

# TRIP LEADER GUIDE

Things to think about....

## Trip Cost

In addition to the S.L.A.M. TRIPS \$400 per person fee, there are a few other costs to plan on. These include:

- Transportation to and from the Yakama Nation and throughout the week (possible airfare, rental vehicles, gas money, etc).
- Spending money for personal purchases such as cultural items, ice cream runs, etc. (about \$30 per person, should suffice-depending on the person).

## Transportation

During the week, you may be called upon to transport other leaders and youth in your vehicle(s).

- Please check with your insurance provider to make sure that you have the necessary insurance to transport people outside of your group.

## Arrival and Departure

Trailer- Parking is limited for trailers. Please do not plan on using more than one trailer.

We strongly encourage you to provide a first aid kit, a cell phone and a map for each vehicle (maps around our community will be provided by Slam Trips)

Plan to arrive in Toppenish between 4:30pm and 5:00 pm on Sunday evening. Dinner will be served followed by a community and cultural orientation then a Slam Trips logistical orientation. It is important that you arrive on time to be part of the entire evening. You will depart around 9:00am on Friday morning after cleanup and goodbyes.

A typical S.L.A.M. TRIPS mission week runs from Sunday evening through Friday morning.

## Preparing Parents

It is important to prepare parents in order to make the mission trip successful. To best prepare, we suggest that you arrange a well planned parents' meeting at which you provide trip details, convey S.L.A.M. TRIPS' Core Purposes and Values, describe the Yakama Nation where you will serve, explain expectations and answer questions. We suggest that you have multiple meetings throughout the year to make sure that everyone is onboard and knowledgeable about the trip. Please feel free to share Slam Trips Director Contact Information with parents, if needed.

## Voices from S.L.A.M. TRIPS

You have been contacted by Ashley Herrera, our S.L.A.M. TRIPS Director. Ashley will be your main contact. If you have questions, please call or e-mail Ashley directly. Her contact information is [Ashley@mendingwings.net](mailto:Ashley@mendingwings.net) and 509.930.7558

You may feel free to connect with Ashley as much as you need to in order to prepare for your trip. Two weeks before your mission trip Ashley will contact you one final time to confirm directions and answer any questions that you may have.

## **Finding Adult Leaders**

Adult leaders are incredibly important to your mission experience. A leader is someone coming to minister to the students in your group and helping to set the tone for the week. Adult leaders must read and abide by all S.L.A.M. TRIPS' policies. Adult leaders need to understand that this trip is designed for the youth and their role is to serve and encourage the youth as they also serve our Indian community. Look for leaders to join your team who are relational, youth-focused, flexible, preferably CPR/First Aid trained, followers of The Jesus Way and safety-minded. A guide specific to adult leaders is provided in this packet.

S.L.A.M. TRIPS asks that you bring a specific ratio (no more, no less) of adult leaders to youth on your mission trip. There is no age specification for Adult Leaders. We simply ask that they be older than the youth in your group and someone who you qualify as an effective leader of your group.

- 1 adult leader for every 7 students.

We desire for everyone to be able to attend a Slam Trip! If you would like to bring more adult leaders than the ratio states, please feel free to contact Ashley to discuss your request.

## **Background Checks Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why do I need to get background checks on my adult leaders?**

We are asking for background checks to be completed on each adult leader (including the Trip Leader) to promote a safe environment for S.L.A.M. TRIPS participants and for our reservation community. Knowing that all adult leaders are getting a background check will give peace of mind to other groups that will be participating with you and for our community.

### **Where should I go to get a background check done?**

Your church may already use a company to run background checks on employees and volunteers. If they do not, we suggest checking with your denomination or churches in your area to see if they recommend a company. Here are some vendors that you can explore as well:

- Praesidium
  - [www.praesidiuminc.com/](http://www.praesidiuminc.com/)
  - (800) 743-6354
- ChurchStaffing.com
  - [www.churchstaffing.com/Store/BackgroundCheck.aspx](http://www.churchstaffing.com/Store/BackgroundCheck.aspx)
- Safe Church
  - [www.afechurch.com/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.afechurch.com/Pages/Default.aspx)
  - (800) 747-2154

- National Employment Screening
  - [www.nationalemploymentscreening.com](http://www.nationalemploymentscreening.com)
  - (800) 459-3034
- National Sex Offender Registry (not for Background Checks)
  - [www.nsopw.gov/Core/OffenderSearchCriteria.aspx](http://www.nsopw.gov/Core/OffenderSearchCriteria.aspx)

**Please Note:** Fingerprinting need not be included as part of the background check. We require that a national (or multi-state) criminal background check be completed, not a state or county check. Please check with the company that you are using for multi-state background checks; different companies exclude different states due to the amount of records they feel they obtain from the databases from which they get their information.

**What do I do with the results?**

We have not set parameters on who can or cannot attend the mission trip. We are entrusting you and your church leadership with the responsibility to give adult leaders approval to work with your youth. Please **do not** send us the results of the background check. Keep the results for your files.

**I have a background check on file for my leader. Do I need to run a new one?**

As long as the check was completed within the last three years by your organization, there is no need to run a new background.

**My volunteer works at a school and has a background check on file there. Do I need to run one?**

Yes. We want the people who will approve the adult leaders to see the results from the background check before allowing them to attend the mission trip.

**What does S.L.A.M. TRIPS need from me?**

In the 2014 Slam Forms packet, you will find a 1-page form that you will need to fill out and sign (as well as a senior pastor/priest) acknowledging that your adult leaders have had a background check completed on them and have been approved to work with youth.