



march mission MADNESS

What is March Mission Madness (MMM)? March Mission Madness (MMM) is a weekend retreat for youth (grades six-twelve) to gather together for worship, fellowship, and a full day of mission work in local Georgia communities. The event is coordinated and supported by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia and hosted by a local church in the city where it is being held.

What types of mission projects will we be doing? Our host churches are working now to secure sites with local agencies, such as home repair, painting, homeless ministries, food and clothing ministries, cleaning, and landscaping. Everyone who attends needs to be informed that a significant portion of the weekend involves hands on mission service. Naturally, students' attitudes are adversely affected when they are surprised by having to work on a retreat! As the youth leader, you can help prepare your students mentally and spiritually for this portion of the weekend. Most youth cannot wait to serve, but some need help understanding the importance and value of serving the community.

How are mission groups assigned? The CBF/GA staff uses wristbands to divide students and chaperones into mission groups. Wristbands are distributed to group leaders at registration on Friday night. Group leaders are responsible for distributing wristbands to their students and chaperones. Each group will also have driver assignments who are responsible for helping with transportation to and from the mission sites.

How much does MMM cost? The cost of MMM is \$50 per participant. After January 13 the cost increases to \$60 per participant. A \$25 deposit per participant is required in order to secure your registration. The remaining balance will be due upon arrival at the event. The cost includes Saturday lunch and dinner, mission supplies, recreation, program costs and a t-shirt. We are thankful to be able to keep our cost reasonable with the help of our host churches and the generous subsidy of CBF/GA.

Where will we stay? Each group is responsible for securing their own overnight accommodations. CBF/GA has secured group rates at local hotels and information can be found on the MMM website. If the group is local, they are welcome to stay in their own homes or in host homes.

Do I need chaperones? Events like this would not be possible without adult chaperones volunteering their time. Too often, when adults hear the word *chaperone*, they understand it to be the same as baby-sitting. But, MMM is a weekend that aims to be interactive for both youth and adults. Chaperones will be asked to take on a significant leadership role during the weekend. Chaperones are also expected to act like adults and monitor the students throughout the weekend providing guidance when needed. This event can be just as meaningful for adults as it is for youth.

Each church is required to bring 1 chaperone for every 6 youth of each gender. The transportation you bring to camp will be used to transport youth to mission sites. Thus, drivers of 15 passenger vans must be 25 years old. All other chaperones should be 21 or older. Churches must also run state criminal background checks for all adult chaperones and sign the attached Chaperone Screening Form, stating you have done so. Thanks for your help in this area.

Can my students participate in worship? We would love to have student participation in our worship services at MMM. If you have a student, or group of students, who would like to contribute to worship please email me to discuss their possible involvement.

I have students with food allergies or dietary restrictions, can you accommodate those needs? We always do our best to meet these needs for those within the group. You will receive a form about a month before the event requesting final numbers, this form will also ask if you have any participants with special needs, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

I see a party on the schedule, what exactly is this? On Saturday night, after worship, we will have a party. There will be refreshments served and a fun time had by all. You will receive a more detailed description of the party as the event gets closer.

More Questions? Please contact Jody Long at jlong@cbfga.org with any additional questions you may have.