

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: How do you match mission teams with DC-area churches, and how does the planning work?**

Based on your trip dates and interests, we will partner your group with one of our 175 NorthStar churches in the DC metropolitan area. Some of our churches will be eager to have extra help with Backyard Bible Clubs or sports camps. Others will be interested in a week of outreach and evangelism ministries. Still others may be thinking of serving their neighbors with good deeds involving basic upkeep and maintenance of homes or yards. Once you are matched, you can work out the details directly with a leader in your partner church.

Our goal is to create these partnerships in January and February. This allows you four months to plan and prepare your mission projects in coordination with the local church before arriving on the field during the summer.

### **Q: What if we've already worked out our ministry plans with a local church or non-profit?**

Your group is welcome to stay with us at MCDC. Matching mission teams with our local churches is an extra service we offer if needed.

### **Q: What sort of schedule should we anticipate?**

If you have five or six days of actual time in our area, we recommend 4 days of service and 1 or 2 days for recreation and absorbing our nation's historic, Christian heritage in the capital city. We are particularly proud of the recently opened Museum of the Bible. It's a world-class, high tech museum that illustrates the history and impact of God's Word, and you should not leave town without allowing your kids to experience it.

### **Q: Is there a minimum group size to stay at MCDC?**

Yes, we require a minimum of 10 people for each group staying at the MCDC. If your group has less than 10 people, you will be required to pay the rate for 10 people.

### **Q: Do you have any minimum requirements for length of stay?**

During our busy ten weeks of summer, we require four nights in order to make reservations. During the other months of the year, we can be more flexible with groups who have less time to spend. *Our summer season runs from June to mid-August.*

**Q: What are the options for transportation?**

If you plan to travel by air, you can select either of our two regional airports as your destination. Dulles International Airport is 18 miles away from MCDC. Reagan National Airport is conveniently located only 32 miles away.

If you travel in vans or buses, you can eliminate the snags of DC-area traffic by taking the Metro (subway,) at least on the days off you'll spend in DC. The Metro is not only easy to use and versatile, but it's been a highlight for many of the groups who came during our soft-launch preview season. You'll catch your Orange Line train at the Vienna Metro Station, just about a 20-minute drive from MCDC.

**Q: What are our options for meals?**

Groups can choose from a wide array of popular fast food and sit-down restaurants located within one or two miles of our campus. In addition, we offer a fully equipped kitchen where your adult volunteers can prepare meals if desired. There is no extra fee for this, and you'll have your own dedicated refrigerator for supplies. (Some of our groups have used the facility to prepare sack lunches and save time on mission service days.) On recreation days, you will obviously find a massive selection of fun places to eat in DC. And don't forget, we offer a pretty lavish continental breakfast if you request it.

If your group elects to prepare some of your own meals, the kitchen is fully equipped with utensils, etc., but you will need to bring your own plastic ware, plates, cups, food supplies, and coffee. We do maintain a stock of sweeteners and creamer for your coffee service.

**Q: Do we need to bring blankets or towels?**

You won't need to bother. Our accommodations include a comfy bunk bed, pillows, linens, and towels. Mattresses and pillows are routinely sanitized for health and hygiene purposes.

**Q: Can your facilities accommodate conferences and retreats?**

Indeed. In addition to our dorms, kitchen and dining area, we offer a high-tech conference room, a full-sized gymnasium, plus acres of green space for soccer, softball, or simply spreading out for a time of reflection and prayer. The months of March – April are reserved to allow for spring break retreats and gatherings.

**Q: We'd like to bring our youth choir to Washington, DC. Can you help us schedule churches where we could perform?**

Unfortunately, scheduling concerts in churches is too time-intensive for our limited staff. You will need to contact churches/venues and develop your itinerary, but we will help you plan your travel each day to be sure that snarls in DC traffic don't cause you to arrive late for performances. And your group will love our colorful dorm space and comfy bunk beds.

**Q: Are there any age restrictions for guests at MCDC?**

We are unable to accommodate children under the age of 13. Otherwise, we have no age restrictions.

**Q: Do you have requirements for chaperones or adult sponsors?**

We will ask you to sign a document indicating that all adult volunteers on your trip have undergone routine background screening to ensure the safety of your students. We also require one adult present for every ten students when you are on-site at MCDC. (You may well desire more than that when you are on the church field or in Washington, DC.)

**Q: When we make reservations, how do you accept payment?**

We ask for a 25% deposit when reservations are made. We then suggest that you submit another 25% two months ahead of your arrival and pay the balance two weeks prior to your trip. We offer an online payment option, but a convenience fee is added. If it makes more sense, you can simply mail your payments to our office. We will hold your initial reservations for two weeks to allow the first payment to arrive.