

## **SAINT JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH WORKING BOYS' CENTER YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

December 10, 2014

Dear Youth Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in our mission trip to the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador. The trip involves a group of ten of our young people who volunteer to serve there. The WBC is run by Padre John Halligan, SJ, Madre Miguel Conway, BVM, and Madre Cindy Sullivan, BVM. They work to aid impoverished families in the Quito area and to help these families develop life-long skills that enable them to achieve economic independence. They also reach out to those same families to foster a deeper inner spirituality, as well as a greater understanding and love of the Catholic faith. As Christians, we are asked to develop a greater awareness of our responsibility to act for justice and to serve the needs of others. We are called to serve God in ways that stretch beyond ourselves and beyond our families through direct interaction with the poor and vulnerable. Though you will have opportunities to see wonderful places in Ecuador, this is not a sightseeing trip.

### **Eligibility and Application Process**

Please note that the children and families with whom we will be working do not speak English. Therefore, only high-school students who are native speakers of Spanish or who have some proficiency in Spanish will be considered. I have attached the Application, Acknowledgement Form and Code of Conduct. The Application must be completed and returned to me by Friday, January 16, 2015. The Acknowledgement Form must be signed and dated by the applicant and his or her parent(s), placed in a separate envelope, sealed, and also returned to me no later than Friday, January 16, 2015. The dates for our trip to Quito, Ecuador are Thursday, June 18, through Tuesday, June 30, 2015. One other chaperone and I will accompany the group. A meeting with the parents and the 2015 WBC Mission Trip group will be held on an evening to be determined after the selection process has been completed.

Please be sure to answer each question on all pages of the application and complete the essay to help us understand why you wish to be a part of this project, what inner gifts you will bring, and how you expect to be able to positively impact both those within our own group, as well as those with whom you will come in contact in Quito. Please note that the application may be read by other members of the St. John Vianney parish community during the selection process. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THE APPLICATION.

### **Discernment**

I ask that you carefully consider your time commitment to this service project. You will be required to participate in the parent meeting, and organizational and planning meetings. These events will take place on weekends, evenings or during breaks. The meetings are necessary not only for planning purposes, but also so that the members of our group have an opportunity to establish a trusting, working relationship with one another prior to leaving for Quito. Our goal is to be united so that we may be able to work together in our common mission to strengthen the spiritual and physical lives of the people we will encounter in Ecuador. Please also take into

account any commitments you may have such as sports, confirmation activities, theatrical commitments, part-time jobs, family vacations, etc. **You will be asked to make some sacrifices when conflicts occur.**

Your commitment to the WBC Mission Trip is a serious one, and just as we take the commitment seriously, so should you. In order to participate, the students selected must be well suited to represent the St. John Vianney community. It has been our experience that applications to participate greatly exceed the space available. If you are not selected, it will be natural to be disappointed, but I urge you not to take it personally.

### **Cost**

The cost of the trip per student is \$2,500.00. This fee includes round trip airfare from Milwaukee to Quito, Ecuador; meals and lodging at the Working Boys Center residence, all ground transportation, admission to all museums and parks, tips, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Payment may be made in full upon notification of acceptance into the program or it may be made in four equal installments of \$625.00 on the first of March, the first of April, the first of May, and the first of June. After the March installment, 50% will be refundable until the April payment is due. After the April due date, 25% of the payments received will be refundable until the May payment is due. After the May due date, 10% of the payments received will be refundable until the June payment is due. After the June due date, none of the fees are refundable.

Members of the group may solicit individual and corporate financial assistance to help subsidize the cost of attending this mission. However, funds received will not be refundable if not used in their entirety for this particular trip. Any assistance you receive from individuals or corporations is a gift to you, not a donation to St. John Vianney parish. These gifts are NOT tax deductible to the giver. If you have questions on the solicitation and use of third-party financial assistance, please feel free to contact me.

### **Gospel Response**

The Working Boys' Center mission trip is, I believe, an incredibly powerful way for our young people to develop as believers, leaders, communicators, and critical thinkers. Our students are asked to respond to the Gospel mandate of the Preferential Option for the Poor through personal interaction with the poor and vulnerable, and I cannot think of a better way for our students to grow spiritually than by serving the needs of others. We will be going to Quito together to give of our time and talents in an effort to both unite and aid God's people.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*John B. Thompson*

John B. Thompson  
Director of Youth Ministry

(262) 796-3944, extension 1119, or [johnb@stjohnv.org](mailto:johnb@stjohnv.org)

**SAINT JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**WORKING BOYS' CENTER MISSION TRIP APPLICATION**

**DUE DATE:** January 16, 2015

**DELIVER TO:** John B. Thompson  
St. John Vianney Christian Formation Office  
1755 North Calhoun Road  
Brookfield, WI 53005-5036

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THIS APPLICATION.**

**WORKING BOYS' CENTER MISSION TRIP APPLICATION**

Have you ever traveled outside of the United States? If so, where, for how long, and with whom?

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Have you ever lived away from home? If so, where, and for how long?

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Do you have a valid United States of America passport, and if so, when will it expire?

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Please describe any previous service work with which you have been involved. Please give the name of the organization, the approximate dates, and hours served. Use the back of this page, if necessary.

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See back of this page? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

## WORKING BOYS' CENTER MISSION TRIP APPLICATION

List any extracurricular activities in which you are involved and include the extent of your involvement.

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To what parish do you belong?

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Please describe anything out of the ordinary regarding your medical history (asthma, allergies to medications or to plants/insects, heart problems, difficulty walking, etc.). Is there anything that would be important for us to know before you engage in international travel? Please note that Quito, Ecuador is over 9,000 feet above sea level and a great deal of walking is necessary.

Allergies to Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently studying Spanish in school? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you speak some Spanish? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If you speak some Spanish, please describe in detail your level of fluency.

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Please write by hand a brief essay as to why you wish to be a part of this project, what inner gifts you believe you will be able to bring to the whole experience, and why you are interested in working with young children and adults.

How do you expect to be able to positively influence the other members of our group, as well as the Ecuadorians with whom you will come in contact in Quito?

How might this experience help bring you closer to God and help you to grow in your faith?

**Please use the next page for your essay.**



## WORKING BOYS' CENTER MISSION TRIP APPLICATION

### CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct governs all participants who are associated with the St. John Vianney Catholic Church Working Boys' Center Mission Trip.

1. Students are expected to obey all rules and directions set out by their chaperones and the staff at the Working Boys' Center at all times.
2. Although local laws and customs may permit it, no student may purchase or consume alcoholic beverages or use tobacco while on this trip.
3. The use, possession, or purchase of any illegal drug is forbidden at all times.
4. The Working Boys' Center houses both male and female volunteers. Any contact with volunteers, employees, or members of the Center is to take place only in designated common areas of the Center (living room, dining room, library, kitchen, foyer, or courtyard). All other locations, including SJV or non-SJV dorm rooms, are off limits.
5. While outside of the United States, students will not drink any water or use any ice under any circumstances unless it is purified or provided by the chaperones.
6. Students will not eat any food provided by local street vendors or any other foods not sanctioned by the chaperones.
7. All curfews will be determined by the chaperones and will be strictly obeyed.
8. Students may not leave the Center without the permission of the chaperones, and are never to be outside of the Center alone.
9. **The chaperones reserve the right to send any participant home at the student's parents' additional personal expense if the student at any time violates any portion of the above Rules and Policies. In addition, it will be necessary for a parent to come to Quito, Ecuador to escort the student home at the student's parents' additional personal expense.**

I acknowledge that my responses on this application are true and complete. I fully understand the financial obligation and information regarding third party contributions. In addition, I have read, understand, and if selected, agree to abide by the mission trip's Code of Conduct.

Dated this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_. Applicant's cell phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THIS APPLICATION.**

**WORKING BOYS' CENTER MISSION TRIP**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This form is to be signed and returned to John B. Thompson, the Director of Youth Ministry, in a **separate sealed envelope**.

(I or we) approve of (my or our) son's or daughter's application to participate in the 2015 St. John Vianney Catholic Church Working Boys' Center Mission Trip, and have read and understand the information provided governing payment schedules and third-party contributions, and agree to abide by the mission's financial obligations and Code of Conduct.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

Student Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

Print Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_