



Introduction & Guide to the Preparation Materials

Partners in Ministry

We are so excited to partner with you and your group! Promoting growth and serving others is at the heart of who we are at AdventureServe. Our mission is to come alongside you and your leadership team to provide a real, relevant, challenging, life-changing, thought-provoking, and truly outstanding mission experience.

Welcome to the Group Preparation Packets. We have broken it into four sections, each timed with a specific part of the planning process.

- **The Sign up Pack** (what you are currently reading) is intended to help you get your brain around everything you will need to do to prepare your group for your trip and to help you understand how AdventureServe will be planning your trip. Now that you are signed up you are to read it all right away and use the preparation documents in the back to prepare your chaperones and group for the trip. ***Timeline: Read it all as soon as you are signed up.***
- **The Detail Experience Pack** is intended to help you understand the details of your trip like the schedule and meals. This will help you get the most out of the experience for your group. You should read this pack as soon as possible but at least have it completed by March 1st.
- **The Group Analysis Pack** will help you give AdventureServe a better idea of your group's specific needs and goals. You can start working on this as soon as you would like but please return your Group Analysis Sheet by May 1st at the latest.
- **The Seed Thought Pack** contains our seed thought journal for the summer. Many of our leaders like to read through the journal before the trip.

Hey, we understand that your time is a precious commodity...we are ministry workers ourselves! That being said, we suggest that this GPM is something you cannot afford to overlook.



For you, your adults/chaperones and your participants to truly have an outstanding experience it is imperative that all trip participants are clearly prepared for what they will encounter while in Kentucky or Tennessee. ***Nothing will benefit your experience more than having accurate expectations and good attitudes about the trip.*** This is especially true for you and

the other adults and for this to happen preparation is key. Nothing will sabotage the success of your mission experience more than uninformed or misinformed trip participants.

The contents of this manual are based upon our past interactions with incoming groups, their preparation material requests, and preparation shortcomings they have experienced or we have witnessed. You can trust that the content herein will be relevant, practical, and well worth the energy you put into it.

This is more than a packet of information...it's the foundation for a successful mission experience.

Taking the experience home... perpetuating your group's growth

While we want you to have a successful trip, we also want your group to continue growing long after the trip. We do not want the AdventureServe trip to simply be a one-and-done mountain top experience. Please consider using the "Taking the Experience Home" outline on our website or providing your group with other ways to process and continue learning from the trip. ***Intentional follow up will increase the value of your trip immensely.***



Special Dietary Needs: We want to know by May 1 if anyone in your group has special dietary needs like peanut allergies, a need for gluten free, or vegetarian needs. We ask for this info on the Group Analysis Sheet (see website and Group Analysis Pack) and will follow up for more details from there. We want to talk to each person/family about their unique needs so we can accommodate.

Suggested Preparation Timeline

Have You Already Completed This?

- ❖ Read your entire Written Agreement and understand your payment deadlines and cancellation policies. We will email this to you soon after you sign up. (If you did not make a copy of this document for your records before you returned it please contact AdventureServe Ministries.)

Right Away

- ❖ Read the Sign up Pack so you know what to expect and what will be required of you.
- ❖ More Packs of information will be emailed to you during the times in which we think you will need the information. If we are not meeting your needs please let us know and we will be happy to send it to you earlier or feel free to find all the Group Prep Packs on the web page.
- ❖ Set your goals for the trip. What would you like your group to get out of it? What are your community and spiritual goals?

Three to Six Months Out

- ❖ Advertise the AdventureServe Ministries program to the group, their parents, and possible chaperones.
- ❖ Develop an application. Have participants sign-up and commit early. This will help avoid competition with other summer activities and allow you to plan and pay for the correct number of people.
- ❖ Set a budget and develop a fundraising plan. (contact ASM for more help in this area)
- ❖ Set deadlines for trip payments for the group members.
- ❖ Recruit adult chaperones. Involve them in the planning and group preparation. This will give your leaders the proper scope and expectations.
- ❖ Find a copy of the daily devotional (Seed Thought Journal) on our website or we will also be emailing this to you in May.

(At the end of this document you will find materials to assist you in your parent, adult leader, and other group meetings.)
- ❖ Schedule a meeting with parents. Give them as much information about the trip as possible. Informing them now will save you many questions later on.
- ❖ Schedule your first meeting with your adult chaperones.

Before May 1st

- ❖ Fill out the Group Analysis Sheet, which will be emailed to you in March, for your group and mail or fax it to AdventureServe Ministries. We cannot finalize planning your trip without the info provided on this sheet!
- ❖ Make sure your payments are up to date. (See your Written Agreement payment schedule)
- ❖ Finalize your number of participants and inform the Program Director of any changes.
- ❖ Notify the Program Director if you have any special activity, service, or location requests.
- ❖ Begin organizing and gathering tools based on the general tool list if need be. (lists will be in your Detail Experience Pack)
- ❖ Begin planning your post-trip "Taking the experience home" session (see website).

Two Months Out

- ❖ Begin conducting your bi-weekly group preparation meetings.
- ❖ Schedule your second adult chaperone meeting.
- ❖ Plan for your transportation needs.

One Month Out

- ❖ The program manager will contact you to discuss more trip details and to answer any questions.
- ❖ Make sure your payments are up to date. (See your Written Agreement payment schedule)
- ❖ Create a detailed schedule of when to meet at the church, leaving time, estimated arrival time, return time, important contact info, etc. to give to parents and other church authorities.
- ❖ Collect all the Participant Information and Liability Release Forms (on website) from each participants and adult coming. Make sure they are completely filled out and have the appropriate doctor, guardian and participant signatures.
- ❖ Continue your group preparation meetings.

After May 1st

- ❖ Your Program Director will call you to discuss your group's week and answer any questions you may have.
- ❖ Schedule and finalize your post-trip meeting.

Two Weeks Out

- ❖ You will be emailed a Program-specific packet of information about your week. This packet will include directions, a rough itinerary, lodging details, contact information, and possible worksite details, site-specific tool lists, and regional information.

- ❖ Host your Final Logistics Meeting with all parents, chaperones, and group participants.

7-10 Days Out

- ❖ The program manager will contact you and finalize many of the details of your trip including small number changes, sleeping arrangements, activity changes, AdventureServe staff, and other important logistics.

Travel Day

- ❖ Make sure you have signed Participant Information and Liability Release Forms from all of your participants. Keep these handy so you can give them to your AdventureServe staff upon arrival. It will be one of the first things the AdventureServe staff will want.
- ❖ Monitor the things being packed so you can weed out anything that will be a hindrance to traveling comfort or group growth.
- ❖ Give a copy of directions to each driver. Make sure contact information is exchanged.
- ❖ Bring AdventureServe Ministries' phone numbers with you in case you have trouble finding your camping area.
- ❖ Eat dinner before arriving at your assigned campground.
- ❖ Meet your AdventureServe Ministries staff at the campground after 6:00pm Eastern Standard Time. Aim to arrive between 6:00 and 6:30pm.

After the Trip

- ❖ Review plans and have your "Taking the experience home" session.
- ❖ Fill out AdventureServe Ministries' post-experience survey. This will be emailed to you after your trip.



AdventureServe Ministries Background & Philosophy of Ministry

The Founding of AdventureServe:

In 1980 AdventureServe Ministries was founded in Altamont, Tennessee by John and Jan Bell as Confrontation Point Christian Wilderness Adventures. The service-oriented ministry focused on youth encountering Christ in wilderness settings. The camp grew steadily and over the years missions programs were added. Now each summer we facilitate about 50 groups (750+ participants).

Mission Statement:

AdventureServe Ministries seeks to create a Christ-centered community and encourage growth through confrontational experiences with God, self, others, and nature.

We live out this mission by providing relevant service and adventure opportunities for mainly youth groups, but we work with all other kinds of groups as well; using the experience to challenge the group to grow as a team; and challenging each person to grow spiritually and as a leader.

Changing Our Name from Confrontation Point to AdventureServe Ministries:

To better communicate what we do, we changed our name to AdventureServe Ministries in the fall of 2013. This decision was made in the wake of much prayer, research, and organizational discussion. Adventure and Service have been a signature combo of every experience we guide. We make service become adventure, we follow the greatest Servant, and believe the best adventures happen when everyone sacrificially serves the team. The mission and programming will not change as we remain committed to our core values. We are the same crazy and caring ministry. We will continue to serve community members in need, inspire people to serve, and train future leaders!

Theological Position:

AdventureServe Ministries is in a unique position in that we work with groups and employ staff from many different denominations. As a staff we affirm the Apostle's Creed. By using this creed and the other early Christian creeds as our guide we can be assured that our core beliefs are located directly within the "trunk" of Christianity. Our staff is encouraged to have a strong faith and to live this out in a context of love. We expect our staff to be firm on these core truths and to exercise charity and love in all aspects of the Christian worldview.

Our emphasis at AdventureServe Ministries is on developing a supportive Christian community and encouraging a lifestyle that flows from a Christian worldview. We provide a structure for you and your adult leaders to disciple the group and develop relationships with them within your specific theological system.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church*, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting, Amen.

* Universal Church

The Pillars of AdventureServe Ministries

One of our main goals is your group's growth! All programming elements and activities within the mission's portion of your trip are designed to create a safe environment where this growth can occur. We use five elements to achieve growth in your group: ***focus on God, community, service, leadership development, and challenges***. We call them the pillars of AdventureServe Ministries. While the different programs we offer may focus more predominately on certain elements, the pillars—our core philosophies—are woven into all programs.



Remember, **we want to partner with you for the trip**. The philosophies and practices described below have been effective for ministry in the past but if your goals are different let us know! We will work with you for the best possible experience for your group.

Focus on God

It is often easy to focus on the life we're living rather than the reason for it. At AdventureServe Ministries we deliberately schedule time into every day to reflect on God and His challenges for us. There are so many things that God wants to teach us from the Word and through our relationships with others.

Tools Used:

- ***Morning devotions*** give us the chance to take time away to read the Bible, pray, and journal. When we listen God speaks! Devotional themes change each year and are designed to bring the Bible to life by speaking to real, relevant needs/issues. "Seed Thought" as we call it, is just the beginning of the spiritual development plan for the week.
- ***Evening worship*** helps the group to communally focus on God. There are various options on how this can be done. Details are in Section 5 of this manual—*Group Experience Details & Options*.
- ***Teachable Moments*** are times to pause and see or experience a new understanding of God through His creation or people.

Community

We are committed to living, teaching, and modeling a supportive Christian Community. The biblical model is a body—we are all members of one body and need each other. No part of the body is more important than the other (Ephesians 4).

As your group grows together as a community it becomes an even better context in which the group can grow as individuals. If youth have friends in youth group who are growing in their faith they are more likely to do so themselves. Also, youth with strong relationships with Christian adults other than just the youth pastor are far more likely to keep their faith. This is another reason

community, including adults, is important to AdventureServe Ministries. What better place to develop relationships between your youth and adults than on a trip like this!

Tools Used:

- **A *Covenant*:** At the beginning of the week your group will write an agreement that will be the focus of your relationships for the week. Members of the group will be responsible for helping others to keep this agreement for the good of the whole group. There are options for how this can be facilitated which are detailed in section five of this manual—*Group Experience Details & Options*.
- ***Doing activities as a group*** helps us to think of the others in the group (i.e. if two people are late for a meal the whole group waits until they arrive before eating).
- ***Decision making*** is done by the whole group, not a select few. Often the leadership will say to the group “These are your options, what do you want to do?” Making a group decision isn’t easy, but doing it with respect for everyone’s views and discovering a solution that everyone can accept is a victorious moment. Decisions involving safety will remain the responsibility of the leadership team (AdventureServe Ministries staff and Group Leaders).
- ***Chores*** are used as an initiative activity to teach small groups how to work together to achieve a task. Upon your arrival your group will be divided into smaller groups of four or five who will be given different responsibilities including meal preparation, meal clean up, and preparation/leading of worship services, etc.
- ***Games and team building initiatives*** are activities that have a specific goal in mind (e.g. to teach the group how to accomplish a difficult task using everyone’s skills and talents).
- ***Debriefing*** is a daily time of discussion for the whole group. We reflect on the day and share the things we learned, the struggles we had, deal with issues of conflict or frustration in a healthy way, and discuss how to apply all these things at home. It gets the whole group on the same page, is an integral part of processing growth, and helps the group begin to transfer the lessons learned on the trip to life at home.



Service

Consider Christ's "parting shot": in His last hours Jesus chose to demonstrate to the disciples that "the greatest among you must become like the least; the leader like the servant." As Christians it's this humble servanthood we are called to emulate. We are God's hands and feet on earth and it's our desire to incarnate (flesh out) God's love to those with whom we come in contact.

Tools Used:

- ***Serving each other*** by helping with chores and encouraging others is essential. Your group will be challenged through the covenant and actions of the leaders to display a servant attitude to the other members of the group.

- **Serving people outside your group:** Whether home repair clients or other individuals that you meet during your trip, your group will have the opportunity to communicate Christ's love through service and compassion.

Leadership Development

We all know that claiming to be a leader or even holding a leadership position does not make someone a leader. We believe that *spiritual leadership* is the responsibility of all who take the name "Christian." We suggest that the definition of *spiritual leadership* is closely tied to an individual's understanding of and interaction with God, community, and service. Based on the principle that leadership is learned and cultivated, "Leadership Development" has been at the core of AdventureServe Ministries' philosophy since our inception.



We want to give your group a chance to take responsibility, ownership, to struggle, fail, and succeed. We desire to foster a safe arena in which people can "practice" leadership. The key here is empowerment—giving them the tools necessary to be successful in their endeavors and then LETTING them proceed. Our philosophy is summarized is **Show, Help, Let.**

Let can be the tough part but is the crux of what we want to accomplish here—giving the participants ownership. We want them to face opportunities to engage their mind (facing a situation), to overcome obstacles (difficulties or consequences of their decisions), and complete a task while being supported by the adults in ways other than providing all the answers. Support will look like creating a setting in which the group is ready to face these challenges. We want the group to have opportunities to make mistakes and learn from them. We want the participants to have this chance to accomplish more than THEY ever thought they were capable of and more than YOU ever thought they were capable of!

Tools Used:

- **Planning and leading worship.** There are various ways to organize worship but one option is to let the participants plan and facilitate it. With support from the leaders, the participants have the chance to express their love for God in their own way and to challenge others in the group.
- **Decision making** is used to build community and to help your group think through a problem and find the best solution.
- **Responsibility** for much of the experience is given over to the group. All leaders will be asked to step back and allow the participants, at times, to make mistakes (when safety is not a concern). We use the group setting to process and evaluate successes, failures, and frustrations that may arise from inexperienced leadership.

Challenges

Romans 5:3-4: "... We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

We strive to produce an experience that isn't "easy" or "comfortable" but is challenging yet achievable. We want your group to be outside their comfort zones so that they rely on God and their peers to help them.

We view growth opportunities in three stages—the green, yellow, and red zones.



Green Zone: This is the place we are comfortable and life is easy. It's where we live the majority of our lives—it is the sustaining zone.

Yellow Zone: Here participants are placed in a position where they are uncomfortable. This can often be a place of "perceived risk" but is actually a safe place where growth can occur.

Red Zone: This is the danger zone where participants are placed in an environment that is so far away from where they are comfortable that they can't grow because they are restricted by fear due to threats to their emotional, mental, spiritual or physical health and well being.

All participants will find themselves in different growth zones at different times throughout their experience. Our goal is that each individual would experience the yellow zone without entering the red zone.

When challenging participants we follow a guideline called **challenge by choice**. We will challenge participants and provide them with experiences that can push them into their yellow zone. However, we will never force them to do something they are not comfortable with. We will encourage them but the choice is theirs. This means that AdventureServe Ministries' job, and your job, is to create an environment in which participants can choose to step into the yellow zone.

Tools Used:

- **Camping** means living in close quarters with the outdoors and each other. This means bugs, rain, no soft bed, no gourmet meals and no TV or radio.
- **Outdoor adventure** activities often put the participants in a scary situation. Fear of heights, water, small spaces and rocky terrain are very real fears that can be faced, giving people more confidence than ever before.
- **Program specific challenges** like in the daily activities. In the Mystery Trip program, not knowing what to expect is trying for many people. Doing physical labor all day is a challenging part of Home Repair. Adventure activities test those in the Wilderness program. Sometimes being responsible for something like cooking for your whole group is a challenge!

Organizational Promises:

Regarding High Risk Activities

We desire to push people beyond their comfort zones. Because of this we do activities that are perceived as being high risk. We take reasonable precautions to be prepared for emergencies that may occur and have an excellent safety record. Nevertheless, no matter how hard AdventureServe Ministries works for safety, wilderness settings and construction worksites inherently involve risk. You and your group must understand that accidents can happen in the outdoors no matter how safe the program. Parents sending their child to AdventureServe Ministries are voluntarily accepting these risks.

As a courtesy, we have purchased primary medical insurance to cover all campers and chaperones attending AdventureServe Ministries to the value of \$3,000. Further details regarding this courtesy coverage are available in section three of this manual, *Goods and Services*.

99% of the injuries we see in the course of a summer are minor incidents including bumps, bruises, sprains, strains, minor cuts and abrasions, bee stings, etc.



Group Preparation Outlines & Handouts

Overview

You have now been equipped with the information to overcome barriers and to prepare your group for a great trip. The success of your trip will depend largely upon how well you prepare your group for their experience.

We understand that time is of the essence. We understand that weekly trip meetings are not an option. We understand that it is tough enough to get adults to volunteer to chaperone the trip let alone get them to trip leaders' meetings as well as all of the group preparation sessions. We understand that each group leader will tackle these problems differently. With that said, we have provided in the following pages, suggested preparation outlines and handouts for parents, adults/chaperones and participants. This is how we would go about it if it were our group...this is what our experience tells us are the essentials in preparation communication.



Also, as you plan for these pre-trip sessions to prepare your group, you should plan a post-trip session to follow up with the experience afterwards. "Another meeting?!?" Yes. Again, this is not about a week-long trip. It is about long term results, and helping the group process the experience after the trip is essential for the lessons to sink in and stick for the long haul. Use "Taking the Experience Home" found on the web for information on this session.

Parent Preparation

Two Sessions

Session #1

Purpose: Orient parents to AdventureServe Ministries. Communicate trip preparation time table.

Suggested Handouts: Participant Information & Liability Release Form. Also feel free to give parents any part of the Preparation Packets we send you. You know your parents and you know what will make them feel safe about their child on a trip.

Discussion Points:

- Your goals for the group and this trip.
- How ASM will help you achieve these goals.
- Details about ASM (Suggested Handouts). For further reference, refer them to our website: www.Adventureserve.org.
- Importance of adult/youth relationships (“5 Pillars” “community”) **Consider: What can parents do after the trip to connect with their children?**
- Your timetable...what’s next, how you would like them to be involved, financial deadlines, paperwork deadlines (Participant Information & Liability Release, others you may require), required parent and Group preparation meeting dates/times, fundraising information, etc. You may want to craft your own handout for this.
- Answer questions.

Session #2 (They are different session numbers, but this is the same meeting for parents, & the group)

Purpose: Final logistical meeting.

Suggested Handouts: See below.

Discussion Points:

- Craft a simple handout with an emergency cell phone contact for parents to use (yours or another trip leader’s). Be sure to include our toll free office number (800-884-8483) for emergency use. Parents must understand that this is our office number and we will reach the group as quickly as possible (it could take 2-3 hours as cell phones do not always work in the rural areas of KY and TN and a physical visit may be necessary). *Contacting our office directly is most often the quickest method for an individual to contact you or a member of your group while you are on your trip.*
- Collect any last minute Participant Information & Liability Release forms.
- Share about the spiritual journey your group will be on and how parents can pray for your leadership team and their group while you are in KY/TN.
- Answer last minute questions.
- Recommended: spend the last part of this session developing your group’s covenant for the trip.
- Close the meeting with corporate prayer for your experience in KY/TN.

Adult/Chaperone Preparation

Three Sessions

It is assumed that all adults/chaperones are present at the parent preparation session. If this is not true, you must adjust accordingly. It is imperative that your adults/chaperones are exposed to the same information. It is also assumed that your adults/chaperones will attend all group preparation sessions.

Session #1

Purpose: Developing your leadership team.

Suggested Handouts: Have them read about ASM philosophy and 5 pillars found in your Sign up Pack. You know your leaders so feel free to pass off any further information you think may be needed

Discussion Points:

- Define the purpose of this trip and establish goals as a leadership team for the experience.
- What is the role of the adult/chaperone in trip preparation? During the experience?
- Re-emphasize the importance of adult/youth relationships ("5 Pillars," "Community." This is a suggested handout for parent prep session 1.)
- Discuss Creation Restoration program philosophy (Suggested Handout). What difficulties or challenges does your leadership team anticipate and how can you address them together?
- Foster a commitment to prayer for your experience.

Session #2

Purpose: Acquaint your leadership team with specific details regarding your experience in KY.

Suggested Handouts: Allow them to read the Detail Experience Pack. You know your leaders so feel free to pass off any further information you think may be needed

Discussion Points:

- Thoroughly discuss the Detail Experience Pack ...your adults/chaperones **MUST** have mastery knowledge of what they are getting into!
- What difficulties or challenges does your leadership team anticipate and how can you address them together?
- Answer questions and develop a list of questions you need to ask ASM as a result of your leadership meeting.
- Close with prayer for your experience and all those involved in it.

Session #3(They are different session numbers, but this is the same meeting for parents, & the group)

Purpose: Final logistical meeting

Suggested Handouts: None.

Discussion Points:

- Craft a simple handout with an emergency cell phone contact for parents to use (yours or another trip leader's). Be sure to include our toll free office number (800-884-8483) for emergency use. Parents must understand that this is our office number and we will reach the group as quickly as possible (it could take 2-3 hours as cell phones do not always work in the rural areas of KY and TN and a physical visit may be necessary). *Contacting our office directly is most often the quickest method for an individual to contact you or a member of your group while you are on your trip.*
- Collect any last minute Participant Information & Liability Release forms.
- Share about the spiritual journey your group will be on and how parents can pray for your leadership team and their group while you are in KY/TN.
- Answer last minute questions.
- Recommended: spend the last part of this session developing your group's covenant for the trip.
- Close the meeting with corporate prayer for your experience in KY/TN.

Group Preparation

Five Sessions

Five preparation sessions sounds crazy! You're right! It's really only four sessions plus attendance at the Final Logistical Meeting. We suggest one session every two weeks, beginning two months prior to your experience. All "suggested handouts" for group preparation follow this group preparation outline. We have provided leader outlines, which help walk the leader through each session as they prepare beforehand, and participant handouts. Feel free to use and adapt these outlines and handouts to fit your group's dynamics and time schedule.

Session #1

- Purpose:** An invitation to creation restoration: Participants are to learn that as humans we can join in the creation process and take some responsibility for the creation around us.
- Leader Materials:** An Invitation to Creation Restoration Leader Outline.
- Participant Handouts:** An Invitation to Creation Restoration

Session #2

- Purpose:** To provide general trip information to the participants.
- Leader Materials:** Optional Activities. NOTE: Be sure to review these ahead of time as some activities require materials and preparation.
- Participant Handouts:** What to Expect
What to Bring
Top Ten Things
The Law

Session #3

- Purpose:** To have the group consider why they are going on this trip.
- Leader Materials:** The Good Samaritan Leader Outline.
- Participant Handouts:** The Good Samaritan.

Session #4

- Purpose:** To provide a hands-on activity to practice creation restoration before the trip.
- Leader Materials:** Trash Grab Leader Outline.
- Participant Handouts:** None.

Session #5 (They are different session numbers, but this is the same meeting for parents, & the group)

Purpose: Final logistical meeting

Suggested Handouts: None.

Discussion Points:

- Craft a simple handout with an emergency cell phone contact for parents to use (yours or another trip leader's). Be sure to include our toll free office number (800-884-8483) for emergency use. Parents must understand that this is our office number and we will reach the group as quickly as possible (it could take 2-3 hours as cell phones do not always work in the rural areas of KY and TN and a physical visit may be necessary). *Contacting our office directly is most often the quickest method for an individual to contact you or a member of your group while you are on your trip.*
- Collect any last minute Participant Information & Liability Release forms.
- Share about the spiritual journey your group will be on and how parents can pray for your leadership team and their group while you are in KY/TN.
- Answer last minute questions.
- Recommended: spend the last part of this session developing your group's covenant for the trip.
- Close the meeting with corporate prayer for your experience in KY/TN.

Group Preparation Session One: Leader Outline

An Invitation to Creation Restoration

Leader Outline

Note to leaders:

This first session was developed to help leaders keep interest in the Creation Restoration trip. While at first the group was excited about going on a trip, they may become apprehensive as they try to understand what “Creation Restoration” means. It is important that they realize they are invited to join in something big and close to the heart of God.

Session Goal:

To have participants begin to consider why creation restoration is important.

Process:

Follow the group preparation handout, “An Invitation to Creation Restoration.” Remember, this is an invitation. If participants do not seem to be on board with creation restoration at first, do not feel that you have to force it. The goal is to get people thinking about why creation restoration is important.

The handout suggests having one participant read the whole selection. The creation story is very poetic and keeping just one reader will help the flow of the story.

Note that the reading includes selections directly from Genesis 1 and 2. This passage is not provided in its entirety in order to shorten the length. If you are not comfortable with this and would rather keep the passage whole, go for it!

Finally, consider finishing this session with worship.



You're Invited!

Group Preparation Session Two: Optional Activities

Into the Wilderness 1 (Recommended to choose either 1 or 2, but do not do both):

Materials and Preparation: *4 ft long section of string per participant. *Five 3x5 cards per participant.
*Pen per participant.

Time recommended: 20-30 mins.

Purpose: To have the group work together to set priorities and to think about what they are willing to give up. Also, to help participants see an example of the fact that space in this world is limited.

Procedure: Give each participant a piece of string and five 3x5 cards. Have participants tie the ends of the string together to make a circle. Have them set the circle on the ground. Then inform them that they are going on a trip to the woods. They are to write down one thing on each 3x5 card that they want to bring with them, for a total of five things. Then have them place their five cards/items within their string circle. Then, have them find a partner. They are to work with this partner and put as many cards/things into ONE string circle as they can without any cards overlapping (other string circle is not needed for the remainder of the activity). If space does not permit, they must choose what items are most important and only include those. Items not included are eliminated for the remainder of the activity. Next, each partner group finds another partner group, and they again join forces. Again, they are to place as many cards as they can within ONE string circle, eliminating items that do not fit. Continue this process until the whole group must fit into one string circle. Participants must work together to decide what and whose items to bring, what items to eliminate. Pay attention to who gets to keep their items and who must eliminate their items. How is that decision made as the activity progresses?

Into the Wilderness 2:

Materials and Preparation: List of ten things the group could use to survive in the wilderness, or ten actual props of things that they would need to survive if stranded. Some suggestions include: pocket knife, duct tape, matches, map, compass, hatchet, blanket, mirror, string, flashlight, box of granola bars, empty backpack, pot or pan, Bible, canteen, pen, tent, tarp, extra socks, etc...)

Time recommended: 10-15 mins.

Purpose: To have the group work together to set priorities and to think about what they would be willing to give up to survive.

Procedure: Explain to the group that they are stranded in the woods, and they have ten things that may help them survive. Give them a limited amount of time. They must work together as a group to rank the items in order from most important to least important. Then tell the group that they can choose only two items. See what they pick and why.



Group Preparation Session Three: Leader Outline

Session Goal:

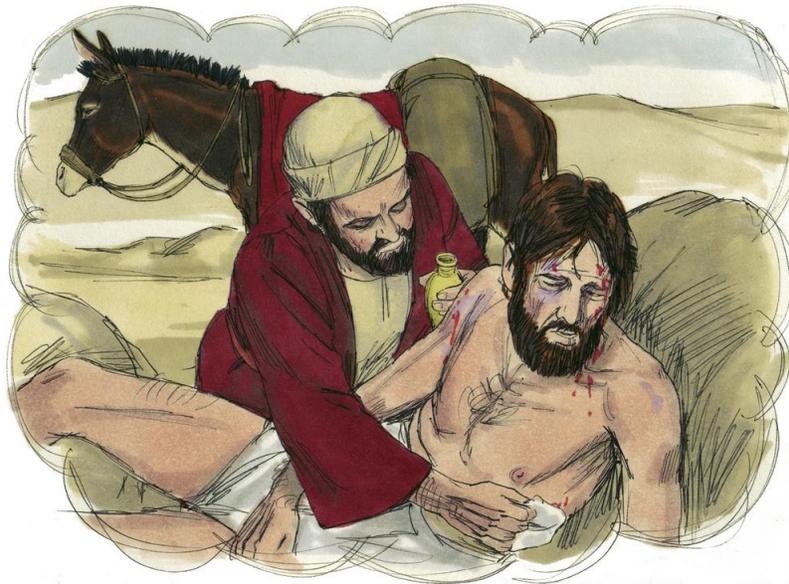
To help the group consider why they want to go on this trip.

Process:

Follow the group preparation handout "The Good Samaritan." It is recommended that you read through the entire handout before the session so that you know what to expect. This handout will instruct the group to find at least six volunteers to act out a skit of the Good Samaritan. Facilitate this process as much or as little as you see fit.

After working through the handout you may want to make a group covenant for your trip. This may be a great time to do so if you desire to make one before you arrive at your first campsite in KY. For more information about group covenants see the Deatil Experience Pack.

At the end of this section, it is recommended that you finish with a charge and a prayer. Consider a section of your favorite NT letter for the charge (ex: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through-out all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Eph. 3:20-21).



Group Preparation Session Four: Leader Outline

Trash Grab

Session Goal:

To provide your group with a hands-on experience of doing creation care before the trip.

Leader Preparation:

The group will be picking up trash. Select an area for this cleanup that is near your church. The church parking lot and the entrance to the parking lot are a great place to start. From there, go out into the neighborhood as time permits and as you see need. Have several goals in mind so that you can adjust to the group's speed on the clean-up day. Another possible location is a local park. Either way, note any possible traffic hazards for participants, and consider providing orange vests if they will be near roads.

Trash bags are needed to collect trash in. 2-3 Bags per participant is recommended. Big, sturdy bags work best.

Be sure each participant has a pair of work gloves. (These gloves will also be needed on your Creation Restoration trip.)

Before you begin, be sure you know what you will do with all the trash that is collected. Can your church's normal trash service handle all the extra bags? Is there a dump nearby that you can bring them to? Make any special arrangements that are needed for the heavy load.

Consider keeping recyclable containers separate and recycle them. This may require that you separate various materials. Find out where the nearest recycling center is located, and see them for details on how they receive recyclables. You may need someone's pick-up truck in order to get the recyclables to the recycling center. If you choose to do this, note that it requires extra time.

Finally, remind the group ahead of time that they will be outdoors for this. Be sure they dress appropriately.

Procedure:

Tell the group that this is it! It is time to start turning lessons into action. Go out to the area you have identified for the Trash Grab, and have the group walk around the area to identify areas of greatest need to be cleaned up. Facilitate the group as they establish a plan of action (how many people will go where? What do they do with bags that are full? What will they do if their area is done? Etc...)

Recommendation: have them work in pairs. More than one pair can go to an area as needed, but have them stay in pairs throughout the process.

Spend time cleaning up!

After the cleanup, have the group walk around again to see the results of their work.

Discussion: *after the process, discuss the following as a group:*

- How many bags of trash did we collect as a group?
- Who got the dirtiest during the Trash Grab?
- How did you feel while you picked up trash?
- After the cleanup, we reviewed the area to see the results of our work. What did you think when you saw the results?
- After doing the Trash Grab, do you have any new thoughts or ideas as to why creation restoration is important?

Food?

Consider finishing this session with a meal (after everyone washes their hands, of course!)

An Invitation to Creation Restoration

Group Preparation Handout

Scripture:

Have one person from the group who enjoys reading read the following Bible passages:

(NOTE: the first is an overview taken directly from Genesis 1:1-2:3 See your Bible if you would like the entire account. All selections are from the NIV.)



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw that the light was good...

And there was evening, and there was morning- the first day.

And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water."

And it was so. God called the expanse "sky."

And there was evening, and there was morning- the second day.

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear."

And it was so.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds."

And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening, and there was morning- the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth."

And it was so.

And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening, and there was morning- the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the sky."

God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

And there was evening, and there was morning- the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind."

And it was so.

And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."

And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

And there was evening, and there was morning- the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy...

In another creation account, we learn that “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Genesis 2:15) “Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.” (Genesis 2:19)

Psalm 36:5-7a:

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your justice like the great deep.

O Lord, you preserve both man and beast.

How priceless is your unfailing love!”

Psalm 19:1-2:

The Heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
Night after night they display knowledge.

Questions: *Discuss responses as a group.*

1. Describe the creation story (not re-tell, but describe!).
2. What does God think of his creation?
3. What is humanity’s role in creation?
4. From this passage, why do you think God created the world?
5. According to this passage, how should we respond to creation?

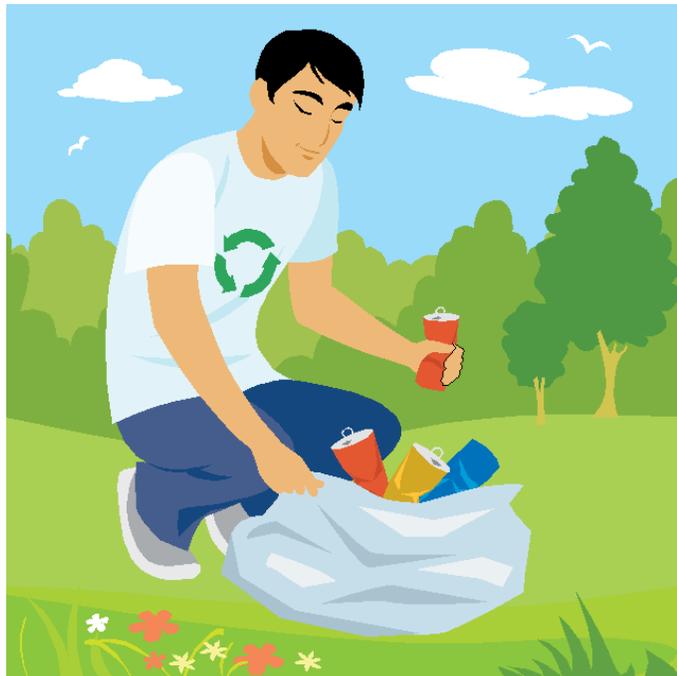
A Walk to Remember...

1. Break into groups of five (or four if numbers work better that way.)
2. With your group, head outside and take a five-minute walk. While walking, look for trash. Have someone count the pieces of trash, and try to see as many pieces as possible.
3. When you return, discuss the following with your small group:
 - How many pieces of trash did you see?
 - What kind of trash did you see the most of (bottles, cans, newspapers, etc...)?
 - What surprised you the most during your walk?
 - Did you ever notice this trash before today?
 - As humans created in God's image, why is it important that we notice trash around us?
 - Who do you think is responsible to clean up the trash you saw? Why?
4. Come back together as the whole group and briefly discuss the answers from the "Walk to Remember" discussions.

A Final Point: *"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (Gen. 1:31a)*

God created a very good world. God created us, humans, and gave us some special instructions. "Be fruitful and increase in number." "...fill the earth and subdue it..." God told Adam to care for the garden he lived in. God let Adam name the creatures. It seems that God wants humans to join in with the creation process. Being made in God's image, we are creative beings. Perhaps today we need to look at the "garden" around us. We need to recognize what the "garden" is like, wherever we are. Perhaps we need to join in with the creation process. Maybe we did not put the trash out there, but perhaps as creative creatures God invites us to take responsibility for what we see around us.

We, as a group, are preparing for a "Creation Restoration Trip." Maybe this will be one of the most creative trips we ever take. Maybe it will surprise us as we learn what it means to be God's creation. And maybe we will know with fresh minds what the Bible means when it tells us "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."





What to Expect on Your Creation Restoration Mission

- You will be sleeping 4-5 to a tent or you will be sleeping in tarp shelters.
- You will be in a small group rotating responsibilities (cooking, cleaning, leading worship, etc.)
- It probably will rain on you at some time, so come prepared. We will make the best of it!
- You will practice Creation Restoration in a variety of settings and doing a variety of activities.
- You may have to use an outhouse.
- You will face challenges physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally.
- Your group will have to work together as a team.
- You will know the members of your group very well by the end of the week.
- You will be out of touch with your world for a week (i.e. no TV, music, cell phones, etc.).
- You will probably do something you've never done before.
- God will push you outside of your comfort zone.
- You will see God's creation in a whole new way.



A Sample Daily Schedule

7:00 A.M.	Rise & Shine
7:15 A.M.	Breakfast
7:45 A.M.	Pack lunch if needed
8:15 A.M.	Seed Thought
9:00 A.M.	Creation Restoration or Wilderness Activity
12:00 P.M.	Lunch
1:00 P.M.	More Activity
4:30 P.M.	Possible free time
6:00 P.M.	Dinner
7:00 P.M.	Free time/Leaders meeting
8:00 P.M.	Processing of the day
9:00 P.M.	Worship
10:00 P.M.	Quiet hours begin

Possible Creation Restoration Activities

- Clean up a creek bed
- Break apart illegal campsites
- Trail Maintenance
- Work in a community garden
- Clean up a town/city park
- Work with a recycling campaign at a major public event
- Spend time with God
- Spend time enjoying creation
- Adventure in creation

Top Ten Things You will Give up While At Adventure Serve

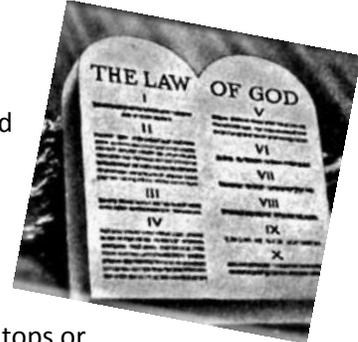
1. The comforts of home. Participants, leaders, and staff will be staying at a state park. You will be staying in tents that have few "creature comforts."
2. Your private shower & bathroom. The bathrooms and showers are also used by others, so please be very clean. Please be courteous of others and their needs.
3. Your nice soft bed. Everybody sleeps on the ground. It is good to bring a sleeping pad (therm-a-rest, ridge-rest, etc.) and a sleeping bag. These add a bit of comfort.
4. Your time. The schedule can be very busy. Free time is scheduled, but often it does not seem like enough!
5. Mom to fix your meals for you. Will we starve without Mom around? Your group will be split up into small groups, which will each be responsible for specific tasks. These tasks include: cooking, cleaning up, preparing and leading worship services, etc. Each small group will get an opportunity to cook. The food is tasty and we try to avoid less- healthy foods like "junk food" or "sodas." Ideally one adult will be in each group.
6. The indoors. It is impossible to guarantee what the weather will be like, but we will make the best of the weather we get. Be prepared for cool evening temperatures and for possible rain showers.
7. Boredom. At ADVENTURESERVE MINISTRIES we do exciting activities. We teach rock climbing, rappelling, cave exploration, and we also do white water rafting. These activities, and spending time with others in your group, will make this week long remembered!
8. Your comfort zone. We try to stretch groups and individuals to do things that are new and sometimes uncomfortable. This is when rapid growth occurs.
9. Being anonymous. We expect all group members to be active participants in the discussions and worships.
10. Pick the one worldly thing you think you can't live without. You can.



The Law of AdventureServe Ministries

Always:

- Stay within the defined camp boundaries. (Notify a leader if you need to leave)
- Wear shoes or sandals, even when swimming (unless in a pool) and rafting. Flip-flops are not enough. (Old sneakers work great)
- Be safe. (No horseplay, running near cliffs, etc.)
- Follow all specific safety procedures given by staff. (rock climbing, rappelling, caving, etc.)
- Follow all sanitary procedures for cooking and cleaning up meals.
- Wear clothing that is modest and will not offend anyone (i.e. crop tops or immodest clothing is not appropriate)
- Follow the instructions of the AdventureServe Ministries leader.



Never:

- Swim, unless there is a AdventureServe Ministries lifeguard on duty or have you have signed the Swimming Liability Release form and your Group Leader/adult leaders tell you it is ok to swim at this time with the group.
- Dive into any water (except a pool's deep end where diving is permitted).
- Use or possess alcohol or illegal drugs anywhere or anytime.
- Drive any AdventureServe Ministries vehicles.

Responsibilities & Requirements

Exhibit a Christ-Like Spirit

- Have a good attitude
- Be encouraging
- Enjoy other's achievements, not just your own

Keeping Yourself Safe

- Eating well
- Getting enough rest
- Being careful during high risk activities

Keeping Others Safe

- Don't be careless with equipment or tools
- Don't fool around with other's safety

Work

- Work hard with the tasks at hand
- Take initiative

Be a Team Player

- Looking out for others
- Serving each other
- Doing things as a group

Face the Challenges

- Push yourself
- Attempt even the tough activities

Creation Restoration Packing List

- ❑ T-shirts (immodest clothing or inappropriate graphics is not appropriate).
- ❑ Shorts (no short-shorts).
- ❑ Sweater/ jacket for cool evenings.
- ❑ Old, warm clothes for caving and old shoes (both may get ruined and very muddy). Bring these even if you are not planning to cave.
- ❑ Socks, underwear (enough for the entire week).
- ❑ Modest swimsuit (swimming may or may not be available).
- ❑ Footwear is required for swimming (unless in a pool). Flip-flops are not enough. Use sandals with a heel strap or old sneakers.
- ❑ At least 1 pair of tennis shoes or hiking boots (broken in).
- ❑ Raingear: poncho or jacket (plan for rain).
- ❑ Personal toiletries (toothbrush, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
- ❑ Flashlight or headlamp with 2 sets of batteries.
- ❑ Water bottle (at least 2 liters total).
- ❑ Bug spray & sunscreen.
- ❑ Sleeping bag & pillow, ground pad (air mattresses are not ideal - too big).
- ❑ Bible, notebook and pen (in a Ziploc bag).
- ❑ Large and small plastic bags for dirty clothes & protecting gear from rain (backpack cover).
- ❑ Any necessary medications (with a MD's note).
- ❑ Backpacks
 - Overnight Hikers: you will need a large framed backpack with a hip-belt. See your Group Leader if you don't have one. ASM has some available.
 - Day Hikers: Day Pack is needed; you could share with a friend.



DON'T BRING:

- Valuables (your gear will be stored in tents or vehicles).
- Laptops, tablets, cell phones, watches, etc. (as discussed with your group leader.)
- Your favorite clothing (They will get dirty, torn, and most likely ruined!)
- Alcohol/drugs, firearms, pocketknives with a blade over 3 inches long.

***Community gear is provided by AdventureServe like tents, cooking equipment, general camping gear, food, etc.**

***You may be packing and unpacking several times through the week, so don't bring lots of "stuff," and make sure you have a bag that is quick and easy to pack/unpack.**

Be Responsible!

* At AdventureServe, you will be responsible for keeping track of your own stuff. AdventureServe Ministries is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items.
* Any personal gear/equipment requiring special knowledge for use must be stored away from other participants.

The Good Samaritan

Group Preparation Handout

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Read Luke 10:25-37
3. Another look at the Good Samaritan: select at least 6 brave volunteers to fill the following roles:
 - Narrator
 - Traveler
 - Robber(s)
 - Priest
 - Levite
 - Samaritan
 - Innkeeper
4. With minimal preparation, have the narrator slowly read the parable of the Good Samaritan. As the story is read, have each role act out their part (robbers- acting will suffice. Be appropriate!). Those who are not part of this cast can watch and see how the story is played out.
5. Discussion: As a whole group, discuss the following:
 - What did the Samaritan do to show love to the traveler?
 - You heard the story read, and you saw it acted out (or acted it out yourself). In what way, if any, did seeing the story acted out help you better understand the love that the Samaritan showed to the traveler?
 - Why do you think the Samaritan cared for the traveler?
6. Break into groups of four. The Samaritan in the story had to first recognize that there was a need: the traveler needed help. In your group, discuss some needs you recognize around you every day. Make a list of these needs in the space below:

7. Continued Discussion: As a whole group, discuss the following
 - What are some of the needs the group identified?
 - How aware are you of the needs around you?
 - As you identified the needs around you, did anyone recognize creation restoration needs?
 - How does caring for creation show love to your “neighbors?”

8. Each person take about five minutes and answer the following:
 - Why did you sign up for this trip? Be honest.

 - Has your motivation changed at all since signing up? If so, how?

 - What do you hope to do on this trip?

 - What do you hope to learn on this trip?

 - How do you think this trip will influence your walk with Christ in the next year?

9. Come back together as a group. Provide time for people to share their answers to the above questions if they want.