me financially, you can send me a check made out to Grace Church or give online to support me at (add weblink here). All financial support must be turned in by [June 16 for the Detroit trip and July 14, 2024 for the Albania trip].

I'm writing you because you are an important person in my life. Thanks so much for considering supporting me. I am looking forward to sharing the stories of my experience when I return. If you have any questions, I would love to talk with you about them. You can contact me at

_____.

Sincerely

[signature]

Include Photo Here