



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS IMMERSION?

Immersion is a 10 day mission trip for high school students who want to be stretched in their faith, go deeper in their relationship with Jesus, and put their faith into action. At the heart of this trip is discipleship. Our hope is that students will be consumed with a desire to know Jesus and make Him known.

WHAT DO WE DO ON IMMERSION? / WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY ON IMMERSION?

We will start out the trip with 3 days at Nordhouse Dunes in Manistee National Forest for some adventure, teaching, and team bonding. Then during the week students and leaders will live in housing on the West Side of Grand Rapids. Our mornings will include a time for personal devos, corporate worship, teaching, and prayer walking the neighborhood. Afternoons will be focused on doing neighborhood service projects which may include painting, landscaping, home renovation, and running a children's ministry. Every evening there will be a planned activity such as a trip to another local ministry or a movie night. There will also be time for the group to process and debrief the day. The trip will end off-site with a day of fun and relaxation.

HOW MUCH DOES IMMERSION COST?

Immersion costs \$300 for each student and leader.

WHAT TOPICS WILL YOU BE TEACHING?

The topics we are going to cover are: discipleship, hearing the voice of God, intimacy with God, prayer as a lifestyle, God's heart toward life/abortion, identity in Christ, living a missional lifestyle, and boldly living out our faith with purpose. The teaching topics can be tailored to meet the students at various maturity levels.

WHAT ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST YEAR?

43 students from 4 different churches participated in Immersion. We re-landscaped or maintained 19 of our neighbors' properties. Students prayer walked 40+ miles. The love of Christ was displayed profoundly in our neighborhood. Also see "Immersion Testimonies" page.

WHAT IF WE DON'T HAVE ANY CAMPING GEAR?

We ask that students do their best to acquire their own camping gear from friends or relatives that are more outdoor-savvy, and that your group would acquire all of your gear before the trip. If the gear is just not available, then we have a limited supply that can be borrowed at no cost.

WHERE IS THE BATHROOM IN THE WOODS?

This is probably the most frequently asked question we get from girls. The answer: behind a tree. And it's really not that bad.

WHERE WILL EVERYONE BE STAYING DURING THE WEEK?

The BSHOP community lives in several houses within a single block on the West Side of GR near the corner of Bridge and Marion. We have separate housing available for male and female Immersion students. There will always be at least two leaders staying with the students in the student housing.

WHAT IF I HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY?

All food related or other allergies will be taken into consideration before the trip begins. The menu will be adjusted accordingly. If a student has a serious allergy such as a peanut allergy, we will ensure a peanut-free environment.

DOES BSHOP PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION?

BSHOP does not own a van or bus, so we will work with you to line up transportation, whether it be lining up parents to drive, using a church van, etc.

IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE?

We are aware that for some of our students and leaders, this may be their first experience living in the city. We will always ensure students and leaders use common sense during their stay in our neighborhood. We work hard to ensure a safe experience for every student and leader. Some precautionary measures we take include making sure students are accompanied by a leader, always traveling in groups, never venturing out after dark, and keeping all our doors locked. We have never had a problem with safety in the past, and we are sure to make the safety of our students our number one priority.

WHAT IS THE PAVILION?

The Pavilion, a free coffee shop ministry, is core to the mission of the BSHOP. It is a safe place for neighbors to fellowship and enjoy a free cup of coffee and a bagel. It has been a huge blessing for the neighborhood and has created a beautifully diverse community where anyone feels welcome. Many people have come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior here.

WHAT IS THE YOUTH PASTOR/LEADER ROLE DURING IMMERSION?

Our heart is for discipleship and we only get to be with the students for 10 days, so the role of the youth leaders is invaluable. Immersion is meant to launch students into a life of mission, but the role of discipleship is largely up to the youth leaders. It's just as important, if not more, to be discipling the students during the months following the trip. The youth leader's role is primarily to deepen relationships with the students during the trip to form and strengthen long-term discipling relationships. This will happen through one-on-one and group debrief every evening.

HOW MANY VOLUNTEER LEADERS DO I NEED ON THE TRIP?

We suggest for a group of 10-20 students, having 2-4 leaders. It is very important to have at least 1 male and 1 female leader with your group.

DO MY VOLUNTEER LEADERS NEED TO COMMIT TO THE WHOLE 10 DAYS?

Yes, we ask that you have at least 1 male and 1 female leader from your church or youth group to commit to the entire 10 days to be a leader on the trip and a presence in the students' lives during and after the Immersion experience.

WHEN DO YOU NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY STUDENTS I HAVE COMING?

We will need a rough number by the last Monday in May. Please give us your final number of students 2 weeks in advance of the start of the trip.

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS FOR THE TRIP?

Maximum number of students: 20. Minimum number of students: 10. Ideal number of leaders: 2-4

WILL OTHER CHURCHES BE THERE THE SAME WEEK AS US?

Typically, no. Your group will be the only group staying with BSHOP for the entire trip unless your group is very small.

WHO MAKES THE T-SHIRTS?

BSHOP has sweet Immersion T's available which are included in the cost of the trip.

HOW DOES PAYMENT WORK?

The youth leader is responsible to collect payment from the students. We will take one check for the entire payment of the trip. A 50% deposit is due by the last Monday in May. Full payment is due 2 weeks prior to the start of the trip.

ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?

There are currently no scholarships available through the BSHOP.

