

BIG CREEK CAMPUS GROUP PLANNING GUIDE

FOR SPRING & FALL GROUPS



THIS IS FOR NON SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

This guide is for NON-summer mission trips held during the spring, winter, and fall. Our summer mission trips have a different registration process, financial policies, and are far more structured. Check out the summer missions at www.bigcreekmissions.com/summer

YOUR PLANNING CHECKLIST . . .

Don't be overwhelmed with the details contained in this guide. It's REALLY easy to plan. If you can make sure your team members register online, we'll take care of the rest!

START HERE

- Register your team at www.bigcreekmissions.com/anytime to be placed on our calendar
- Recruit your team!
 - We welcome ALL ages and skills! Make sure to bring plenty of adult chaperones (1:5 ratio is recommended, but not required) Recruit construction leaders if you want to serve in construction. The more talent you bring, the more we can accomplish. If you do not bring any construction leaders, your team's construction projects will be limited.
- Remind your team members to register themselves online at www.bigcreekmissions.com/serve This eliminates paperwork for you!
 - 1) Hand out the page at the end of this guide – as it gives instructions for your participants to register at www.bigcreekmissions.com/serve
 - 2) You may login at www.bigcreekmissions.com/serve to view your team registrations and register yourself. Since you registered your group, you already have an account!
 - 3) Since your team is registering online, we don't need any paper registration forms
- Think of creative ministries you can do while you're here! Maybe you want to do a children's outreach? Maybe you want to collect something and give away while you're here (socks, shoes, toiletries, babies or teen clothing?) Please avoid general clothing collections.

2 - 3 WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR TRIP

- Email Big Creek to discuss final arrangements for the trip! Update your group numbers, tell us about special skills in your group (like construction or athletics), and let's discuss the possible mission projects you'll be doing on your trip!
- Hand out the "What to Bring" found at www.bigcreekmissions.com/serve
- This page has our emergency contact info, instructions on how to register online, and much more information!
- We'll plan everything while you're here! Don't fret over details. Relax! We've got this! Let us know if you have any questions!

THE MESSAGE

Our message at Big Creek missions will always be centered on the Gospel truths found in Jesus Christ. With Jesus as our focus and our message, lives will be changed as a result of HIS power working in and through us. As humans, we are capable of doing some really good things and accomplishing some great works. However, it is only when those works are accomplished in His name and His power that those work have eternal value. Therefore, we live out the following at Big Creek missions:

It's about worship - not work. Although mission trips are always a time where we work VERY hard and get dirty, Christians are never called to work in order to gain Gods favor. We are called to worship Him as a response to receiving God's mercy and grace through faith. One of the ways we worship Him is by surrendering to a life of missions. Missions is not an outlet so we can feel better about ourselves by accomplishing some task or goal, nor is it an opportunity for us to brag on what we "did" with our own hands. We worship Jesus by serving him, and by serving him lives are changed.

It's about surrender - not self-righteousness. Big Creek doesn't exist to glorify Big Creek or the names of any of our staff. We give Glory to JESUS for enabling and empowering us and accomplishing His work through our lives. Often, Christians have a "holier-than-thou" attitude when serving on missions. They have this subtle mindset that invites others to "look at me" and "see what I'm doing" and "give me a pat on the back." We do not exist to lift up any man or ministry, but the name of Jesus. When serving on mission, we must adopt the attitude of a surrendered servant.

It's about people - not projects and programs. We must remember that our purpose on earth is not to build physical buildings. The projects we do, the homes we renovate, and the programs we offer are not our priority. The PEOPLE we serve are our priority. We must never lose sight of why we are here – to share with those people the life-changing message of Jesus. The projects and programs are only TOOLS to share His Gospel.

THE METHODS

Doctrine: Although we do have a certain set of beliefs, we do respect the differences between denominations and churches. We will use current methods to teach timeless truths so we may evangelize the lost and disciple the believer. Please read our statement of beliefs at: www.bigcreekmissions.com. We ask groups to teach and support the beliefs of OUR mission center while serving in our community.

ABOUT BIG CREEK MISSIONS

Big Creek Missions exists to glorify Christ by serving the residents of Southeast Kentucky. We accomplish this by connecting volunteer groups with needs in our community.

What does Big Creek Missions do?

Big Creek Missions is a volunteer “hub.” We are not a camp, nor are we a church. We serve our neighbors by creating partnerships that benefit the community. We serve alongside local churches to assist them in meeting the needs of their community. We partner with local agencies to locate and respond to needs. When you sign up to serve with Big Creek, we will work to place you in an area of ministry that will not only challenge your group but will also assist the residents or ministry you are serving. We work in areas up to 30 miles from our mission center.

What will our group be doing? You can pick from the following ministries:

Construction: Your group can help a local homeowner with housing needs. We have homes in need of wheelchair ramps, porches, roofs, floors, windows, foundations, electrical and plumbing help. You’ll want to provide skilled workers to lead your team AND good workers to get the projects completed! Once we know the skills of your team, we will be able to assign your team a project. Our ultimate goal with the construction ministry is to share the Gospel by sharing Christ and serving as He would.

Most of our construction projects are: subfloor replacements, metal roofing, and porches/ramps

Community: We partner with local churches and other ministries to offer services as needed. We partner with churches offering clothing, food, and hygiene kits to residents. We deliver food baskets. We work in food pantries clothing centers, and visit nursing homes. We work with the schools, service organizations, and anyone needing a loving visit from Christ-followers.

Children: We work with the local schools to offer services as requested. In addition, we provide daycamps and other activities for children in various parts of our community. Due to Covid, this area of service may be limited.

In-House: Groups can choose to stay and serve at the mission center by helping maintain and upgrade the facilities. We always have projects needing completion. We need painters, electricians, plumbers, and cleaners!

How We Operate

Big Creek’s main campus is led by its founder and director, Kevin Rogers. As a 501c3 Non-profit, we operate under the leadership of a 5 member board of directors. Several other staff will be working alongside Kevin to provide hospitality and great ministry opportunities to your group.

How We are Funded

We are funded by the donations you give for this mission trip. That’s it. The more our groups give, the more we can do. The less you give, the less we can do.

Although we do occasionally receive some grants for specific purposes, we do not receive any regular funding from any specific denomination, agency, ministry, or church.

WHAT DOES THE TYPICAL DAY LOOKS LIKE

Every day is different at Big Creek! Although it's hard to describe exactly what your week will look like we will do our best.

Each experience is different. Sometimes we have a lot of groups on campus, sometimes, just a few people. Regardless, our staff work hard to maintain an upbeat, Christ-honoring atmosphere for our teams. We strive to provide excellence in our facility so our teams show the excellence of Christ in the community.

We start our day with a joyful... and random.... Musical wake-up call!

We enjoy breakfast together, with a devotion after breakfast provided by the director or staff member.

After devotion, we head out to serve! This is where we divide teams into the specific work projects each day. You'll hop in your vehicles and travel to each work site. The projects will likely change daily – and we will communicate those changes to group leaders the night before. Flexibility is required!

Team members will take their lunches with them as they serve for the day. Teams will serve in a variety of areas – including construction projects, community service projects, and sometimes children's ministry opportunities. Each day our opportunities change, so teams will likely have the opportunity to switch around and experience different elements of the mission.

Once we return back to the mission, we enjoy dinner together, and make preparations for the next day! Sometimes we do have some cleaning or maintenance projects that we pitch in and do together. We will meet together and decide who's tackling the next day's projects. Groups share devotionals together, and spend plenty of time playing and fellowshiping with each other!

Our typical Big Creek Daily Schedule looks like this

7:30 am:	Wake-Up Call
8:00 am:	Breakfast
8:30 am:	Morning group Devotion
8:45 am:	Morning Private Devotion time
4:30 pm	Return to Big Creek (Dinner volunteers come to Kitchen at 4:30)
5:30 pm – 6:15 pm:	Dinner Served
6:30 pm – 6:45 pm	Dinner Cleanup
6:45-7:15 pm	Store Opens
7:30 – 10:45 pm	Free Time or Group scheduled time
10:45 pm:	Lights Out (ish) (exterior doors lock at 10:45 pm)

** About Worship: Groups are encouraged to plan some type of evening share time or worship. . Whether it is singing, Bible Study, or just a simple, straightforward devotion, it is important that your group starts and ends each day with a proper focus. Nothing unites a group more than worshipping and sharing the Word of God together.

The staff will be willing to assist you with evening devotionals or messages as requested.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

We encourage our teams to take a night, or an afternoon, to support our local restaurants! You may skip a meal at Big Creek and enjoy dinner “out” in the community!

Although this is a naturally beautiful area, We don't have an abundance of local activities. We enjoy outdoors, fellowship, relaxing, and serving each other. Please keep in mind: mission trips do not need a “side event” to make them entertaining. Our hope is that the mission trip is the main event!

Do not worry about trying to entertaining your group or pass the time. The rural setting provides an experience most volunteers are not accustomed to: peace and quiet. It allows groups to spend time together just growing closer and getting to know each other. The slow pace is refreshing and relaxing. You may not want to leave!

With that said, we do hope you'll consider supporting our local economy while you're here! Perhaps you'd like to take your group out for dinner one night, or enjoy lunch at our coffee shop?

- **Hyden** – 15 minutes away – small town with a nice downtown park for group fellowship.
Biggerstaff hiking Trail – located above downtown Hyden
Dairy Queen – Grill & Chill ... a full menu with some great ice cream!
The Well Coffee Shop & Café – This little café has some great sandwiches and drinks!
Sazon Mexican – a sit down restaurant with a variety of meals!
Subway – A better than average Subway!
Hardees – A much better than average Hardees!
Hyden Grocery Pizza

LIVING AT THE FACILITY

We have a great facility and we will do our best to help you feel right at home. In fact, it is your home for the week. Our staff will be available to you to assist with any needs throughout your stay. We all stay on campus with you.

Other Groups: While staying at Big Creek, **your group may not be the only one staying at our facility.** When we're at Big Creek, we act like one big family! During the off season, you won't typically share a room with other groups. However, we do share the same common areas and dining times.

Kitchen Preparation and Cleanup: Your group can expect to help us prepare and clean up food each day. Typically, all volunteers pitch in to assist with cleanup throughout the facility.

Some groups bring a designated kitchen crew. We have a detailed guide for our kitchen operations that will help them prepare our meals.

Maintenance / Cleaning: Big Creek Missions has no maintenance or custodial staff. During your week of missions, your group will assist with all cleaning and maintenance of the facilities. Serving each other is part of the mission trip!

Lights Out: In cooperation with group leaders, the center director will set a "lights out" time for all groups. Group leaders are expected to monitor their own groups. Typically, lights out is by 11 pm.

Accessibility issues: contact us if a member of your group needs special care. Our facility is one level with no steps. We do have a private fully accessible bathroom with roll in shower.

Menu Needs / Allergies: If a group member has medical dietary restrictions, we can attempt to accommodate. However, because we are in an area with limited food availability, we may not be able to accommodate all restrictions. We encourage group members with dietary restrictions to view our menu and bring substitute items as needed.

Telephone / Email / Internet: Group leader and adults will have use of telephone and wireless internet as needed. We have broadband internet and free long-distance calling. Children / students may use the phones to call home to check in with their parents as needed!

THE FACILITY

In February 2008, Big Creek Missions finally obtained a “home” for missions. The former Big Creek Elementary School has been converted into a full-time ministry center. We are constantly updating the facility to improve efficiency and effectiveness!

Outdoors

We have several acres of open fields, volleyball net, playground, ball field, and picnic pavilion. There is plenty of space for flag football, ultimate Frisbee, softball, or other games.

Sleeping Areas

We currently have ten sleeping rooms. Nine of our rooms sleep 18 each, and one room sleeps 36. New windows and A/C units were installed in fall of 2014, and we do our best to keep them refreshed and clean. We are constantly refreshing our supply of mattresses.

Males / Females: we provide separate male and female sleeping rooms. Please stay out of the room of opposite sex except for designated group meeting times.

Private Accommodations: We have a few rooms available for those who need private accommodations. These do cost additional money to heat / cool, so we would only ask for a donation to help offset this additional cost. If a person doesn't want to attend because of the bunk rooms, perhaps you can offer the private rooms as an option!

Food: You're more than welcome to bring all the snacks and food you'd like! Just help us keep the beds clean by storing all the food on the tables in the rooms. (No food on beds!)

Gym

The gym is air-conditioned and serves as our worship area. Since it serves as our “warehouse” and work area, it isn't always available for recreation.

Restrooms / Showers

We have new restrooms and shower facilities

Males restrooms / showers: 4 toilet stalls with doors, 10 shower stalls with doors, 10 sinks

Females restrooms / showers: 5 toilet stalls with doors, 10 shower stalls with doors, 10 sinks

Accessibility

We are accessible to anyone in a wheelchair or power chair! Our facility is on one level, no steps. Our shower rooms are one level, no thresholds with an accessible shower. We have a private, NEW, fully accessible roll-in shower with grab bars.

Washer / Dryer:

Washer and Dryer are reserved for staff / kitchen use. These are not typically available for guests

Kitchen / Dining Room

We have a great kitchen and dining room that can set up to 120. The dining room is also our “commons” area where your group can hang out after the work day.

Outside

We're blessed with a great front yard! We have several acres of flat land where you can play ball, fellowship, build a fire, and fellowship under the pavilion.

WHAT DOES IT COST US?

We do not have set fees for our spring and fall missions. We trust our groups to give generously to help us cover the costs of hosting your trip (and preparing for it before you arrive.) MANY similar trips to this would cost your group members \$50, 60, or even \$100 per day, plus construction materials. Please pray about making a donation towards covering the costs of hosting your group.

Our Food Costs - \$10 per person, per day

Typically, it's easier for us to have the food available for your group, especially if multiple groups are on site. We have to eat the same meals you do – so we do our best to provide GOOD food!

We have a basic menu from which we can order food and have it ready for your volunteers to prepare. (you can see the general menu later in the guide). We have to eat this food, so don't worry... It's actually pretty good! If we provide meals, these are our approximate costs per meal:

In some cases, groups do provide their own food. If there are any other groups on site, your group would be responsible for preparing enough food for all the teams, as we only have one kitchen. We do not recommend groups providing their own food. It's just easier if we do it!

Our Lodging & Staffing Costs - \$15 per person, per day

Our facility consists of 24,000 square feet of usable space. As you can imagine, the utilities alone can be extremely expensive. During periods of high use, our electric bill alone can cost over \$5,000! Your donation will help offset the costs of electric, water, phone, propane, facility supplies, and liability insurance.

It is impossible to put a “price tag” on staying at Big Creek – but a lodging / staffing donation of \$12 or more per person, per day, would assist us greatly. Your donations are our primary source of funding!

Construction Costs – variable - \$10 per person per day

Supplies for one ramp may cost \$1500. One roof replacement may cost us \$2500. Please consider this as you plan your donation. We will work with you to find a project suitable for the skills of your group.

- We ask that you provide construction coordinators and tools for projects, we will have materials ready for you at the ministry center.
- We will cover the cost for materials for our facility renovations, but gladly accept donations.

Bottom Line

Our Daily Food Costs:	\$10.00 per person
Our Daily Staff / Lodging Costs:	\$15.00 per person
Our Daily Average Construction Costs:	\$10.00 per person

On average, a donation of \$35 per person per day would be extremely helpful towards covering the costs of your trip.

(Our construction “daily” cost estimation is based on about 1/3 of your group participating in construction: however, all members would contribute to this construction project)

TRANSPORTATION & LOCATION

While you're at Big Creek, you will utilize your own vehicles to transport your team! Plan to bring vehicles that can allow dividing your group into teams of 8-10 to work. Your vehicles will determine your team sizes!

- **What type vehicles should we bring?** We recommend bringing smaller vehicles to transport your team.

- *12-15 passenger vans are good – as long as the drivers are comfortable!

- *Minivans are good!

- *Cars are good!

- *Trucks are GREAT for construction! This helps you transport your materials to site.

- *We don't recommend large buses, as they're hard to drive around here.

- **Where are we?** Google Maps will bring you to our front door: Simply search for "Big Creek Missions – 90 Bullskin Road, Bear Branch KY"

- All the roads that we recommend travelling to Big Creek are rather easy to navigate even in larger church vehicles.

- **Driving Distances:** Because we serve in three counties, drivers should be prepared to travel distances of close to 30 miles to their sites per day depending on your location. Some of the homes we visit are located on very narrow gravel roads.

MEDICAL CARE

We do not have staff nurses on site. Medical care is the responsibility of the individual and the group. Should medical care be needed, please consult with the director for advice on the best medical facility.

Location of Clinics / Hospitals: We have three hospitals in close range of our mission center.

- **ARH Big Creek Clinic:** 2 miles (we recommend this clinic for minor issues)
- **Mary Breckenridge ARH Hospital:** 10 miles
- **Manchester Memorial ARH Hospital:** 15 miles
- **Hazard ARH Hospital:** 25 miles

- **Driving Directions:** You can find driving directions on our website at www.bigcreekmissions.com/driving

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

*Please share about our mission in Kentucky to your entire church! Perhaps those who cannot attend physically can support the mission financially!

*Perhaps your pastor would allow a “mission offering” prior to your departure! This offering can go towards construction materials, community ministries, or children’s ministries during your week of ministry!

*Ongoing gifts: Perhaps your church would like to support our mission on a continuing basis. We would appreciate any budgeted gifts or offerings given to Big Creek Missions.

PHYSICAL DONATIONS

Because we are a mission center and NOT a camp, we are here to serve the community, and appreciate your help with additional funds for ministry. Everything you give will help continue the ministry that Big Creek offers in our community. While we welcome donations of quality used items, we cannot accept broken or totally dilapidated items. Thanks for understanding!

OTHER ITEMS THAT HELP US DO MINISTRY

1) Basics:

Clothing and Shoes

Hygiene items

Good quality home goods and Linens

Baby necessities

You can collect food, BUT, financial donations are more helpful as we can purchase food at a VERY discounted rate!

2) Construction Supplies

a. 2” and 3” galvanized / coated decking screws

b. ANY pressure treated lumber (2x4, 2x6, 2x8, 4x4, 5/4 decking boards)

c. Avantek Flooring

d. OSB – 1/2” or 3/4”

e. Ryobi One+ batteries

f. Lowes Gift Cards (if you don’t want to haul a lot of construction materials!)

3) Facility Supplies

a. Liquid Hand Soaps & dispensers

b. Garbage Bags: kitchen 13 gallon and 33 gallon heavy duty

c. 8 ounce disposable cups (Styrofoam or plastic)

d. Coolers (We can always use additional drink coolers – 5 gallon igloo or Rubbermaid)

e. Coffee & Creamers (for all the coffee drinkers!)

f. Dish washing Detergent

g. Toilet Paper

h. Paper Towels

i. Walmart & Lowe’s gift cards (if you don’t want to haul a load of donations!)

MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANT HANDOUT

Welcome to Big Creek! We look forward to serving with you at Big Creek Missions. This page will help you register as a participant for your mission trip.

Our group codename is: _____

Our trip dates are: _____

HOW TO REGISTER FOR OUR TRIP:

Go to www.bigcreekmissions.com/serve

Click the big blue link to register

If you're new, click the "sign up" button to create an account with your email & codename

You'll need to know our group code name. Our code name is above

After creating an account, you'll need to sign in using your email and password.

Step 1:

Add a participant and complete your permission / release form

(you can add other family members as needed!)

Step 2:

Sign up for the mission trip. Since some groups take multiple trips per year, it's important to select the dates for the trip you're attending with your group.

At www.bigcreekmissions.com/serve, you'll also find links to the following information:

MENU AND ALLERGIES: if you have food allergies, this will be very helpful!

WHAT TO BRING: This guide will let you know all the basics you'll need for the trip

CONSTRUCTION INFO: gives you information about our construction ministry