Mission Trip Introduction

Are you looking for a mission trip for your youth ages 15-17 years old, college and/or adults' group that is reasonable in price and offers a personal ministry experience? Strong Tower Ranch would like to invite your group to come to the Ranch for a mission trip this summer. Your group will minister to many children, including children who are in foster care, have a parent in prison, have lost a family member due to drugs, violence, or suicide, have experienced abuse, or have financial challenges. These at-risk children would not be able to go to camp without the sponsorships provided through donations to STR and the ministry of your group.

If your church has planned a mission trip out of the country or out of state for this upcoming summer, those who are unable to go on that trip due to expense or scheduling, can partner with another church and have their own life-changing trip closer to home or participate as a commuting volunteer. Even if your group doesn’t travel a long distance to STR, we will provide a focused, away-from-home experience. After ministering to others during the day, your group can debrief and have its own discipleship time around a campfire. After camp activities could include swimming/boating and/or others dependent on available leaders.

Your group will build relationships with children while helping them learn who God is, who they are according to God's word, and how to grow in their relationship with God through lessons, fun activities and focused talk time. We will provide your team with leadership training that will be of life-time benefit to each person including how to lead a child to Christ, identifying and growing leadership qualities, and how to work with children exhibiting challenging behaviors. Training also includes orientation of the camp facilities and the schedule. Teaching materials are provided for those serving as teachers.

See photos of volunteers serving at the ranch on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/StrongTowerRanch.

More details about an STR Mission Trip are available upon request.

Looking forward to connecting and partnering with you,

STR Day Camp Leader
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can volunteer?
   Youth, 15+, and adults who have read and agreed to the STR statement of Faith and other policies, filled out the volunteer application, been approved to volunteer and committed to a date, position, or event
   A few exceptions have been made for 14 year olds who come with a group with a strong recommendation and prior children’s work experience and are mature enough to handle a long day of responsibility. Usually we recommend they be a camper, especially if they have never been to camp before. There are only a few positions possible for this age volunteer.

2. How much does it cost?
   For an individual commuting volunteer, there is a once a year fee of $20 which includes one required volunteer shirt, lunches and snacks during the camp days.
   For a volunteer group member staying on site for a week of day camp, there is a $75 fee which includes the $20 fee, plus a facilities & lodging fee.
   For groups who stay on site, your group coordinator will decide what your additional meals will include and the cost per member. Saturday training includes one meal. You will need to plan Sunday meals, Monday - Friday breakfasts, Monday - Thursday dinners, evening snacks and side dishes for sharing at the Friday picnic dinner. Group transportation/van rental to/from STR is another item some choose to include in their member cost.

3. Can campers of volunteers stay on site with the group?
   Yes, if the group ok's it and allows room for them in the bed count or brings additional sleeping accommodations.

4. What are the accommodations for on-site groups?
   STR has three options for volunteers staying on-site for the week. These are shared with any volunteers staying on-site for the week. Groups reserving early and with a large number can have a house reserved for their group.
   RV sites - 6 total full hook-up sites for your RV or pop-up; we usually have 3-5 available during camp weeks; there is a washer & dryer in the camp restroom building utility room and a shower in each of the lower restrooms; additional showers/changing rooms are also available next to the restroom building.
   Wilderness House - has beds for 25 separated in two large rooms with room for a few more, two restrooms, 4 showers in shower room outside addition, washer/dryer, kitchen has one fridge/freezer, microwave, stove, some cabinets, table & chairs, with a utility sink in the other room.
   Tent Camping - is not recommended due to the effect of weather on energy levels and attitudes. However, due to our making room for a new building, we only have one house available. Therefore, if needed, tents will be allowed.

5. What do volunteers wear each day of camp?
   volunteer shirt (received at Saturday training), shorts (length must be half way between hips & knees or longer) or pants for for duty time, closed toe shoes or boots, sun screen and/or bug spray as desired, swim attire (one piece suits for ladies and swim shirt for ladies and gents), wrist watch is desirable, cowboy hat, and a great attitude; clothing exceptions only by approval of Day Camp manager or committee leader

6. What do day camp volunteers need to bring?
   Commuting volunteers: personal Bible, towel, bag(s) for wet/dry clothes, cell phone for Sheriffs - group leaders or activity leaders, water bottle, smiles
   Staying On-site volunteers: personal Bible, water bottle, towel, bag(s) for clothes, laundry detergent, flip-flops for showering or relax time, toiletries, flashlight, sleeping bag or sheet/blanket, pillow, jacket, after camp

4/17/2019
clothes, shower towel, sunscreen/bug spray, medications if needed (nurse and/or group leader needs to know), cell phone for Sheriffs - group leaders or activity leaders (other volunteers may leave their phone in their bag/car or in the nurse office - not in their pocket while on duty), smiles

Please leave at home: knives or other weapons, electronics/video games

7. Where can I put my things during camp?
   Most items are left at the lodging or in your vehicle. There is limited space in the Nurse office (shelf) or lower restrooms (can hang a bag on the wall hook in the lower restroom) for volunteer items. Kitchen staff have a small area as well.

8. Can other volunteers stay overnight with our group if they are a commuting volunteer?
   Your group can decide if you would like to invite another volunteer to join you for the evening, but we caution you on having them stay the night. We've learned that groups need to have private time to develop unity, prepare for the next day, and get needed rest. And if they are minors, STR would need parental permission.

9. What is the ratio of Chaperones to youth volunteers for overnight?
   For groups of 10+ youth, we require 3 adults age 25+ with overnight volunteers, including campers, so that if one has an emergency, there are still 2 to supervise. For groups of less than 10, we require one adult age 25+ with every 5 volunteers (under 18), including campers. We also ask for one male and one female if there are both male & female volunteers staying overnight.
   For adult chaperones coming only for the evening/night, STR insurance requires groups to provide their info for background checks. One could be a designated breakfast/dinner cook.

10. What times are volunteers on duty?
    full time: Monday-Thurs 8-5, Friday 8-6 - There is a mandatory morning meeting M-F at 8am. Then campers arrive from 8:30-9. Campers leave by 4-4:15. Clean up and any meeting is after campers are released. The parent program is from 4-5pm on Friday, then clean up and picnic, swim and relax time, with a time of sharing after dinner.
       part time: depends on the position

11. What can volunteers who stay on-site do in the evenings?
    With permission/prior arrangement with staff, groups may do archery or other activities. They also may use the swim area/boats, have a campfire, play group games, walk the trails, and get some sleep. The facilities are shared by all those staying on-site. No one is to be alone or no two (boy/girl) by themselves at any time.
    We recommend groups to have a time each evening to recap the day's ministry and for group devotions.