

CedarCreek Outreach Mission Trips Vision Doc – 2022-2023

Bottom Line:

When we invite people to participate in mission trips, traveling beyond the local communities where we have CedarCreek locations to openhandedly serve, we provide them with opportunities to make a difference “to the ends of the earth,” and to be impacted in powerful ways in the process.

We have had a strong relationship with GCLA for years, and we look forward to reintroducing our guests to our partnership with them.

Goals:

- To launch 3-6 international mission trips by summer of 2023. (Each campus can lead their own trip or partner with another campus to lead a trip.)
- To bolster the relationship between CedarCreek and GCLA by introducing fresh people firsthand to the life-changing work that is happening in Central America, and by bringing back stories to share with CedarCreek guests (thanking them for their “investment” and inspiring them to participate in the future).
- To build on the foundation of the child sponsorship experience from 2019 to develop an annual initiative (relaunched in November 2023) in Central American cities where we also send mission teams.

Execution Details:

- CedarCreek Outreach Central Support will work with the GCLA Missions Lead to roll out the mission trip process.
- We have three potential GCLA locations where we have been on trips before and will be the easiest to launch again. Each of these locations have a CDI (after school program for children – the launchpad for child sponsorships) associated with them:
 - La Ceiba, Honduras
 - Choluteca, Honduras
 - San Salvador, El SalvadorTraveling to locations with CDIs opens the door for us to take people to meet the children they are sponsoring.
- Mission trips are supported like Groups – a trip leader launches a group that spends a semester preparing for the trip and raising support. Then they make the trip together. We would like to see groups meet in Fall 2022 for Spring 2023 trips, and groups meet in Spring 2023 for Summer 2023 trips.

FAQs:

- Bill Trout and Karen McMillan have been intimately connected with GCLA. What are their roles? We are so grateful for the ways Bill has continued to invest in GCLA and maintain the partner relationship with them. He will continue to determine his connection with GCLA, and he will serve as a coach for CedarCreek as we begin planning mission trips via the Central GCLA Team, rather than via individual locations.
- Karen has a huge heart for missions. We will consult with her through the planning phases, and we just might see her leading one of the trips!

-Who is responsible for ensuring we have 3-6 mission teams?

Refer to the Outreach RACI in [CedarCreek Outreach Vision Doc.docx](#) for strategy and execution.

In a nutshell, Central Outreach will work with GCLA and the CedarCreek CPs to determine how many trips we will have this ministry season, who will lead each, where we will go, and what projects we will

tackle. We already have one trip scheduled, and at least 3 individuals interested in leading trips. We plan to have these details clarified by the end of August.

-What types of things will mission teams do on these trips?

The work will depend on the location. Project could focus on things such as building a home, teaching children, running a medical clinic, evangelism, etc.

-Where do mission teams stay?

It depends on the location. They will likely stay in hotels or with host families.

-How are mission trips funded?

We encourage people to raise support for mission trips. This provides them with an opportunity to gain experience in talking about their faith journey, and it allows them to invite others to actively make a difference through their giving. A typical mission trip to Central America costs about \$2,000. [At this point, we do not offer financial resources to help people afford mission trips.](#)

-Will we ever send mission teams to someplace not associated with GCLA?

Our primary focus is reintroducing our church to our partnership with GCLA. In the future, we are open to other partnerships with mission organizations that are directly connected with local churches.

-Who will train people to lead mission trips?

We plan to tap into the expertise of people like Karen McMillan to launch these types of groups. [We are currently refining the Group curriculum that can be used to help equip teams.](#)

-Will we ever have family mission trips?

We'd love to offer these in the future. [We are currently exploring the option.](#)