

2024 MISSION TRIP INFO SHEET

CLEVELAND, OH JUNE 23-29

WELCOME

As you prepare for your trip, let us ask you a simple question: Why are you going on a mission trip? At Next Step we believe it's important to understand why you are serving and what your goals are.

Here at Next Step Ministries it's pretty simple. We have two goals.

Our first goal is to provide a trip experience that genuinely guides your students into the next step of their faith. Our prayer is that many would enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our second goal is to provide a bridge between your one-week trip and the long-term development of the community you are serving.

We believe in serving with a community, which is why we are thrilled to partner with you, your students, and the dynamic community leaders you will be working alongside.

It is our prayer that your trip is a glimpse of heaven on earth with people from all nations serving together to glorify Jesus' name. Serving each other, learning from each other, and worshiping together.

We are committed to making this the best trip experience you have ever had. If there is anything we can do to make your trip more special, please let us know day or night!

Thank you in advance for your hard work, sleepless nights, and servant hearts as you workalong side this community. We are honored to have your team serving as the hands and feet of Next Step and appreciate you representing our ministry and most importantly the Kingdom as you serve.

Barak Jake Todd

BARAK, JAKE, AND TODD

co-founders and directors

BY THE NUMBERS

STATISTICS REGARDING THE COMMUNITY
OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

median household
income

\$31,838

32%

poverty rate in 2020



residents renting
below poverty line



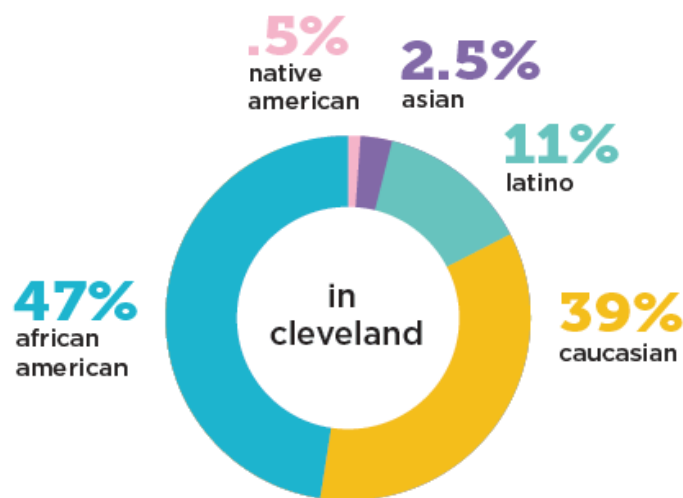
poverty rate among
disabled males



poverty rate among
disabled females



percent of children
living below the poverty line



796,841

population
in 1920

383,331

population
in 2020

-20.4%

population change
since 2000



BACKGROUND TO THE NUMBERS

- 1 | Cleveland is the county seat and largest community in Cuyahoga county, with 383,331 residents in 2020. The Greater Cleveland area is made up of 5 counties including Cuyahoga County, Lorain County, Geauga County, Lake County, and Medina County with a total population of 2,088,251 residents.
- 2 | In the 1950s, the city of Cleveland reached its peak population and an economic boom, with a population of over 900,000. However, in the 1960s, Cleveland saw a decline in population as many people started moving out to the suburbs and industry jobs started leaving the city, specifically jobs with the railroad and steel.
- 3 | The 1960s also saw a major start to segregated communities that can largely still be seen today because of housing discrimination and redlining against African Americans.
- 4 | In 1978, Cleveland became the first major American city to enter into financial default on federal loans since the Great Depression.
- 5 | Cleveland and the Greater Cleveland area have been working since the 1980s to rebuild itself, working to remove itself from the nickname it picked up in the previous decades: "the mistake on the lake." This has included building Key Tower, Public Square, Progressive Field, Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse, FirstEnergy Stadium, the Great Lakes Science Center, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, along with many restoration and revival projects to historic buildings across Greater Cleveland.
- 6 | In the 1800s and 1900s, Cleveland was a hub for many immigrants, especially those from Ireland, Italy, Germany, and Eastern Europe. These immigrant groups created communities that are still present in Cleveland today in Little Italy, Slovak Village, Kamm's Corners, the Stockyards and more.
- 7 | Since 2010, Greater Cleveland is home to the largest Slovak, Slovene, and Hungarian communities outside of their respective countries.
- 8 | Many families are left struggling to get by because of the many layoffs and cutbacks that have been a result of the recession. Homes are being put on the back burner and are slowly deteriorating. The biggest age group impacted has been the elderly. Pensions have run out, income has stopped, and many have been left to live in substandard conditions.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1 | Due to pollution and lack of regulations, the Cuyahoga River, which runs through Cleveland and divides the East Side from the West Side, is known as the 'Burning River' after having caught on fire 13 times.
- 2 | Cleveland's oldest nickname is 'Forest City' due to the way the city used to be surrounded by the forests of the Cuyahoga Valley. Now it is more commonly known as 'The Land' as a shorthand for Cleveland.
- 3 | Cleveland is the 'Birthplace of Rock & Roll', a music genre coined by a Cleveland DJ, Alan Freed. Cleveland also held the first ever rock & roll concert in 1952 and is home to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
- 4 | Downtown Lorain, just west of Cleveland and where our Ohio partnership originated was devastated by a tornado in 1924. In response to the tornado, an initiative to rebuild downtown inspired the construction of several historic buildings. This included the Lorain Palace Theatre, which opened in 1928 and continues to operate to this day.
- 5 | Lorain County is filled with pride. Much knowing the potential rooted in this community. The people of Lorain are dedicated and aspire to see their city thrive once again.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We have close working relationships with various organizations that serve in Cleveland and Lorain County on a full time basis. We heavily rely on these organizations as a collaborative force to extend our impact beyond a weeklong project. Below describes each organization's involvement in the community on a year round basis.

THE NEHEMIAH MISSION OF CLEVELAND

Since 2022, The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland has hosted our teams during the summer. We have been blessed to build many community relationships with them, as well as gotten to know many in the community from their Bread on Bridge dinner that they provide each week. The Nehemiah Mission serves low income persons & neighborhoods by providing community enhancement, home maintenance & targeted programming for; refugees, elderly, disabled & those without shelter, food and clothing.

OLD BROOKLYN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Located in a neighborhood just south of downtown Cleveland, the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is passionate about growing the community of Old Brooklyn through empowered partnerships, leadership, programming, and advocacy. This organization has existed since the 1970s, and works around the clock to support the residents of Old Brooklyn. We love getting to come alongside them in their mission of helping to provide residents with safer homes through various home repairs and renovations.

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

Neighborhood Alliance has a vision of creating and achieving genuine communities of inclusion and empowerment for all individuals. This

organization serves Lorain County and its neighborhoods through: addressing basic needs, enhancing individual and family life, and improving neighborhoods and communities. These three goals are accomplished through specific community initiatives: child enrichment programs, family support programs, senior enrichment programs, as well as shelter and emergency services.

Specifically, Neighborhood Alliance delivers hundreds of meals each day to elderly residents all across Lorain County. They have built long-standing relationships with each resident and enter their homes on a daily basis. Neighborhood Alliance seeks to meet the physical needs of each individual as well, but are without the necessary resources.

Our partnership with Neighborhood Alliance has come in the form of choosing which individuals we work with for various home repair projects throughout the summer. The relationship Neighborhood Alliance has with these families and individuals, assures us that we are meeting true needs of the community.

LORAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lorain Historical Society is committed to engaging members of the community and visitors on the unique history of Lorain in order to learn from the past, develop pride, and transform the future. The historical society plays a vital role in the trip by educating Next Step students on both past and current happenings of the city. You will have the opportunity to learn from them during your week as they kick off the City Tour.

LOGISTICS

Cost

\$100, turn in to reserve your spot ASAP! Our last day to reduce spots is March 15th. If cost is an issue, please let Erin know. We never want cost to be the reason you can't come or the reason your friend can't come.

Lodging

The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland
6515 Bridge Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102

The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland is situated on the west side of Cleveland, just west of downtown Cleveland and east of Lorain County, Ohio. This ministry is devoted to serving the community around them in a variety of ways, including programs geared toward the elderly, disabled, refugees, and more. We are excited to get to partner with them as we stay at their facility and help serve at some of their worksites. The facility is approximately 10-30 minutes from all work projects.

The facility includes two dorm room style sleeping areas. One for boys, and one for girls. It also has an indoor gym as an overflow sleeping area if needed. In the dorm rooms, there are bunk bed frames which will fit a twin size mattress. With this, please plan to bring a twin size air mattress and your desired bedding. (We will confirm this as we get closer)

There is also a kitchen, restrooms, and sanctuary for worship, as well as space outside to hang out and run around.

How to sign up

- Turn in your \$100 to Erin Fager
- Go online and fill out a participant waiver: <https://linktr.ee/newhopefishersyouth>
- Get excited! (If you plan on inviting a friend, make sure to them registered as soon as possible!)

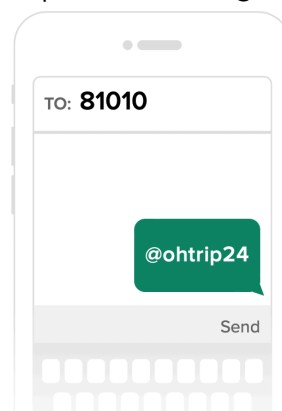
Fundraisers

This year we will have our Soup Fundraiser again on February 11th. We need people who will make soup as well as any student interested in going on our trip to plan on selling soup that day. Any other fundraisers will be shared through our Remind Texts.

Tell people to text @ohtrip24 to the number 81010

They'll receive a welcome text from Remind.

If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @ohtrip24 to (571) 364-6571.



schedule

what to expect

WAKE UP

Rise and shine at 7AM! You'll have plenty of time to roll out of bed and head to the main area for breakfast. The Next Step staff will have a second table area set up for making lunches. You will have time to prepare your own lunch for the day and throw it into a cooler. Once everyone has finished eating breakfast and preparing lunch we will focus our attention on God while reading through a morning devotional Next Step will provide.

WORK PROJECTS

You'll head out in a team of 8-10 students to your work project at about 8:30AM. The Next Step construction team will lead you in the work. Around noon your team will enjoy lunch and a group devotional. Soon after, it's back to work until site clean up at around 4PM.

SHOWERS, FREE TIME, DINNER & CLEANUP

Once you arrive back at home base you'll have time to hang out with friends and enjoy some snacks while you take turns hitting the showers. Before you know it, dinner will be served by the Next Step staff at 6PM. Throughout the week, each work crew will take turns helping to set up and to clean up after meals. You will have a chance to help clean in the kitchen, take out the trash, and even clean the bathrooms! Don't worry—this cleanup time won't take long.

WORSHIP

Get ready for an exciting evening with your Next Step band and worship team! We will take time to break into work crews each day to share how we saw God at work throughout the day. We will watch some videos, share some stories, and learn more about how to love and serve like Christ. Once evening programming wraps up, you will have time to meet with your youth group.

FREE TIME & LIGHTS OUT

Bring some cards or games to play with friends. We'll have plenty of time for enjoying one another's company. Everyone will head to bed at 11PM to make sure we have enough energy for the next day full of hard work!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

For most summer dates, please see the standard mission trip schedule on the following page. Please plan on arriving on Sunday afternoon between 3-5PM and departing Saturday morning 8-9AM. Monday through Thursday are work days, and Friday will be a fun day!

For the week of July 5 — 10, please note the trip is scheduled to end Saturday morning between 8-9AM. This means you would arrive Monday afternoon between 3-5PM, Tuesday through Friday are work days, but the fun day is not included. The trip ends Saturday morning 8-9AM. This shorter schedule is to allow our on-site staff with one long weekend in the summer for rest.

SUNDAY

3 — 5PM | Arrive to Mission Location

6 — 7PM | Dinner

7 — 8:30PM | Worship and Weekly Orientation

8:30 — 11PM | Church time, Small Groups & Free Time

11PM | Lights Out

MONDAY — THURSDAY

7AM | Wake Up

7:15AM | Eat Breakfast and Lunch Preparation

8AM | Morning Devotion

8:15AM | Depart for Worksite and Begin Working

12 — 1PM | Lunch and Devotion

1 — 3:30PM | Resume Working

3:30 — 4PM | Clean Up Worksite and Return Home

4 — 6PM | Shower Time, Free Time & Adult Leader Meeting

6 — 7PM | Dinner

7 — 8:30PM | Worship

8:30 — 11PM | Church time, Small Groups & Free Time

11PM | Lights Out

FRIDAY

8AM | Wake Up

8:15AM | Eat Breakfast and Lunch Preparation

9AM | Morning Devotion

9:15AM | Leave for Free Day Activity

4 — 6PM | Shower Time, Free Time & Adult Leader Meeting

6 — 7PM | Dinner

7 — 8:30PM | Worship

8:30 — 11PM | Church time, Small Groups & Free Time

11PM | Lights Out

WHAT TO BRING

This packing list is for all students and leaders attending the trip. These are important items that you don't want to go on your trip without! Please review the dress code listed on the next page to help while packing your bag. If you have any questions about what to pack, please contact our office at: missions@nextstepministries.com.

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- ☐ **Twin air mattress** | please no larger mattresses for space purposes
 - ☐ **Bedding** | sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket
 - ☐ **Pillow**
 - ☐ **Reusable water bottle**
 - ☐ **Sunglasses and/or hat**
 - ☐ **Sunscreen**
 - ☐ **Insect repellent**
 - ☐ **Personal snacks** | granola bars or trail mix
 - ☐ **Shower towel and swim suit** | ask your youth leader if you will need this for your free day
 - ☐ **Toiletries** | soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
 - ☐ **Closed-toe work shoes**
 - ☐ **Loose-fitting clothing**

ELECTRONICS POLICY

Next Step asks students not to use electronics during the day while serving on the worksites (8-4PM) or in the evening during dinner and worship (6-9PM). Please talk with your youth leader as there may be other special electronics policies in place for your trip.

DRESS CODE

WHY IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

We will be working hard serving in the community so it is best to wear old, comfortable, and modest clothes that you don't mind sweating in! Please understand there may be different cultural norms in the community you are visiting for one week. While certain clothing may be acceptable to you, it might not be appropriate for the mission trip.

You may be serving on a trip with other youth groups too. This is one of our favorite things about serving on mission trips! There can be a unique opportunity to meet other youth groups from all across the country! We serve with churches from many different denominations, with a variety of backgrounds, traditions, cultures, and preferences.

Don't like the idea of a dress code? We get it! Remember this one week trip is a special opportunity to get outside your comfort zone, serve, and learn. If you have any questions, we are here to help! You may contact our office at missions@nextstepministries.com.

CLOTHES TO BRING ON THE TRIP

Work Shoes: An old pair of tennis shoes will work well! It's great to wear work boots if you have them, but they are not required. Come prepared to wear closed-toe shoes for the work day. You can wear sandals or other comfortable shoes at night.

Longer Shorts or Pants: In an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible on the worksites and to be respectful to the community that we are serving, please plan to bring longer shorts that are at least about mid-thigh in length or have at least a 5 inch inseam (length of the shorts on the inside of the legs) to wear while serving during the day. Please do not bring shorts shorter than this, as this is to show respect to those we are serving in the community as well as for the safety of those serving on your team. We also recommend bringing at least one pair of long pants in case you feel more comfortable wearing pants at your worksite.

Shirts with Sleeves: Bring along some old t-shirts that you don't mind getting dirty on the trip! You can bring short and/or long sleeve shirts.

Loose-Fitting Clothes: You will be working hard during the trip! Bring clothes that you will feel comfortable serving in.

Swimwear: Guys, please follow the shorts policy listed above. Girls, please bring a one-piece swimsuit or wear a shirt over your two-piece swimsuit.

CLOTHES NOT TO BRING ON THE TRIP

1. Tank tops or sleeveless shirts
2. Short shorts
3. Tight fitting clothing (leggings, spandex and yoga pants not allowed)