

Nashville Compassion Trip

Current 8th-9th graders

June 20 - 25, 2027

$800*

In order to deepen our faith, we must step out of our comfort zones, take a risk, and help someone else. This Nashville trip is aimed to open our worldview to new experiences, new foods, and new relationships. At the core, we will rely on trusting Jesus, the author and perfecter of our lives, to guide us through the week. We are offering an experience that is the next step from a summer camp– a week of serving and offering who we are to others.

With all the "success" of Nashville, sometimes it is difficult to remember the contrasting side of this city. There are people living off minimum wage in a city that requires twice that income to survive. Nashville public schools are trying to overcome a 40% drop-out rate along with homelessness statistics that are 20-30% higher than the national average. People are struggling, and not just to "make it big." Jesus calls us to the hurting, broken-hearted and oppressed. Hope students will partner with, learn from, and serve the homeless community in Nashville.

Application required. Once received, a spot must be approved and then confirmed with parental consent.

Partnership: Hope Students has been partnering with City Service Mission (csm.org) for the last 10 years and has been going specifically to Nashville since 2018. CSM's vision: Partnering with the local church for students to have a mission experience that helps them become missional leaders and for local ministries to receive the support they need to make a lasting difference in the city and among those God brings there.

Who we will serve: Those experiencing hardship due to systemic poverty– from not having enough to eat, a school system that isn't set up for your success, or not having a place to sleep at night. For Nashville, the chronic homelessness statistics are 20-30% higher than the national average.

Housing: We will be staying in the center city in Nashville, in a housing building that CSM partners with. CSM is well-known in the neighborhood and a welcomed addition to the community.

Structure of the Week: CSM works alongside over 30 different organizations in the city and our desire is for our group to be challenged in their thought of what service and ministry looks like. There will be opportunities for students to have a conversation with someone experiencing homelessness, partner with summer camp programs; We also partner with several urban gardens in the Nashville area. These allow for conversations around food deserts and food insecurity. There will also be a chance to work in food distribution centers either by serving hot meals or serving at a food bank.

Outside of serving with our partners your group will have the chance to experience our Prayer Tour, Urban Exposure, and Neighborhood Activity/Poverty Training. Each of these activities is designed to give our group the opportunity to see Nashville with the Lord's heart and eyes, to learn more about the history of the city, and to learn about current issues that the people of Nashville are facing. Our desire is for students and leaders to be pushed out of their comfort zones in order to learn more about social justice issues, meet the people of Nashville where they are, and experience the Lord's heart for all people.

Quick Facts:
-Each day we will serve in the morning and in the afternoon at different locations and organizations that CSM has a relationship with.
-Our group has its own "City Guide" provided by CSM, which is someone who works for CSM and is very well trained in the organizations we are going to but, more importantly, they are very familiar with the city of Nashville and know what it takes to lead a group of teenagers through the city.
-Dinner is at a different ethnic restaurant each night. (Don't fret, there's always something you can find to eat!)
-Travel: 15 passenger vans driven by an adult leader

***RAISING MONETARY SUPPORT:**
We will challenge each student to raise their funds by asking and serving others. One required way will be *Support Letters*. Students will write letters to friends and family. This will be guided at our first preparation meeting.
Other ways: neighborhood yard work, extra babysitting gigs, etc.

hopechurchrva.com/students-trips