

VOX CHURCH SUMMER MISSION TRIP

**Partnering with Experience Mission
Branford and New Haven, Connecticut
Sunday, July 10, 2022 – Friday, July 15, 2022**

Project Ministry Overview

Vox Church will be partnering with the missions' agency Experience Mission as we engage the people and needs of our community right here in our own backyard!

Over the course of the week, we will participate in the following ministries:

- **Kids Club:** a VBS style program targeting families not currently connected to a church
- **Mercy Ministries:** serving at food pantries, resource centers, meal services, and housing organizations
- **Physical Labor:** projects at organizations with the potential to serve with residents of the area

This week will be lived out most effectively by prioritizing authentic relationship building over anything else we could hope to accomplish.

Trip Cost

\$435 covers all expenses related to housing, meals, and mission work.

Vaccination

Vaccination is not required to serve on this mission trip. If you are not vaccinated, and a specific partner organization requires vaccination, accommodations will be made, and you will serve at another organization. We do not foresee this being a challenge.

Trip Requirements

Participant Requirements:

- ✓ Have a servant's heart
- ✓ Physical ability to endure long days in the heat and potentially less than comfortable living conditions
- ✓ Students between 12 and 18 must participate with a parent or chaperone

Participant Preferred Qualities:

- ✓ Be willing to cultivate a heart for prayer
- ✓ Eager to expand the vision for what God is doing in New England
- ✓ Have a developing desire to read God's Word

Arrival Day and Week Schedule

Arrive on Sunday between 3–5 pm to settle into our Vox Branford building. Sunday will consist of settling in, orientation to the week (building, becoming acquainted with New Haven and Branford areas), and team time.

Day 1: Sunday

3–6 pm Arrive at Vox Branford to set up sleeping arrangements

6 pm Dinner

7 pm Orientation

8:30 pm Team time

Day 2–5: Monday–Thursday

7:15 am Breakfast

7:45 am Devotions and quiet time

8:15 am Group prayer

8:30 am Teams leave for sites

Noon Lunch

3:30 pm Finish work for the day

6 pm Dinner

7 pm Evening gathering and team time

Day 6: Friday

7 am Breakfast

7:30 am Clean-up and packing

9 am Pictures and good-byes

Activity Changes or Cancellation

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to participate after already fully paying for the cost of the trip, please let us know, and your payment will be credited to a future Experience Mission trip.

Food and Accommodation

Food: Team members will be served three meals a day. Teams will eat breakfast in the morning, pack a bagged lunch to be eaten during the serving day, and will return to the Vox Branford building for dinner. The Experience Mission Summer Staff will prepare breakfast and dinner. The bagged lunch will be packed by the team member in the morning during the breakfast hour. Those with food allergies must submit a list detailing their dietary restrictions as soon as possible after registering.

Accommodation: Our mission teams will be staying in the newly constructed Vox Branford building. All women will stay in one room and men in another. You will need to pack an air mattress and a sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket for your sleeping arrangement. We will eat in the café area of the new building, host our evening gathering and reflection time in the sanctuary and shower at a local gym who is excited to partner.

Dress Code

Men's Attire: Modest shorts, pants, jeans, and t-shirts. You may want to bring old clothes for potential manual labor. Please note that your clothing and shoes should be sensible. You do not need collared shirts for everyday wear, but your shirts must have sleeves—no tank tops, please.

Women's Attire: Modest shorts, capris, pants, jeans, and t-shirts. You may want to bring old clothing for potential manual labor. Please note that your clothing and shoes should be modest and sensible. No spaghetti straps or tank tops, please. Shorts should be modest in length—no shorter than mid-thigh.

What to Bring

Packing List

- 4 sets of work clothes. *Please remain sensitive to others by dressing conservatively. See the above details for further clarification.*
- Clothes to wear after work (long shorts are OK)
- 1 pair of closed-toed shoes
- 1 light raincoat or poncho
- Hat or bandanna for the worksite (optional)
- Personal items
- Pajamas
- Flip flops for the shower
- Towels and washcloths
- A sheet and light bedding or sleeping bag
- Blow-up mattress (floors will be hard)
- A pillow (optional, but it sure feels good at night!)
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, etc.)
- Insect repellent
- Advil, Tylenol, or other personal medications (Please inform your Team Leader of any prescription medications you will be bringing)
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 and above is recommended)
- Lip balm with sunscreen (SPF 15 and above is recommended)
- Bible, notebook, and pens
- Water bottle for the work site
- Anti-bacterial gel or wipes for cleaning hands
- Flashlight
- Work gloves
- Day pack to carry personal items to the worksite

Additional Items

- Camera (Please be sensitive when taking pictures of local families and homes. Please ask permission first and wait a couple of days into the relationship.)

- Athletic equipment for playing with kids in the community or for free time (soccer balls, frisbees, basketballs, jump ropes, hacky sack, bubbles)
- Spending money

*Do not bring unnecessary valuables

New Haven and Branford Introduction

New Haven

New Haven is the second-largest city in Connecticut and the sixth-largest city in New England. It is well known for its delicious pizza, well-rated and diverse cuisines, esteemed hospitals, and universities. New Haven is lively, with access to the shoreline, many parks, music venues, restaurants, and college campuses.

Mayor Justin Elicker's four major initiatives upon his reelection are to invest in climate change, invest in our youth, encourage vocational training for job acquisition, and expand substance abuse and mental health support for vulnerable populations. In addition to the Mayor's hope for change, our church has been contending in prayer for the following areas: violence and fear, generational poverty, addiction, academia idolatry, mental illness, and freedom from a spirit of self-reliance.

The five largest ethnic groups in New Haven are Black or African American at 31.2% (non-Hispanic), White 29.5% (Non-Hispanic), White (Hispanic) 14.9%, Other (Hispanic) 12.9%, and Asian (Non-Hispanic) 4.94%. In 2019, 25% of residents lived in poverty, while the CT state level was 10%. In addition, this past summer, New Haven grieved 25 homicides, the highest rate of gun violence in years. The New Haven Botanical Garden of Healing has been built to remember victims of gun violence, and organizations have since formed to fight for change. Though New Haven faces very real challenges, the city is buzzing with hope.

All the assets, challenges, and opportunities in New Haven should make us wonder: “How is the church called to be the light of the world here?” We pray that this week would be part of engaging our church to pray and serve in the place we are planted in.

Branford

Branford is a neighboring town to New Haven known for its beautiful shoreline and Thimble Islands (the largest in CT). Its cost of living is 14.5% higher than the U.S average, and only 5.9% of people live in poverty. The town’s largest ethnic group is White which makes up 90% of residents. Though it borders New Haven, much of the demographics are drastically different.

We believe there is a unique opportunity and connection between Branford and New Haven for God to build bridges, share resources, and break off strongholds as the body of Christ forms relationships and is present in the two.

Fundraising

For fundraising support and a sample letter, navigate to the event page on the website Vox Summer Missions Trip to download the pdf.

Next Steps

- Visit www.voxchurch.org/events scroll to the month of July to find Vox Summer Mission Trip for more information
- Sign up for the [Summer Mission Trip Informational Zoom Call](#) on May 25th at 7pm
- Email missions@voxchurch.org with any questions you have
- Apply at www.voxchurch.org/events