



Good Goers Mission Based Adventure Travels MISSION TRIP TO LAKE, MISSISSIPPI

Welcome to Mississippi! It is a privilege that you have scheduled a Good Goers trip and are taking time from your schedule to serve the needs of orphans and widows as mandated in James 1:27. It is not by chance that you are on this trip; God has a purpose for you. Our desire is that you enjoy this time, exposing you to the missions, the culture, and His Word.

Facts about Mississippi

Mississippi was the 20th state in the USA; it became a state on December 10, 1817 .



State Abbreviation - MS

State Capital - Jackson

Largest City - Jackson

Area - 48,434 square miles [Mississippi is the 32nd biggest state in the USA]

Population - 2,844,658 (as of 2000) [Mississippi is the 31st most populous state in the USA]

Name for Residents - Mississippians

Major Industries - farming (cotton, corn, soybeans, rice), oil, textiles, electronic equipment, transportation equipment, fishing

Major Rivers - Mississippi River, Big Black River, Pearl River, Yazoo River

Major Lakes - Ross Barnett Reservoir, Arkabutla Lake, Sardis Lake, Grenada Lake

Highest Point - Woodall Mountain - 806 feet (245 m) above sea level

Number of Counties - 82

Bordering States - Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee

Bordering Body of Water - Gulf of Mexico

Origin of the Name Mississippi - Mississippi is perhaps from the Ojibwa (Chippewa) Indian words "mici zibi," which means "great river" or "gathering of waters"

State Nickname - Magnolia State

State Motto - "Virtute et armis" - By valor and arms

State Song - Go Mis-sis-sip-pi

HISTORY OF SUNBELT

It's been said that the single, most important element that a human being needs emotionally, is to know that someone understands and accepts them for who they are. Unconditional love! Just knowing that someone cares is so important, even to adults. Every year, thousands of AT-RISK boys and girls are placed in the care of someone other than their own biological families. Sunbelt Christian Youth Ranch was conceived in Christian love and dedicated to the proposition that every child has a right to be raised in a Christian home with Christian parents. At Sunbelt, they are loved, protected and guided in paths that will allow them to become well adjusted and productive adults.

Located on 191 acres of timber and grazing land, Sunbelt is a rescue ranch for at-risk children and youth, providing residential care in a Christian environment. Sunbelt Christian Youth Ranch was founded in 1989 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a consistent, stable, God honoring environment to help children overcome the problems in their lives. The most important means to this end is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with each child, that they might have the opportunity to enter into a relationship with Him. The staff at Sunbelt is there to mend the children's past by helping them see God's love and presence even through their difficult circumstances. They mind their presence through the structure, discipline, and routine of daily life. Sunbelt assists to mold the kid's future by instilling hope in the great plans God has for each one of them.



THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

Every child at Sunbelt becomes part of a ranch family consisting of house parents who serve as role models and 10 children who interact as brothers and sisters. Each home has a committed, married, Christian couple that serves as Mom and Dad to the children in that



home. Sunbelt is a working ranch. Each house raises and cares for its own livestock and grows its own produce. Mississippi enjoys a climate that is favorable to almost year round gardening. Planting a seed, tending the plant and watching it grow,

and finally harvesting the fruit is a powerful lesson in patience and delayed gratification. These are lessons that are used throughout scripture to illustrate what God is trying to do in each of our lives. The children learn about responsibility and a strong work ethic through these activities.

Sunbelt accepts children considered to be "at-risk", regardless of social, religious or ethnic background. Typically the youth are referred to Sunbelt by churches or someone close to the family that is concerned and looking to get help for the child. Ultimately, in the majority of the cases, the natural parents make a direct placement of their child.

Children placed with Sunbelt are done so under a provisional custody agreement, where natural parents extend guardianship to Sunbelt without relinquishing any of their parental rights. If a parent decides that they wish to withdraw their child, they are free to do so. Typically, Sunbelt is providing long term care, although the goal is always to reunite the child with their parents when the issues that prompted them to become a resident at Sunbelt are no longer a factor.

SUNBELT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Sunbelt believes that spiritual maturity and character development should take place alongside academic learning. Each morning begins with a group devotional time. After their devotional, each student has an office pace where they work individually on a course of study that has been tailored to that child. Sunbelt utilizes the Accelerated Christian Educational curriculum to achieve this.



Every new student is given a diagnostic testing when they first enter Sunbelt's school in order to determine their level in the curriculum. This plan allows them to receive extra support in those areas that they are behind. Most of the

children who come to Sunbelt have struggled in school, and are behind in their academic achievements, not from lack of intelligence, but because of lifestyle and behavioral issues. Sunbelt Christian School offers them the structure, guidance, and support they need to achieve their academic potential.

The school is registered with the State of Mississippi as a private church school. Officially, Sunbelt is a non-accredited school because they have decided not to accept state funding, nor "jump through all the hoops" that state accreditation requires. With an emphasis on Christian Academics they believe that the children are afforded a better alternative at Sunbelt Christian School.

Specifics about your trip to Lake, Mississippi

ACCOMMODATIONS

You will stay in bunkrooms, one for the gals and one for the guys that both have shower facilities. Please bring twin sheets, pillows, light blanket and towels. Feel free to donate these to the ranch.

CLOTHING

Modest shorts for women or Capri pants are fine. T-shirts may be worn but not any type of "spaghetti strap" or thin tank top. For men, no cut off shorts or shirts.



LAUNDRY

Laundry facility available for emergencies only.

MEALS

We will eat breakfast and dinner in the children's homes. Lunches will be brown bag.

LUGGAGE AND PACKING

Airlines are constantly changing and updating their policies concerning luggage. Many now have restrictions on weight and may also impose fees for checked bags. Please check with your airline company for up to date information concerning luggage and fees.

DONATIONS

TOILETRIES

Hair conditioner
Shampoo
Soap and body wash
Toothpaste and toothbrushes
Floss
Mouthwash
Deodorant
Feminine thin maxi pads
Toilet tissue
Girl combs

OTHER

AA batteries
Christian CD's
Bath towels
Girls/guys t-shirts
15 x 24 x 12 plastic storage container
Rolling clothes rack
Fishing poles
Microwave
Food processor
Setting of 16 Dinnerware (bowls, plates, dessert plates, mugs)
Book shelves
Quilt/Pillow batting
Horse halters

MEDICAL

Antibiotic Ointments
Advil or Tylenol
Allergy medicine
Large band-aids 3x2
Anti-itch creams

SCHOOL

Pens
Mechanical pencils
Notebook paper
Spiral notebooks
Printer paper
College lined paper

HOUSEHOLD

Cleaning supplies
Dish soap
Liquid laundry soap
Freezer bags- qt, gal
Canning lids & rings
Garbage bags
Bleach

FOOD

Creamed soups
Canned fruits
Small snacks
Bottled water

A complete list of updated needs will be included in your conference call notes.

ITEMS TO BRING

- Bible
- Journal / pen / pencil
- Take old work clothes. Buying items to wear from Goodwill is a good idea – saves your good clothes. You can leave them behind if you wish.
- Casual clothing which is respectful of the ministry and kids: Shirts that cover the shoulders; shorts that are knee length or longer; and NO tank tops or short shorts.
- Rain jacket/poncho/sweatshirt (for rainy or cooler weather in the evenings)
- Work gloves
- Work boots or sturdy shoes for outdoor work.
- Travel medicine (Ibuprofen, Pepto Bismol tablets, Imodium AD, etc.)
- Backpack
- Camera, film, batteries
- Hand sanitizer (small travel size)
- Hat / Bandana
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen/ Bug spray
- Ear plugs in case your roommates snore
- Flash Light
- Snack items for yourself (granola bars, crackers and cheese, etc.)
- Towels
- Alarm clock (battery powered)
- Personal hygiene products
- Spending money
- Dirty clothes bag
- Sheets, pillows, light blanket
- Towels, wash cloth

GENERAL INFO AND GUIDELINES

- Be prepared to be very flexible. Plans will change daily!!
- Be on time every time. Each night we will discuss the next day's schedule.
- Stay together at all times. Never leave the group without first talking to your group leader.
- For your own protection, never be alone with a child.
- Please do not ask a child about their past or why they are there.
- Any interactive game or craft you want to bring is a bonus.
- Be prepared to share your testimony at any time.
- Look for God to do something amazing in your life on this trip!!

We Lead It We Plan It You Live It