2027 ACYOA Seniors ASP
Armenia Service Program
June 28 - July 17
TRAVEL FACT SHEET

The ACYOA Seniors Armenia Service Program (ASP) is an opportunity to serve, explore your Armenian heritage, deepen your faith, and build lasting friendships. This fact sheet will help you prepare for your journey to Armenia. Please read it carefully and keep it handy as you make your travel arrangements.

1. Program Cost & Payment Schedule

The actual cost of the program is approximately **$2,975 per participant**. Thanks to the generosity of the Dadourian Foundation, ACYOA subsidies, and fundraising efforts, the **first 20 participants to register will receive a discounted program fee of $2,200**.

Your program fee helps cover lodging, ground transportation, most meals, sightseeing entrance fees, and donations supporting our service projects and accommodations.

Payment deadlines

Payment	Amount	Due date
First payment (deposit)	$650	March 1, 2027
Second payment	$650	April 1, 2027
Final payment	$900	May 1, 2027
Total	**$2,200**	

Payment methods

- **Check:** Make checks payable to ACYOA Central Council.
- **Zelle:** Send payments to **acyoacc@gmail.com**.

If you need an alternative payment arrangement, please contact Jennifer Morris before the payment deadline.

Cancellation policy

- **Before April 1:** You may cancel without penalty.
- **April 1–April 30:** 30% of the total program fee is nonrefundable.
- **On or after May 1:** The total program fee is nonrefundable.

Please contact Jennifer Morris as soon as possible if your plans change.

2. What's Included in Your Program Fee?

Your program fee covers:

- Lodging throughout the program, including hotels such as the Best Western Congress Hotel, a four-star hotel in downtown Yerevan.
- Ground transportation and transfers within Armenia.
- Most meals throughout the program.
- Lodging and meals during our service days at Camp Aragrats.
- Donations to the Fuller Center for Housing in support of our build days.
- Lunch during our service project days.
- Entrance fees to scheduled sightseeing destinations.
- English- and Armenian-speaking tour guides.

3. What's Not Included?

Your program fee does **not** include:

- International airfare to and from Armenia.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Personal shopping and souvenirs.
- Optional nightlife and entertainment, including nightclubs, late-night cafés, concerts, and theater performances.

Please bring additional spending money to cover these expenses.

4. Airfare & Travel Arrangements

To provide participants with greater flexibility and help keep costs down, participants will purchase their own round-trip airfare between their home airport and Yerevan, Armenia.

This approach allows you to:

- Fly from your preferred local airport without needing to travel to JFK in New York.
- Choose your preferred airline and seating.
- Earn or redeem airline miles.
- Coordinate travel with other participants from your area.
- Extend your stay in Armenia before or after the program, if desired and approved.

When should I book my flight?

Participants should plan to depart the United States on **June 28, 2027, or earlier**, and arrive in Yerevan by **June 29, 2027**. The program ends July 17, 2027; return flights may be scheduled for July 17 or later.

IMPORTANT: Do not book your flight until you have consulted with Jennifer Morris and received approval of your itinerary from the Diocesan staff.

Jennifer can help you coordinate your travel plans with other participants so that, whenever possible, you can travel together. Once your itinerary is approved and your flight is booked, you will be asked to forward your complete flight itinerary to Jennifer. These itineraries will be shared with Fr. Hakob and the travel agency to coordinate airport transportation.

Recommended airlines

Based on their routes, flight schedules, and connections in the United States, you may wish to consider:

- Austrian Airlines
- Air France
- Lufthansa
- Qatar Airways

These are suggestions, not requirements. Please consult with Jennifer before purchasing your ticket.

Flight assistance: Shake' Derderian of SIMA Tours is also available to assist with flight arrangements.

- Email: simatours@gmail.com
- Phone: 610-359-7521

5. Money in Armenia: Dollars & Drams

Armenia's currency is the **Armenian dram (AMD)**.

As of October 2026, the approximate exchange rate is **$1 USD = 360 AMD**. Exchange rates fluctuate, so check the current rate before traveling.

Your trip leader will help you exchange U.S. dollars for Armenian drams as needed.

Helpful money tips

- Do not bring traveler's checks; they are difficult to use in Armenia.
- ATMs are widely available in Yerevan and other areas. You can generally withdraw local currency using a debit card, although your bank may charge international transaction or withdrawal fees.
- Notify your bank before traveling and check whether your cards will work internationally.
- A typical restaurant meal may cost approximately 6,000 AMD, or about $15, depending on the restaurant and exchange rate.
- Past participants have brought approximately **500-1,000 in spending money** for the three-week program. Your needs will depend on shopping, personal outings, and spending habits.

You do not need to carry all your spending money in cash. Consider bringing a combination of cash and a debit or credit card, and keep your money secure.

6. General Packing Guidelines

Please pack lightly! The ASP group is frequently on the move, and you will want to be as mobile and self-sufficient as possible.

Before traveling, check your airline's baggage allowance and restrictions. Many airlines permit one checked suitcase weighing up to 50 pounds and one carry-on bag, but allowances vary by ticket and airline.

- Attach luggage tags with your name and contact information.
- Leave valuables and expensive jewelry at home.
- Do not bring alcohol, illegal drugs, or anything prohibited by airline or local regulations.
- A laptop is generally unnecessary; your phone should be sufficient for communication and everyday needs.
- Be prepared to disconnect from technology and fully enjoy your experience in Armenia.

A detailed packing list appears below.

7. Clothing & Cultural Expectations

Summer in Yerevan is often very hot and dry. Our program includes plenty of walking, sightseeing, hiking, and service activities, so comfortable clothing and footwear are essential.

Please pack:

- Lightweight, breathable clothing for warm weather.
- Sneakers or sturdy, comfortable walking shoes.
- Sandals and a light jacket or sweatshirt for cooler evenings.
- Two nicer outfits for formal visits and meetings with church leaders and other dignitaries.
- Modest, appropriate church clothing for our visit with the Catholicos at Holy Etchmiadzin.

Representing the Eastern Diocese and the ACYOA

As participants in the Armenia Service Program, you represent the Armenian Church, the ACYOA, and young Armenian Americans. We ask that you be respectful of Armenian cultural norms and dress appropriately throughout the trip.

Please avoid short shorts or skirts, revealing or very tight tops, and clothing with text or graphics that could offend others. Do not bring expensive clothing or high heels.

When visiting churches and meeting the Catholicos or other dignitaries, dress modestly and follow your trip leader's guidance.

If you have questions about appropriate clothing, please ask before traveling.

8. What to Pack: Checklist

Clothing & footwear

- T-shirts and other lightweight tops
- Shorts, jeans, lightweight pants, skirts, or sundresses
- Modest clothing for church visits
- Two nicer outfits for formal occasions
- Comfortable walking shoes or sneakers
- Sandals
- Light jacket or sweatshirt
- Bathing suit (weather permitting, we hope to enjoy Lake Sevan!)

Toiletries & personal care

- Soap, shampoo, and other personal hygiene products
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Deodorant and razor
- Tissues and baby wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Bandages and hand sanitizer
- Prescription medications and any necessary over-the-counter medications

Personal & miscellaneous items

- Bible
- Notebook and pen for journaling
- Sunglasses
- Camera, if desired
- Reusable water bottle
- Small amount of laundry detergent for washing clothes in your room
- Travel adapter for Armenian electrical outlets
- Voltage converter, if required by your electrical devices
- Phone charger and any necessary charging accessories

Additional notes

Electrical appliances: Armenia uses approximately 230 volts and 50 Hz electricity, with plug types C and F commonly used. U.S. plugs generally require a travel adapter. Check your devices' voltage ratings before use; a voltage converter may be necessary for appliances that do not support 220–240 volts.

Laundry: Full-service laundry facilities are available in Yerevan. You may also wash clothes in your hotel room and allow them to air-dry.

Forgot something? Don't worry! Many familiar toiletries, snacks, batteries, and other essentials are available in Yerevan.

9. Medical & Health Information

Please consult your healthcare provider before traveling and review the CDC Travelers' Health page for the latest recommendations for Armenia.

We strongly encourage participants to:

- Be up to date on routine vaccinations and discuss travel-specific vaccinations with their healthcare provider.
- Ask their healthcare provider whether a tetanus booster or other immunizations are recommended.
- Bring an adequate supply of prescription medications for the entire trip, preferably in their original packaging.
- Pack any over-the-counter medications they may need, such as pain relievers, allergy medications, cold medicine, or anti-diarrheal medication.
- Bring spare eyeglasses or contact lenses if needed.

Drinking water & hydration

Follow your trip leader's guidance about drinking water at each destination. Bottled water is readily available for purchase. Drink plenty of water, especially during hikes, outdoor service projects, and hot summer days.

If you experience a medical concern or become ill during the program, notify the trip leader promptly. He will help coordinate appropriate medical care.

10. Visiting Family & Friends in Armenia

We understand that many participants may have relatives or friends living in Armenia and may wish to spend time with them during the program.

Please coordinate all visits with the group leader in advance. Whenever possible, family and friends should arrange to meet you at the hotel or another location approved by the leader.

All participants are expected to follow the group's curfew and return to the hotel each evening at the designated time.

For everyone's safety and the comfort of the group, outside guests may not visit participants' hotel rooms or stay overnight with participants.

If you hope to extend your stay in Armenia or make independent plans before or after the program, please discuss these arrangements with Diocesan staff before booking travel.

11. Emergency Contacts

Please share these contact details with your family before departure.

Diocesan contact

Jennifer Morris

Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)

- Phone: 248-648-0702
- Email: jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org

Family members may contact Jennifer with questions or concerns while participants are traveling.

Trip leader

Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

Pastor, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

- Phone : 917-213-8658
- Email: frhakob@yahoo.com

Fr. Hakob will serve as the trip leader and will be the primary contact for participants during the program.

A Trip to Remember!

The Armenia Service Program is an opportunity to serve others, connect with your Armenian heritage, grow in faith, and experience Armenia together. We encourage you to prepare carefully, ask questions, and come ready for an unforgettable experience.

If you have questions about payments, flights, packing, or any other aspect of the program, please contact Jennifer Morris before traveling.

Բարի ճանապարհ**! — Have a wonderful journey!**