



The T.I.M.S. Experience

What You Need to Know Before Coming to T.I.M.S.



THE TIMS EXPERIENCE

Teens In Missionary Service (TIMS) is a service-oriented ministry which challenges young people and adult advisors to "work out" their faith in practical ways. For one week each TIMS team reaches out to people who are economically or physically disadvantaged by doing construction and/or repairs to their homes.

The TIMS experience is one of serving others in a work setting, but the construction type work is only secondary. The main focus of the program is *building relationships* - with God, with the client families, and with each other. This may mean some of the "work" time is spent listening to and sharing with local people who just want to *"visit with the young people."* It may mean spending time with area children to share the love of Christ, or having a longer lunchtime with devotions to be able to share Jesus with client families. These situations are viewed as valuable time. This does not mean the work is any less important, but the work is merely the *vehicle* or means of opening the door to the hearts of the families that Christ can draw them to Himself. We encourage each TIMS team to be sensitive to every opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

It is one thing to pray for others in need, but quite another to put shoes to those prayers and actually help meet those needs. This is simply to follow the example of Christ. The Lord met the physical needs of people as a means of drawing them to Himself. People will always have needs, but their greatest need is for Jesus to become their Savior and Lord.

TIMS SERVANT PROJECTS

We like to think that what we do in TIMS is more than just a work project - more of a *"servant project"*. These projects are carefully screened and checked so as not to just be doing busy work. Our desire is that the projects will be meaningful and have a lasting impact not only on the lives of the area residents, but also each team member.

Each servant project is checked for safety and any which are potentially unsafe, such as a roof that is pitched too steep, will not be ac-

genuine desire to go deeper in their spiritual walk. If you're a college student, consider asking your home church as well as the one you attend at school. Your relatives may be able to approach their churches on your behalf as well.

4. **Your friends.** It may surprise you to find out how many friends are willing to help. Present your need in a way that lets them say "yes" or "no" without feeling obligated. Make sure they know every little bit helps.

5. **Group events.** It's easier as a group but you can do it by yourself. Involve friends and get creative.

Tools You Should Bring

It is recommended that each work team bring the tools suggested.

- Work Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Dust Masks
- Paint brushes & rollers

cepted. At no time will a participant be required to work on any roof or ladder they feel is not stable or safe. The work is organized and scheduled by professionals, which will make the most of the time spent on projects.

All materials are purchased ahead of time and delivered to the project sites. Each team will then be able to begin work immediately upon arrival at the site. All organizational details will be worked out ahead of time and each team will be free to concentrate on their service experience and, most importantly, **building relationships with both client families and each other.**

TIMS is not all work. There are a number of "extras" put into the week's program designed to strengthen their relationship with God and each other and bring greater meaning to their service to others:

1. Evening programs that are both spiritually challenging and build enthusiasm for a deeper personal relationship with the Lord, as well as reaching out to others with the Gospel.
2. Daily on-site devotions designed to include client families and neighbors as a means of sharing Christ.
3. Orientation and debriefing to give guidance to young people as to how they can most effectively share their experiences with their home church and others.

GENERAL INFORMATION

While most TIMS participants come as a member of a Christian youth group, some of you have chosen to come individually. We commend your initiative and willingness to step out in faith on your own to serve the Lord. Each applicant must be 11 years of age or older. If you are an adult 21 or older you will assist in a leadership capacity (such as leading a project crew, cooking, etc. - you will already have this information before arriving at camp). Young adults, ages 19 and 20, while not fulfilling requirements for advisors, are invited to attend as part of a team. **If you are under the age of 21 you cannot drive teens to or**

from the worksite because of CRC insurance policies.

Please take note: We have moved the arrival time to 2:45 pm on Sunday. Thank you for being prompt! Upon arrival all work camp participants will get settled into lodging areas and prepare for a time of orientation and fellowship. Shortly after arrival there will be a time of orientation with the cooks and a meeting for the leaders. During this time the group will be divided into work crews according to project requirements for the week.

During the week there will be free time to enjoy such things as beach volleyball, basketball, softball (groups must bring their own equipment), the water slide, and other activities. This provides the young people with time for relaxation and to develop more meaningful relationships with each other - and **to just have fun!**

NOTE: (for those under age 21) **Although you will not be coming with a specific adult advisor you will be expected to respond obediently and respectfully to the camp and adult leadership during your week with TIMS. Failure to do so could result in your being sent home.** We desire that every individual experience all the blessings the Lord would have for them during this week.

A TYPICAL DAY AT TIMS

Because the focus of TIMS is **building relationships** we want to remain flexible, but an example of a day at camp could be as follows:

7:00 - 7:30 am - Breakfast

7:30 - 8:00 am - Personal devotions (quiet time)

8:00 - 8:30 am - Travel to servant project sites

8:30 - 12:00 pm - Work on projects

12:00 - 12:30 pm - Devotions & lunch with families (team will invite)

4. **Expectations** - Arrive at TIMS expecting God to do **great** things in and through you to further His Kingdom. Your week of service will be exactly what you have prepared for it to be - either, just a week of work, or, a week of *service* and *ministry*. The work will get done - but **will there be any difference made for eternity?**

We look forward to working with you and growing together in Christ.

A "SUPPORT- RAISING" CHECKLIST

Relationships

1. Be clear about the goal of your trip as you share your need for help to finance it. It's easier for people to support modest aims than exaggerated claims.
2. Follow up immediately on any gifts you receive. Call or write anyone who makes a donation to say thanks. Be sincere and straight forward with your appreciation.
3. Turn your supporters into partners. Share in the details of your trip. Advise them immediately of any major changes.
4. Take your "partners" to the mission field with you. Pray for them. Write them a note sometime during your week of service. Remind yourself to write by taking along pre-addressed envelopes. This helps to prepare correspondence ahead of time.

Sources of Income

1. **Your God.** It's important to realize that God is the source of all the funds you'll receive. This will guard you from a panicked tendency to "use" people rather than money.
2. **Your family.** Make a list of all the relatives who have taken a personal interest in your development - spiritually, socially and academically. Think of sensitive ways to let them know of your financial need.
3. **Your church.** Many churches are happy to support members with a

PREPARATION BEFORE SERVICE

Just as any athlete requires preparation before playing in the game, so, as Christians, we must make preparations before service. How can we give to others if there is nothing to give them? Because our service is not just a "*flesh and blood*" work, but a spiritual ministry, we will have opposition in various forms from our enemy.

It is for this very reason we ask you to begin early preparing your heart and mind to minister. We have several suggestions for you, but it is you who must take the initiative in preparing for your spiritual service.

1. **Prayer** - This is of utmost importance to your service. We must all put on the whole armor of God to resist and take the offense against the enemy (***Ephesians 6:10-18***). Begin praying that God would put your crew together, that He will draw those He would have participate. He will use anyone and all who make themselves available to Him.

Get your church involved in praying for you and those with whom you will serve - your church missions committee could enlist prayer partners for you and have them write notes of encouragement for you to bring with you to camp.

Begin praying for:

- (a) **the family you will serve** - salvation and/or needs
- (b) **your crew members** - health, strength, and spiritual growth
- (c) **yourself** - that God would prepare your heart for service, and that He will work in and through you.

2. **Bible Study** - Select a good Bible study booklet that you can do as a daily devotional for personal preparation and spiritual growth.

3. **Support - raising** - Enlist help from others from your church or youth group.

- (a) to help raise money for your trip
- (b) to create a "**team spirit**" - all will be co-laborers with you during your service
- (c) to involve your whole church in the program

12:30 - 3:30 pm - Work on projects (Wed. may have different schedule)

3:30 - 4:00 pm - Travel from servant project sites

4:00 - 5:00 pm - Clean-up, free time

5:00 - 5:30 pm - Supper

5:30 - 7:30 pm - Organized games or free time

7:30 - 9:00 pm - Evening meeting time of praise and worship (special speaker/movie/campfire)

9:00 - 10:00 pm - Snack and Free time (or scheduled recreation)

10:30 pm - MUST BE IN CABINS

11:00 pm - LIGHTS OUT!

This schedule is subject to change depending on the distance of the servant projects from base camp. The maximum distance of projects based at the Christian Retreat Center will be a 1 hour radius.

Wednesday Schedule Change

On Wednesday the schedule is different so the group will have a little change of pace in their week. In the afternoon, (weather permitting) all team members and leaders will head to Cowan's Gap State Park for a time of Rest and Relaxation. Opportunities include: swimming, hiking, volleyball, Frisbee and supper on the grill.



CHECKLIST OF WHAT TO BRING

- _____ Bible
- _____ Sleeping bag, pillow
- _____ Bath towels, wash cloths
- _____ Soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, brush, comb, etc.
- _____ Work clothes that are modest, allow freedom of movement and safety, and can get very dirty or paint splattered
- _____ Casual clothes (modest, for after supper activities and play)
- _____ Underwear and socks
- _____ Pants for work projects
- _____ Work boots or shoes appropriate for work (sandals will not do)
- _____ Tennis shoes or shoes to play sports
- _____ Bathing suit (NO bikinis or two-piece for ladies; NO skimpy trunks for guys)

(Also please make sure that swimsuits/trunks have no "outside" zippers/ buttons/rivets that may tare the water-slide)

- _____ Snacks (only optional for camps other than Juniata County)
- _____ Water bottle
- _____ Watch
- _____ Camera (optional)
- _____ Alarm clock (wind-up or battery powered)
- _____ Sun block Lotion (if you sunburn easily)
- _____ Good work gloves (for those whose hands are not calloused already)
- _____ Safety glasses
- _____ Insect repellent
- _____ Lip balm or Chap Stick
- _____ Pen/pencil and paper
- _____ Stamps and stationery
- _____ Flashlight
- _____ Box fans for youth groups
- _____ Any tools appropriate for the servant projects planned for your team (hammers, nail aprons, paint brushes, tape measure, saws, framing squares, etc. - we will try to inform your group as early as possible as to your needs in this area)

_____ You should plan to bring enough clothing for the week. **Laundry facilities will be available for emergency use only.**

_____ Musical instruments that would be an enhancement for devotional or worship times (including Juniata team's campfire)

A CALL TO SERVICE

Anyone can attend a work camp and have a good experience. It is our desire that you have a **life-changing** experience as a result of your involvement with TIMS. This means life-changing not only for the families served, although that is our main mission, but also for each team member.

Young people are not just the church of tomorrow, they are part of the church of TODAY. Speaking of the last days God says through the prophet Joel: *"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions..."* (2:28). We believe God desires to use every one of His children in these days - people who have simply made themselves available to do whatever He chooses. It is our responsibility to accept the challenge and encourage others to give their lives in service for the Lord. All Christians have been called to share the Gospel and our mission field is wherever we are. We can't excuse ourselves because we don't feel "**called**" to a foreign mission field - none of us is exempt: *"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."* (I John 3:17-18)

We at TIMS challenge you to "**catch the vision for service**" and pass it on to others.

HEALTH INSURANCE

While participating in the TIMS program, there is always the possibility that participants will need medical care. Accidents can and do happen while at project sites, during recreational programs, free time, or during the trip to and from housing facilities. Since the TIMS program does not have medical insurance for its volunteers, we ask that all volunteers have medical insurance prior to their participation with TIMS.

Included on the next page is a sample medical release form for you to photo copy. Deadline date for the medical forms to reach the CRC office is one month prior to arrival.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee is \$320.00 per person. This will cover lodging for six nights plus all meals from 2:45pm on Sunday until the following Saturday at 10:00am. This fee also covers service project materials, evening programs, and a TIMS T-shirt.

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve each registration space. Each deposit reserves one space. Cancellations must be made within 1 month of the date of your work camp. If you find you must cancel, any funds already paid in and receipted cannot be returned because of IRS regulations. Those funds, however, can be retained in your name for a different week of work camp during the same summer. If you are unable to attend another week of camp that summer, remaining funds (after deducting the deposit and a 15% administrative fee) can be held in your name for up to 12 months, to be used the following summer. If you cancel less than 1 month before camp no funds can be held over in your account.

The final balance and Insurance forms must reach us no later than one month prior to arrival date.

"DO NOT BRING" LIST

It is expected that you will be responsible to abide by TIMS rules. **Be sure you read all information thoroughly about what you are to bring and what you are to leave at home.**

Radios, boom boxes, walk men, mp-3's or cd players/tape recorders of any type

Valuables or expensive clothes

T-shirts with inappropriate or questionable messages, groups or advertisements on them (even Christian t-shirts that have same questionable appearance)

Tobacco, drugs, or alcohol

Fireworks, knives, or weapons of ANY kind

Tank tops, low cut or midriff tops for ladies

Tight clothing or immodest shorts

Skimpy swim trunks for guys

Bikini or two-piece bathing suits for ladies

(Or swimming suits/trunks with "outside" buttons/zippers/rivets that may tare the water-slide)

If there is a question about it, it is probably INAPPROPRIATE. Don't bring it!

Remember - what we wear will support or detract from the testimony we desire to establish.