



ACYOA Mission Trip

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

February 16-19, 2023

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 our Atlanta Mission Parish in Roswell, GA.

WHO CAN SIGN UP?: This trip is open to all young adults ages 18 and older from across the Eastern Diocese that are physically capable of participating on a Habitat for Humanity worksite and interested in providing service and outreach to the Atlanta Mission 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 made by January 12, based on an applicant's essay questions and ability to fully contribute to the mission and purpose of the trip.

WHAT'S COVERED & WHAT'S NOT?: This program costs approximately \$12,000. The cost of the program is being underwritten by the ACYOA Central Council, using grant monies received by the Dadourian Foundation along with the proceeds of the 2022 Bishop's 5K. 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 for Habitat for Humanity will be paid for by the ACYOA Central Council. Participants are requested to contribute \$100 to the ACYOA Central Council which will be used to provide dinner for the mission parish community on Saturday evening, purchase a small gift for the homes we visit, and contribute to the Habitat for Humanity donation. 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 Atlanta Hartsfield Airport (ATL). Participants should arrive as early as 6:00 PM, but no later than 9:00 PM on Thursday, February 16 and depart no earlier than 5:00 PM on Sunday, February 19. Please consult with the DYYAM prior to booking flights outside these recommendations. All participants will be expected to complete an online travel survey several weeks before their arrival 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 email on or around January 12.

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. Atlanta can be COLD this time of year... pack layers! 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 going out to dinner, and on Saturday night, we will be spending time at the mission 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: All participants are encouraged to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to traveling. All participants are requested to take a COVID-19 test prior to traveling for the weekend and provide a screenshot of your negative test prior to your arrival. Please consult with your physician to ensure that you are physically capable of participating on 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 ATLANTA: Participants will be flying in/out of Atlanta Hartsfield Airport (ATL). We will be picked up by vans and driven to their hotel which is about 40 minutes north in the Roswell/Alpharetta area. On Friday and Saturday mornings, we will be driven by van about 40 minutes northwest to the Habitat for Humanity worksite in Gainesville. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, we will serve at the Atlanta Mission Parish in Roswell, which is 10 minutes from the hotel.

VISITING FAMILY & FRIENDS IN ATLANTA: 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, retired clergyman of the Eastern Diocese. He can be reached at 262-497-7018, or by email at kelegian@att.net.

ACYOA MISSION TRIP - TENTATIVE SCHEDULE as of 12/05/22

Thursday:

6:30 - 9:00 PM ATL Airport Pick-ups
7:30 - 10:00 PM Check-in at the Hampton Inn Hotel in Alpharetta/Roswell, GA
10:30 - 11:00 PM Welcome, Ice Breakers, and Orientation

Friday:

7:00 - 7:45 AM Morning Meditation and Breakfast at the Hotel
7:45 - 8:45 AM Drive to Worksite in Gainesville, GA
8:45 AM - 3:00 PM Habitat for Humanity Worksite (lunch will be provided)
3:00 - 4:00 PM Drive to Hotel
4:00 - 5:30 PM Rest and Shower
5:30 - 6:30 PM Dinner Delivery at Hotel
6:30 - 8:30 PM Home Visits to the Elderly and Shut-ins
8:30 - 9:00 PM Return to Hotel
9:00 - 9:45 PM Evening Reflection

Saturday:

7:00 - 7:45 AM Morning Meditation and Breakfast at the Hotel
7:45 - 8:45 AM Drive to Worksite in Gainesville, GA
8:45 AM - 3:00 PM Habitat for Humanity Worksite (lunch will be provided)
3:00 - 4:00 PM Drive to Hotel
4:00 - 5:30 PM Rest and Shower
5:30 - 6:30 PM Drive to Parish and Set-Up for Vespers and Dinner
6:30 - 9:00 PM Vespers, Dinner and Fellowship with the Atlanta Mission Parish Community
9:00 - 9:30 PM Return to Hotel
9:30 - 10:00 PM Evening Reflection

Sunday:

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

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