



ACYOA Mission Trip

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

FACT SHEET

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. John 15:16

WHAT IS THE ACYOA MISSION TRIP?: This is a weekend-long, faith-based service trip for young adults to provide outreach to a mission parish of the Eastern Diocese and its community at large. Programs similar to this have been done in the past, but have been dormant in recent years. The ACYOA Central Council is excited to revive this initiative by partnering with Habitat for Humanity as they build a home near the St. Nerses Shnorhali Armenian Church in Jacksonville, FL.

WHO CAN SIGN UP?: This trip is open to all young adults ages 18 to 30 from parishes across the Eastern Diocese who are physically capable of participating on a Habitat for Humanity worksite and are interested in providing service and outreach to the local parish community. This trip will be limited to 18 participants, plus a clergyman leader and two assistant trip leaders. All applications will be thoughtfully reviewed, and acceptance will be determined based on an applicant's essay questions and ability to fully contribute to the mission and purpose of the trip. Priority will be given to first-time participants.

WHAT'S COVERED & WHAT'S NOT?: This program costs approximately \$15,000. The cost of the program is being underwritten by the ACYOA Central Council, using grant monies received by the Dadourian Foundation. All participants will be provided lodging (2-3 people to a room), ground transportation by van, and three meals a day. In addition, the participant fees and donation of \$3,000 for Habitat for Humanity will be paid for by the ACYOA Central Council. Please bring spending money to cover any incidentals you may have while traveling.

TRAVEL INFORMATION: Participants will need to coordinate and pay for their own transportation to/from the Jacksonville International Airport (JAX). Participants should arrive as early as 6:00 PM, but no later than 9:00 PM on Thursday, February 26, and depart no earlier than 5:00 PM on Sunday, March 1. Please consult with the DYYAM before booking flights outside these recommendations. All participants will be expected to complete an online travel survey by January 31 with their arrival and departure information, so that airport pick-ups and drop-offs can be coordinated and communicated in advance. Please wait to make travel arrangements until you have received an acceptance and confirmation email.

WHAT TO PACK: Clothing: For the Worksite: work clothes such as jeans, long-sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, etc, work gloves, work boots, coat, hat, scarf, etc. Check the weather and dress in layers as the morning may be chilly and the afternoon warm. No t-shirts, shorts, or open-toed shoes will be allowed on the worksite. For the evenings: On Friday night, we will be visiting parishioners' homes, and on

Saturday night, we will be spending time at the parish. Please wear nicer clothes for both of these evenings, such as “business casual” or “snappy casual” (e.g. nice pants with a dressy shirt or sweater). Please do not wear blue jeans, t-shirts, or sweatshirts for the evening gatherings. For Sunday morning: proper attire for church. Additional: pajamas, shoes, socks, underwear, etc. **Toiletries:** soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, tissues, feminine hygiene products, band-aids, baby wipes, medications, hand sanitizer, etc. **Miscellaneous:** Bible, notebook and pen (to keep a daily journal), sunglasses, camera, reusable water bottle and/or coffee mug, etc.

MEDICAL: Please consult with your physician to ensure that you are physically capable of participating in the Habitat for Humanity worksite, which will include manual labor. We encourage you to make sure you are up-to-date on all immunizations, including your tetanus shot (or booster). Please consider getting one if you have not had one in the last ten years. If you are taking medication, be sure to bring an adequate supply. You should also bring any over-the-counter medication that you may need (cold pills, anti-diarrhea medicine, aspirin, decongestants, etc.). If you wear glasses or contact lenses and cannot see without them, we suggest you bring a spare pair just in case. Should you have any medical concerns during your trip, please inform the leader immediately, and he will consult with the closest medical facility to get you the care you need.

IN AND AROUND JAX: Participants will be flying in/out of JAX Airport. You will be picked up by mini-vans and driven to their hotel, which is about 30 minutes from the airport. We will be staying at the Hampton Inn Jacksonville South/I-95 at JTB. On Friday and Saturday mornings, we will drive by van about 45 minutes southeast to the HFH worksite in St. Augustine, FL. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, we will serve at the St. Nerses Shnorhali Armenian Church, which is 15 minutes from the hotel.

VISITING FAMILY & FRIENDS IN JACKSONVILLE: Our schedule will be jam-packed and will not provide free time away from the group. Therefore, we ask that you do not make plans with local family and friends during this trip. You are welcome to arrive early or stay longer if you desire. In addition, no guests are permitted to visit your room or stay overnight with you at the hotel.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION: Your family may contact Jennifer Morris at 248-648-0702 or at jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org if they have any questions or concerns while you are traveling. The trip leader will be Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, a retired clergyman of the Eastern Diocese. He can be reached at 262-497-7018, or by email at kelegian@att.net.

ACYOA SENIORS MISSION TRIP - SCHEDULE DRAFT as of 12/01/25

Note: This will be updated as we get closer to the mission trip.

Thursday:

6:30 - 9:00 PM	JAX Airport Pick-ups
7:30 - 10:00 PM	Check-in at the Hampton Inn Hotel in Jacksonville, FL
10:30 - 11:00 PM	Hang out in the Lobby to get to meet everyone

Friday:

6:00 - 6:30 AM	Breakfast at the Hotel
6:30 - 7:00 AM	Morning Meditation at the Hotel
7:00 - 7:45 AM	Drive to Worksite in St. Augustine, FL
7:45 AM - 3:00 PM	Habitat for Humanity Worksite (lunch will be provided)
3:00 - 3:45 PM	Drive to Hotel
3:45 - 5:45 PM	Rest and Shower
5:45 PM	Drive to Parish
6:00 - 6:30 PM	Set-Up for Vespers and Dinner
6:30 - 9:30 PM	Vespers, Dinner, and Game Night Fellowship with the Parish Community
9:30 - 10:00 PM	Return to Hotel
10:00 - 10:30 PM	Evening Reflection

Saturday:

6:00 - 6:30 AM	Breakfast at the Hotel
6:30 - 7:00 AM	Morning Meditation at the Hotel
7:00 - 7:45 AM	Drive to Worksite in St. Augustine, FL
7:45 AM - 3:00 PM	Habitat for Humanity Worksite (lunch will be provided)
3:00 - 3:45 PM	Drive to Hotel
3:45 - 5:30 PM	Rest and Shower
5:30 - 6:15 PM	Group Dinner at Hotel
6:15 - 7:00 PM	Drive to Home Visits
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Home Visits to the Parishioners' Homes
8:30 - 9:30 PM	Drive to Hotel
9:30 - 10:15 PM	Evening Reflection

Sunday:

9:00 - 10:30 AM	Breakfast at the Hotel (included but not necessary, if fasting)
10:30 AM	Drive to Parish
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Divine Liturgy
12:30 - 2:30 PM	Fellowship with the Parish Community
2:30 PM	Drive to JAX for Drop-offs - Flights Departing 5:00 PM or later

Thank you for being an important part of this year's ACYOA Mission Trip!