



Team Fiji 2019

Where are we going?

We are sending a team to the Island of Fiji in the South Pacific. The team will fly to Nadi, Fiji, and spend the week at the Oasis Farm, which is part of the ministry of Island Encounters (IE).

Why are we going to Fiji?

We have been invited by Oasis Farms and Brent Reimer. Brent is a part of our congregation here at St. Mark and spends summers in Fiji organizing and hosting teams such as this one. Brent volunteers his time there and has indicated there are projects and farm work to be done, as well as ministry to the local neighborhood children.

A great video is available at: <https://vimeo.com/246029822>

What are the dates?

Leave: Wednesday, July 24

Return: Sunday, August 4

Who is going?

This team will be made up of 8-14 people. The team is open to adults, married couples, and college-aged students.

What will we be doing in Fiji?

- Farm Work:

Everyone who goes will be participating in farm specific chores: harvesting papayas, tomatoes, peppers, watering crops by bucket, feeding chickens, collecting eggs, pulling weeds, cleaning, and other general farm work.

- Outreach to Children:

The farm runs a daily kids club that our group would run during the week to give the missionaries and locals a well-deserved break. Opportunities include: teaching songs, presenting bible stories, leading games, and other children friendly activities.

- Farm Development/Building:

The farm is constantly developing. Previous building projects have been: fixing roofs, pouring concrete sidewalks or slabs, painting, building a deck and sheds.

- Local Family Help/Building:

There is a possibility that some in the group would be asked to work alongside a farm neighbor who needs help working on their house: roofs, concrete, painting, etc.

Who is our in-country host?

Island Encounters (and Brent Reimer) will be hosting us at their farm.

Where will we be staying?

The group will stay at the farm. There is a dormitory there built specifically for team housing. There are four rooms that can sleep 4-5 people each. Each of the rooms has its own toilet, shower, and sink.

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What/where will we eat?

Meals will be prepared for us on the farm. There is a kitchen and dining area adjacent to the dorm. There's a Fijian host couple that serves in the kitchen and prepares most of the meals. The group will be asked to help with the kitchen chores such as dishes and meal clean-up. Serving in the kitchen is a great way to learn about Fijian culture.

How will we get around while in Fiji?

While the team stays at the farm for housing, meals, and farm work, the group will be going off the farm for ministry opportunities each day (mostly in the afternoon). IE has a 15-passenger van that is used for such trips. Most places are within a 30-minute drive from the farm. There is a beach and culture excursion the group might be able to experience about 70 minutes from the farm. (No promises, however.)

How much is this trip going to cost?

\$645 per person in country charges (sent to IE)

\$1,600 per person approx. airfare

\$155 per person miscellaneous cost and transportation to and from O'Hare

Total: **\$2,400**

How do we handle fundraising?

We might have some opportunities for group fundraising, but studies show that the best way to raise funds for a short-term mission trip is through a well-written letter to family and friends asking for their support. **The policies for sending letters to people within the St. Mark congregation are as follows:**

Families can submit names of 30 "giving units" within the church.

Individuals can submit names of 15 "giving units" within the church.

Names are handled on a first come first serve basis and will be vetted for duplicates by the team leaders.

***This only applies to sending letters to people **who attend St. Mark**. You are encouraged to send letters to as many people outside the congregation as you can.

Do I need a Passport?

Yes, you need a passport that does not expire until **AFTER February 2020**. International law requires that your passport be valid for 6 months after the period you plan to travel. If you do not have a passport, we can direct you to the right place to begin the process. Costs for passports can be added to your fundraising total **but can only be reimbursed if you raise enough funds to cover the trip and the costs of the passports.**

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Do I need to get shots/immunizations?

Shots are not mandatory, but they are recommended. St. Mark recommends that you follow the guidelines given by the CDC in regard to foreign travel to Fiji.

Visit https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/mission_disaster/fiji?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001

What kind of training will be needed?

St. Mark requires that everyone participate in a series of classes and trainings. We will be presenting this training as a group during our pre-trip meetings. At one of our meetings, we will talk about our testimonies, so you will be at ease when telling others how God has worked in your life if the opportunity arises during our time in Fiji. During the class time, we will allow time for you to share the key points of your story to other team members.

I'm interested in going. What should I do?

- **Fill out the survey here: <https://goo.gl/forms/wF2211bekZOyVvgv1>**
- **Watch your email for announcements and important dates (deadlines, fundraising dates, training, team meetings, etc.)**
- **Attend the informational meeting (date and time TBA)**
- **Pray about every aspect of the experience**
- **Request time off from your job: turn in your time-off request now**
- **Start working on your testimony and tell all your friends that you are going**

Important dates (all Sunday meetings are at 9am in the Preteen room):

Sunday Dec 30 – Fiji Information Meeting

Sunday Feb 17 – Deadline for Fiji Applications

Sunday April 28 – Training Meeting 1 of 2

Sunday May 5 – Training Meeting 2 of 2

Sunday June 2 – Fiji Planning Meeting and final date for committing to go. All Money Due

Sunday July 14 – Fiji Planning Meeting

Sunday July 21 – Final Fiji Team Meeting and commissioning in both services.

Wednesday July 24-Sunday August 4 – Travel Dates