

2025 SON Short Term Team Checklist & Application

Name _____ Date _____

Preferred Departure Airport _____ Closest Hub Airport _____

SON will do our best to accommodate your preferred airport. However, airfare is often less expensive when traveling from a hub. When the time comes for SON to purchase airfare, we will advise each team member of potential cost savings.

Checklist of Required Forms and Documentation for Application	
	Completed/signed 2025 Short Term Mission Trip Application <i>(must be signed by your pastor)</i>
	\$250 non-refundable registration deposit <i>(applied to total cost of trip and can be sent by check with your application or processed online (go to https://sonetwork.org/serve/opportunities/ and look for the Trip Application Fee button) Application is not complete until deposit has been received.)</i>
	High quality (300 dpi or better) COLOR copy of your passport <i>(If you do not have your passport, you will need to apply - at your own expense - before submitting this application. Once received, you will need to send in a copy.)</i>
	Completed/signed STM Personal Covenant Form <i>(included as part of this form)</i>
	Completed/signed Risk Acknowledgement & Release Form <i>(included as part of this form)</i>
	Completed/signed Personal & Team Training Agreement Form <i>(included as part of this form)</i>

As a measure to protect our team members and the children we serve, SON will perform a BACKGROUND CHECK on every SON team member 18 years and older. This will take place following the approval of each application and will be done through a third-party vendor. Results will be made available to SON and to each team member for whom a background check was performed but otherwise will remain anonymous. Team leaders will be notified of Pass results only.

Mail to: **Spiritual Orphans Network**
Attn: Director of Youth Education
#298 / 5901-J Wyoming Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

For additional information, please contact Angela@SONetwork.org or call +1 (505) 274-4156.

Important Notes

- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2025**
- Please note that teams are filled on a first come first served basis. The earlier we received your completed application and required documentation, the more likely you will receive a spot on your first team of choice.
- Your spot on the team is not reserved and your application will not be processed until ALL items have been turned in (with the exception of those waiting on a passport) and your background check is processed.



US Health Insurance Company/Medical Share _____ Policy Number _____

Name of Physician _____ Phone Number _____

In addition to your regular medical insurance/share plan, you will be required to obtain **emergency medical travel insurance, including air evacuation and trip interruption for the duration of your trip - at your own expense.** Visit squaremouth.com to find a plan that best fits your needs and budget. Your travel insurance policy must be provided to your team leader prior to departure.

Medical Release Form

- I do hereby verify that the above information is correct, and I do hereby grant permission for SON, or an individual representing SON, to obtain medical attention for me in case of illness or injury.
- In the event I am unable to make reasonable and sound decisions for myself, I do hereby grant permission for an attending physician or medical professional to perform whatever care deemed necessary for my welfare.
- I agree to obtain overseas medical travel insurance (including emergency evacuation and trip interruption) valid for the duration of my trip. Medical travel insurance will need to be obtained at my own, personal expense.

Signature _____ (if under 18, must be signed by a parent or guardian)

Date _____

Trip Selection and Team Role Preference

Please indicate the trips for which you are applying by checking the appropriate box. If you are applying to serve in more than one location, please check all locations for which you are applying.

Latvia English Bible Camps
 05-23 June
 Striki & Sabile
 2 camps (1 in each location)

Albania English Bible Camps
 25 June - 14 July
 Peshkopi & Kastriot
 2 camps (1 in each location)

Albania Life Camp for Teens
 25 June - 14 July
 Kastriot & Peshkopi
 2 camps (1 in each location)

Slovakia English Bible Camps
 03-21 July
 Vranov & Batizovce
 2 camps (1 in each location)

Slovakia English Bible Camp
 10-21 July
 Ruzomberok
 1 camp

Slovakia Life & Adventure Camps
 10 -28 July
 Velky Slavkov & Low Tatras
 2 camps (1 in each location)

In the event that you are applying for only one location, and the team for that location is already full, are you open to serving in another location? YES NO If yes, which location(s)? _____

Please list at least one personal reference and obtain a signature from your pastor (all fields are required):

Full Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ How long has he/she known you? _____

Church _____ Phone _____

Address _____ How long have you attended? _____

City, State, Zip _____ Pastor Signature _____



Please check one below:

Teacher

- Preparation for your short-term mission trip via 5 to 7 virtual sessions scheduled by your Team Leader(s) - see Training Agreement Form.
- Submitting a lesson plan for each day of class based on the curriculum provided (English Bible Camps) or preparation to lead large and small group sessions based on the curriculum provided (Teen Camps).
- Preparing and carrying over all supplies for your students (i.e. handouts, pens, markers, glue sticks, scissors, etc.)
- Teaching conversational English to the students with the aid of an interpreter for 2 to 3 English Sessions (usually between 30 and 45 minutes each).
- Working with the interpreter in aiding the students' understanding of English.
- Staying with your students during rotations (music, sports and crafts).
- Sharing God's love with your students and interpreter.

Craft Facilitator (English Bible Camps ONLY)

- Preparation for your short-term mission trip via 5 to 7 virtual sessions scheduled by your Team Leader(s) - see Training Agreement Form.
- Carrying an additional suitcase with craft supplies (SON will purchase supplies and cover the cost associated with the extra luggage).
- Set up and clean-up for each of the craft rotations.
- Explaining the craft, and the story tie-in, to the students with the aid of an interpreter.
- Working with the teachers and interpreters in aiding the students with their crafts (as necessary).
- Review craft manual and make an example of each craft prior to travel.
- Sharing God's love with your students and interpreter.

Sports Facilitator (English Bible Camps ONLY)

- Preparation for your short-term mission trip via 5 to 7 virtual sessions scheduled by your Team Leader(s) - see Training Agreement Form.
- Preparing sports plan for each day of camp, to include games for younger and older students. Must also have an indoor contingency plan for inclement weather.
- Possibly carrying an additional suitcase with sports supplies (SON will cover the cost associated with extra luggage).
- Explaining the games to the students with the aid of an interpreter.
- Working with teachers and interpreters in aiding the students with games (as necessary).
- Sharing God's love with your students and interpreter.

Worship Leader/Musician (Not available for all camps. Please contact SON for more information.)

- Preparation for your short-term mission trip via 5 to 7 virtual sessions scheduled by your Team Leader(s) - see Training Agreement Form.
- Preparing simple but meaningful worship songs to be taught during daily opening and music rotation. Favorite songs will be performed for closing worship at the end of the camp week.
- Carrying over supplies needed (i.e. guitar - SON will cover the cost associated with extra luggage).
- Power Point (or similar software) presentation for each song that will be taught during the week. It is helpful to carry your own computer or tablet, as these may not be readily available at your location.
- Teaching the songs to the students with the aid of an interpreter.
- Sharing God's love with your students and interpreter.

Other skills, abilities or talents that SON should be made aware of which might be helpful in either an English Bible Camp or Teen Camp setting:



Personal & Team Training Agreement Form

Overview & Introduction

Short-Term Mission Training is essential to have a fruitful trip that will be both a blessing for you as well as for those you will serve. Your preparedness will reflect on you personally, on your home church, and in the message of Jesus Christ that we hope to impart while in the mission field. THEREFORE, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND COMPLETION OF THE REQUIRED MISSION TRAINING IS MANDATORY BEFORE SERVING AS A MEMBER OF A SON MISSION TEAM. You can expect that each training assignment will take an hour or two to complete. Online sessions are generally from an hour to an hour and a half. This is a worthwhile investment that you will not regret, especially once you arrive in-country.

Team training will be scheduled and facilitated by your Team Leader(s) via the use of Zoom or other similar technology. ACCESS TO A COMPUTER IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN TEAM TRAINING.

Your commitment to actively participate in the training is a vital part of team building. Make every effort to attend ALL scheduled sessions. If you must miss a session, it is crucial that you notify your Team Leader(s) ahead of time and schedule a time to discuss what you may have missed.

Time Frame

- Training will consist of 5 to 7 sessions. Sessions generally begin in early March and wrap up a week or two prior to departure.
- Sessions generally last between an hour and an hour and a half.

Materials Needed

- Team training manual provided by SON via US Postal Service.
- An open and willing heart and a commitment to participating in the training to become a strong team member which will translate into a team that is strong before, during and after your trip.

Important note: SON will purchase airfare once a team is completely full. SON and SON Team Leaders reserve the right to remove a person from a team for lack of interest in team training and team building. In the event this occurs, that individual will forfeit their application fee and any costs associated with the purchase of flights.

I have read the above statements and am committed to complete all training.

Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE ABOUT TRAINING: There is more to team training than just the "nuts and bolts" of the Language Camps. Team training is essential to the entire team's spiritual health and in developing a cohesive team that is strong in a common sense of mission. We are in the missions "business" of making disciples, which means you too are engaged in making disciples and in being disciplined. We encourage you to do this by engaging fully and participating in discussions with our team members, praying for each other, and being prepared for each session by doing the assignments ahead of time. Please also keep in mind that the team training sessions are not a venue to show how much you may already know. Rather, an effective disciple maker is first a great listener. We are confident that you will be blessed and that you will be a blessing to others as you embark on a SON mission trip. Thank you for your servant heart!



STM Personal Covenant Form

Serving on a SON Short-Term Mission Team means that you are agreeing to become a part of something greater than yourself. This means that you agree to adhere to, and abide by, the following guidelines, policies, and procedures. This will contribute to the overall success of the mission and will help to maintain harmony within your team. Breaking any part of this covenant could result in disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the mission field and an early return home at your own expense. SON team members do not go as tourists, rather we are guests in another culture and ambassadors of the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus. Please be prepared that your destination does not have the same conveniences and luxuries you might be used to at home. Flexibility and willingness to pivot are key as you adjust to the unexpected.

Pending the approval of my application, as a member of a SON Short-Term Mission team, I will:

- Attend team meetings as agreed upon in the Team Training and Covenant.
- Go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ, and I will adopt this attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I meet during the trip.
- Adopt an attitude that I am on this team to try to learn from and understand the host culture, not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective, and I recognize that my way is not necessarily the best way. I will respect the advice that I am given concerning customs, attire, eating, drinking, and other such traditions that I may encounter while on the trip.
- Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race, gender, or traditions.
- Accept and submit to the authority of my team leader(s) and promise to abide by their decisions concerning the mission trip.
- Acknowledge that by engaging in this journey, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily; including, and in addition to, those risks that I would normally face in my personal and business life. This includes, but is not limited to, health hazards encountered from poor sanitation, food and water, diseases and pests, potential injury while working, and inadequate medical facilities.
- Remember that our team's work is only a small part of the much bigger picture for SON missionaries and partners. I promise not to be overly demanding and to do my best to be sensitive so that I do not offend or cause embarrassment for the local mission host, so that their long term ministry goals do not become compromised.
- Demonstrate a Christ-like spirit. My attitude will be like that of Jesus (Phil 2:5). I will love those with whom I work and those around me. I will not allow another's property or personality to be abused. I will refrain from meddling, complaining, gossiping and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others that I encounter will look at me as an example of how a Christian acts, and I will not treat that responsibility lightly.
- Understand that I must travel with the rest of the team, unless other, prior arrangements have been made and have been clearly communicated with SON staff or a SON Team Leader.
- Remain mindful that mission trips can be difficult physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I promise to adopt a flexible attitude, as plans can, and probably will, change. This is especially important when I am experiencing initial culture shock and fatigue associated with overseas travel. I will endeavor to speak the truth only in Love and do my best to remain positive. If I need to lodge a complaint, I will pray and then speak only with my team leader, not to others on my team or to anyone else I may encounter.
- Regard the different styles and traditions of worship with respect. I promise that I will witness to my Faith but without a superior or colonial attitude. I also recognize that the majority of SON ministry partners are Lutheran Christians and I will respect the doctrine, theology, and practices of my hosts; regardless of my own Christian denominational identity.
- Avoid any action, suggestion, or inuendo that might be perceived as romantic intentions toward anyone from the indigenous (host) culture.
- Embrace and demonstrate high standards in speech, personal conduct and appropriate dress so as to maintain sexual purity and biblical morality. This includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate physical contact or behavior, coarse or sex-related humor, and immodest clothing or swimwear.



- Understand that Dating/courting another team member can become a distraction to the commitment that I have made to my team and to my hosts. I will spend that love, time and attention on those who need to encounter the Grace, Love and Mercy of Jesus Christ. I further agree that I will not become romantically involved with anyone during the duration of my mission trip. If I am already romantically involved with a team member, but we are not yet married, I will avoid inappropriate displays of affection towards that person. If I am married, I will be faithful to my spouse as Christ is faithful to the Church.
 - Under the direction of my Team Leader(s), refrain from using alcoholic beverages or tobacco while in the mission field. I understand and respect that the abuse of alcohol is a serious problem across former communist nations and will not engage in any behavior that would send a confusing message to anyone discerning a healthy Christian lifestyle, including going to a bar disco or nightclub.
 - Refrain from giving expensive or otherwise inappropriate gifts, such as money, clothes or expensive jewelry, computers, etc. Although the intent may be genuine, the result, after we leave, can be disastrous. Jealousy, bitterness and creating an unintended welfare mentality can be the outcome and have no place in furthering the Kingdom of God.
 - Under no circumstances, whether during the trip or after, will I make an invitation or a promise (or even imply) to any student or resident of my host culture to visit the United States. I understand that this is a very serious matter and I will contact SON staff should I find myself in this situation.
 - Share my faith. I will come prepared to share my testimony and will write a clear and concise presentation of salvation so that I am prepared to share it with anyone that I might meet.
 - Note for team members under 18: In addition to all of the above covenants, I agree that I am coming as an integral and important part of the team, and am a witness to show that Christian families place God first and use the teachings of Jesus to resolve conflict. I will find and fulfill my place on the team without complaining or being a distraction to others. I will follow the instructions of my parents, my team leader(s), and adults in my host country. If I am corrected, I will show respect and will listen.
 - Note for team members traveling with a child (or children) under 18: I understand that my child is an integral and important part of the team, and that my family is a witness to show that Christian families place God first and use the teachings of Jesus to resolve conflict. I will help my child find and fulfill his/her place on the team and will remind them to do so without complaining or being a distraction to others. If my child is corrected by another team member, team leader(s) or an adult in my host country, I will show respect and listen.
- Note regarding the SON Trip Participation Fee and Fundraising : I understand that the trip participation fee only covers IN-COUNTRY food, lodging, transportation, and excursion costs - after landing in my host country - until the time that I board the first flight to return home. All other costs, including travel/medical insurance, passport / visa fees, upgrades, teaching & travel supplies, clothing, souvenirs, etc. are not included in the SON trip participation fee. Furthermore, I understand that all funds raised and donated to SON are non-transferable donations that help pay the costs for my trip and all SON summer mission trips, camps, and student participants.

I personally have read and understand all points of my STM Personal Covenant. Furthermore, as a SON short-term team member, I agree to follow and adhere to all points. I understand that breaking any part of this covenant will result in disciplinary action and possibly my dismissal from the team, from the mission field, and any future SON mission opportunities.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If team member is under 18, they must sign above and receive a signature from a parent or guardian

Parent/Guardian

Signature: _____ Date: _____