

# 2015 Mission Trip, MPC youth group

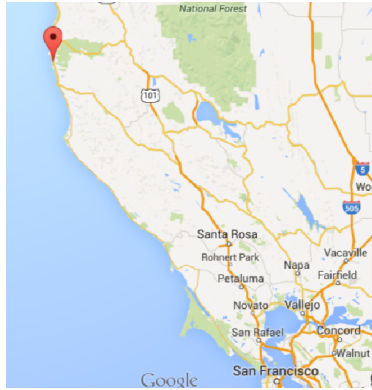
**DATES:** We are selecting dates from mid-July through mid-August. This will be a straight up vote (whichever date is the most popular) with a little discretionary extra weight given to the votes of graduating seniors. Vote here: <http://doodle.com/ftt5nswqgn9tzqcz>

**COST:** Last year's mission trip was more expensive, with an actual cost of about \$1000/person reduced to a sliding scale \$200-\$600 by fundraising. That was a great trip and we loved Memphis, but that size (and complexity) of a mission trip isn't something we can do every year – more like every 2 or 3 years. This year we will include a few more people (I'm hoping for all 20 of you!) and we will stay in California. Since we won't have airfare costs this year, I expect our price range to be about \$600 actual costs per person, reduced to a sliding scale \$100-\$300 by fundraising (additional scholarships available too!) Advisors go for half-price on the sliding scale, and we will either rent a vehicle for you to drive or will reimburse your mileage.

**FIRST FUNDRAISER:** Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Pancake Brunch! (Mardi Gras) Come on Saturday Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 PM, for prep.

**OPTIONS:** Choosing a location is not a straight-up simple vote, but we really appreciate your input. We will choose of these three options, the one that is most popular AND most do-able, as we talk with the site about their availability with our dates, and as the leadership team talks about what would be best for us.

## MISSION TRIP OPTION #1



# Mendocino

A beautiful, totally out-of-the-way town on the northern California coast, incidentally Ben Daniel's hometown.

Lodging: A Christian Camp, quite rustic and run-down, with bunkhouses in a beautiful location. Great for outdoor recreation, games and sports in our free time

Work: 1) at the camp, with shovels and power tools; refurbishing old buildings and bringing the place back from several years of neglect. Building fences, clearing brush, etc.

2) at the local Presbyterian homeless ministry. You might not think a town like Mendocino would have many homeless, but it's an area with nice weather and it doesn't have police that would make homeless folks move along, so a lot of people tend to congregate there. Being homeless in a rural area is a very different experience with its own challenges. The church serves hot meals, so we would participate in that.

Recreation: beautiful windswept beaches, woodland hikes, canoeing up the river, and spending time in this cute little town.

Rev. Ben says: The Christian Camp has a historic connection to Oakland, particularly to the African-American churches of Oakland who used to send groups of inner city children up for their first experience camping in the country. It's too bad that the camp has been neglected recently, and it would be a great ministry to help with reconstructing it.

## Option #2: Oakhurst

At the United Methodist Church <http://www.newcommunityumc.net/>



Location California

### About Oakhurst, California

City

For the former town of this name in Fresno County, see Oakhurst, Fresno County, California.

**Oakhurst** (formerly **Fresno Flats**) is a census-designated place (CDP) in Madera County, California, 14 miles (23 km) south of the entrance to Yosemite National Park, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. At the 2010 census, the population was 2,829, down from 2,868 at the 2000 census. It is part of the Madera–Chowchilla metropolitan statistical area.

Geography[edit]

Oakhurst is located on the Fresno River 3 miles (4.8 km) south-southwest of Yosemite Forks, at an elevation of 2274 feet (693 m). Its coordinates are 37°19'41"N 119°38'58"W

Like Save Edit



Shopping center in Oakhurst

Lodging: no-frills sleeping on the floor at the united methodist church, cooking in their kitchen

Showers: not at the church - nearby at an RV park – about 3 or 4 blocks walking. Some neighbors may open their houses to us as well. We will also go swimming at least once or twice!



People: we might be joined by a few members of that church's youth group, and their pastor Helen who will be helping to organize the work we do there.

Work: this area had really bad wildfires last summer, which destroyed 33 houses outside of town. On top of that, the town itself has a lot of unfilled needs, high poverty level and significant homeless population. Possible tasks we could help them with includes...

- 1) Seniors in the area who could use yard clean-up, painting, or simple home repair work (the church would run an ad in the local newspaper saying they would take volunteers to people in need)
- 2) Cooking & taking part in a community meal at the church on Wednesday night (the guests are a mix between homeless people, local elderly folks, working families & church members)
- 3) Where the wildfires were, the houses are pretty much all destroyed and everyone had to move out. Many are hoping to re-build but are dealing with pretty ruined land. We could help folks clear out debris and brush.
- 4) Construction stuff! Building a shed and/or a covering for the church's thrift store
- 5) Possibly doing trail restoration work in Yosemite

For Fun: YOSEMITE! Hiking, driving, lakes and mountains and rivers and valleys, incredible views. There is also a pool in town.

Talitha says: The pastor at this church is a friend of mine, and I saw her at a convention and she got really excited about this opportunity. Their town is a poor and relatively conservative place and they are the one liberal church in town who practice welcome and acceptance of all. A little town like this is unlikely to have many people coming to help, but there are a lot of people in need. I think here we can do a lot of good.

### Mission Trip Option #3: Hollywood

This is an established program, so they have the benefit of a really nice website to entice you. Take a look here: <http://www.doornetwork.org/hollywood-week-long>

Examples of service assignments may be: preparing and serving meals at a soup kitchen; helping with homeless adult and children's programs; cleaning kitchens and shelters; urban gardening and restoration; meeting and listening to groups and individuals who are working for change in the city; conversing and worshipping with city folks.

People: We would join with 30-40 others (so our group would be ½ to 1/3 of the total group), although we would take an extra day to ourselves before and a day after, during which we could do some MPC traditions together without others involved. Also we'd have our own program on Wednesday night.

For Fun: touring around Hollywood, and beach time in Santa Monica!

Cost: roughly, an estimated **\$100 more** per person compared to the other options.

Talitha says: I know other churches who have done this and really loved it. The host program does a lot of work for us and has good connections which makes it possible to get a lot of different work in, plus good reflection and learning. It would be a very urban environment, racially and socially diverse, and get us up-close and personal with urban poverty issues. It might be a little similar to what some of you did in Denver however – I'm not sure.