



# Xpress Teams

## Info Pak

The purpose of the XPRESS TEAMS information PAK is to give you an idea of

1. What's involved in planning and preparing to join an Xpress Team
2. The attitudes that you should approach this venture with
3. FAQ's regarding Xpress Teams

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Asia SPAN International has a goal to impact the fabric of Asian society through educational placements and expressions of humanitarian care. In a nation of more than 1.3 billion people, the task is great. But there is ONE who is greater. Disillusioned by politics, economic reforms, and ageless traditions, men, women and children in Asia are hungry for TRUTH. Although many people and places in Asia are cut off from traditional ministry, the need for LIFE-minded people is more urgent than ever. Will YOU take this opportunity to respond to the need?

Xpress Teams make real impact - real time and open doors that may have never been opened otherwise. An Xpress Team brings with it fresh energy and vision that is contagious for both nationals and missionaries alike. If you would like the opportunity to change lives, have your life changed, and have your world view rearranged. Please apply to go on one of our many Xpress Team opportunities.

***If you are to be an effective short-termer, you must be flexible physically, mentally, and spiritually***

### ***Physical Flexibility***

Don't be surprised if God decides to flex your own abilities and plans by redefining them.

- Volunteer according to your talents – As you volunteer ask, “What is God trying to do?” and not “What am I trying to Accomplish?”
- Implement a program that can be sustained by the residents, or work to enhance existing programs

- Deliver on what you offer – Don't make promises that you can't keep
- Be calm and competent – If you demonstrate that you are responsible, Christlike, calm, competent, and willing to try new things you may be used in different ways than you think
- Remember the "TC" Rule: **Things Change** – God wants you to be teachable – if you reach a point where you know everything, you have stopped growing in Christ

*\*Remember:*

*The Golden Rule – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*

*And The Platinum Rule – Do unto to others as they would have you do unto them!!*

### ***Mental Flexibility***

The more we try to look at things from others' perspectives, the better we will understand their lifestyle and what is important to them.

- Remember that being different means you are better than them
- Ask questions – inquiring is the best way to find out more about people
- Put on some new glasses – culture like your own pair of glasses , helps you see things clearly but from a fairly limited perspective – try to put others glasses or see things through their cultural lenses
- Eat lunch in someone's home

### ***Spiritual Flexibility***

Our church, our country, good hygiene, education, financial stewardship, better planning methods is not the message – Jesus is the message!

- It's not about me – Remember when you are exhausted, feeling underutilized, having a bad day that the trip is about Jesus and not me
- Have a settled attitude of soul – No matter what happens victories or defeats that the trip is about Jesus – Take time to recharge and focus on Jesus
- Imagine yourself in the middle of a marathon, not a sprint

## Short-Term Missions – FAQs

### **Am I qualified to go on a mission trip?**

In order to be qualified for this trip, you must be willing to be an "ambassador of Christ" in your motivation and conduct, and a team player with a humble and seeking heart.

### **How long are the trips? How many people are going?**

The trips usually last 7 days to 30 days. Teams from can vary from 4-10 people.

### **What skills are you looking for?**

Helpful (NOT required) skills for missions include language skills; leadership experience (especially pastoral care or missions); cross cultural skills; and depending on the project, specific skills such as medical, artistic, working with children, music, sports, crafts, etc. Team members may also split up duties ranging from leading devotionals to managing finances. However, there are many trips for which no particular experience or knowledge is required.

### **What immunizations will I need?**

See your doctor, or [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov), for details on the country you are traveling to. The cost of necessary immunizations only will be covered by fundraising.

### **Is it safe to travel abroad/to a developing country?**

Each team has its own safety procedures. In most cases you will be chaperoned by our host missionaries at all times. If you are careful with not displaying money or valuables, and follow guidelines about personal conduct and health, you should be fine. However you should also be prepared for a lower comfort and safety level than we have in Canada.

### **What does an Xpress Team mission trip look like?**

Teaching English to students: pre-school thru Adult (ESL/TESOL training beneficial, but not required)  
Humanitarian projects  
Prayer teams  
Camps (children, sports)  
Respite work  
Various other potential opportunities...ask us!

The daily schedule will vary by trip type but will allow for quiet time, outreach, 3 meals, evening program, small group break-out time, free time and any possible community events during the week.

**Do I need to apply to go on an Xpress Teams trip?**

You do need to apply to participate on a Asia SPAN trip. We will ask that each participant fill out an application for administrative and safety purposes only.

**Who pays for the trip? How do I fund-raise?**

You are responsible for fundraising the cost of the trip by the date of departure by sending out support letters, paying out of your own pocket or doing fundraisers.

**What is the cost for an Xpress Teams trip?**

Trips will vary by location, time of year and are priced per person.

**Who can support me? (Christians or non-Christians, or both?)**

This is a personal decision depending on who you are comfortable sharing this with. Presumably your support letter and follow-up letter will be fairly personal, and for that reason can provide a great opportunity to share about your faith. Two separate letters may be drafted for believers and nonbelievers.

**Is transportation included in the cost of the trip?**

Transportation to and from the mission site is not included in any Asia SPAN trip but

**Next Steps in going on an Xpress Team**

1. Read this Info Pak
2. Gather interest / Assemble your team (3-10 people) \*\*If you DO NOT have a team, [contact us](#)
1. Have the TEAM LEADER submit an [Online Preliminary Application](#) or [contact us](#) and we'll send you one.

**\*\*for more information or to speak to an Asia SPAN representative, please call 1.888.462.7726\*\***

