

June 9, 2023

Dear Journeyers:

We are really excited that you are going to be part of the Nebraska Synod Journey to Denver! This letter is to give you an idea of what we will be doing and what to bring so that your experience can be a positive one.

Since we will be living in a very close and busy community for the mission trip, it is important that you read all of the following information carefully so that you are aware of expectations and what you need to bring on the trip.

DEPARTURE:

Most of the group will meet and launch from Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln. Gather at door #4 (6955 Old Cheney Road) on July 10 at 8:30am (Central Time). Plan to arrive at the departure site early enough to ensure that your **luggage is loaded and you are ready to depart at 8:30am**. Bus assignments will be emailed to your congregation's primary adult leader, and buses will be available for loading 45 minutes prior to departure. We will pick up the groups from Hildreth and Minden in Kearney about 11:00. Details will be sent to group leaders.

ON THE BUS:

We will travel to Denver via motorcoach buses. We ask that each participant limit the number of personal items they bring on the bus to a pillow, small blanket, small carry-on bag that can fit under the seat in front of you and a water bottle. Please choose snacks you bring on the bus wisely to avoid anything with a strong odors, and no peanuts or other kinds of nuts on the bus because of allergies.

You may bring personal music devices. However, as noted on your release forms, neither the Nebraska Synod nor Windstar Bus Lines will be responsible for the loss of, or damage to, any personal items you choose to bring. Each bus will have bus leaders who will have fun activities for us to do to pass the time on the trip as well.

Cell phones may be brought by participants and may only be used during free time and prior to lights out. This includes text messaging. In case of emergency families should contact Deacon Sunni Richardson at 402.314.8875.

WHILE IN Denver:

HOUSING: We will house all participants in DeSmet Hall at Regis University. You will need to bring your own bedding, pillow, towel, washcloth, soap and other toiletries. Each residence hall room at Regis University will house two people. The university will supply two XL twin beds each room. A room assignment list will be emailed to your primary adult leader so you will know your roommates ahead of the trip. We recommend that you work together to bring items to share as roommates (like one blow dryer, one large bottle of shampoo, etc.). You may bring a sleeping bag instead of sheets, if you choose.

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS: These assignments and any anticipated items you may need to bring (i.e., paint brushes, safety goggles, etc.) will be emailed to your primary adult leader.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: (Please note this is subject to change.)

Monday – Be at Sheridan Lutheran Church Lincoln by 8:00am to be able to depart at 8:30am. We will stop in Kearney to pick up the groups from Hildreth and Minden. Details will be sent separately to those congregations.

Bring a sack lunch to eat at a rest area stop. We will eat dinner at Regis University in the evening. Introductions with learning time in the evening followed by devotions with group. Lights out at 11:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Breakfast on campus. Depart for service learning sites. Sack lunch provided. Return to campus. Dinner at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Evening Program. Devotions with group. Lights out at 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Breakfast on campus. Depart for service learning sites. Sack lunch provided. Return to campus by 1:30pm. Learning event in the afternoon. Dinner at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Evening at Lakeside Amusement Park. Devotions with group. Lights out at 11:00 p.m.

Thursday – Breakfast on campus. Depart for service learning sites. Sack lunch provided. Return to campus. Supper at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Evening Program. Devotions with group. Lights out at 11:00 p.m.

Friday – Breakfast on campus. Depart for service learning sites. Sack lunch provided. Return to campus. Supper at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Closing worship. Devotions with group. Lights out at 11:00 p.m.

Saturday – Breakfast on campus. Pack up and depart for home by 9:00am. Stop along the way to eat lunch. Arrive at Sheridan Lutheran Church at approximately 6:00pm.

In case of emergency contact Deacon Sunni Richardson at 402.314.8875. She will connect with the group in Denver and can answer emergency questions. Please share with families.

Packing List: WHAT TO BRING

Please note: The primary adult leader from each congregation will be receiving email updates to this list.

- At least one large lunch cooler per group to store lunches at service sites (more depending on group size)
- Bible (the phone Bible app works, too)
- Pen or Pencil (1 per person)
- To take with you on the bus: *Please put your name on items.*
 - o Small carry-on bag, small blanket & pillow
 - o Refillable water bottle & reusable lunch sack/bag (also used at service learning sites)
 - o Sack lunch for Monday, July 10
 - o Snacks (avoid items with strong odors and let's go with no nuts on the bus due to allergies)
- To stow under the bus: 1 duffle bag or suitcase that does not exceed 27-inches in height
- Bedding:
 - o Extra-long twin sheets & blanket OR sleeping bag AND pillow
- Small bag to transport clothing/toiletries to shower facilities
- Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothbrush/toothpaste, contact lens solution, etc.)
- Towel, washcloth, etc.
- Sunscreen & bug spray
- Anti-bacterial wipes (handy to freshen up after working all day)
- Comfortable clothing, including:
 - o **Closed-toe shoes or boots for work sites. Sandals are not allowed at work sites.**
 - o Work gloves
 - o Work clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or stained
 - o Long-sleeved shirts and long pants (may be needed for some work projects)
 - o Clothing for the evening activities
 - o Pajamas or something to sleep in
 - o We will be doing a variety of work projects. Bring clothing that allows you to twist, turn, bend and carry. And, remember we are the church so t-shirt messages should reflect welcome and inclusivity.
 - o Hat or bandana and sunscreen. Due to the elevation, your sun exposure risk is higher.
 - o Rain gear, because we may work outside in all kinds of weather
- Money for:
 - o One food meal during travel (lunch on Saturday)
 - o Souvenir or snack money for time at Lakeside Amusement Park. (Admission fee is covered)
 - o \$10/person (cash only) for the bus driver's tip. This cash will be collected at the launch site by the planning team to distribute to the drivers at the end of the week.
 - o **Please limit the amount of cash you bring, as the Nebraska Synod and Windstar Lines will not be responsible for any missing money.**