

RCHS SENIOR TRIP POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Introduction

Redding Christian High School students have the option to participate in a group trip near the end of their senior year. The trip is designed to provide high school seniors with a culminating group experience that incorporates a mixture of Christian service, cross-cultural interaction, and appropriate recreational activities. The trip takes place just prior to graduation and serves as a capstone event to help commission seniors as they move into young adulthood after high school (II Timothy 4:1-5).

Students will verify their participation in September of their senior year. Seniors who participate in the RCHS senior trip may meet their community service obligation for the spring semester. Seniors who go on the senior trip are excused from second semester final exams.

Destination

Senior trips are cooperative ventures with Christian youth organizations including Score International, Youth with a Mission (YWAM), Navigators, Joshua Expeditions, etc. These organizations have many years of successful experience conducting life-changing short-term programs for high school students. Trip destinations vary but are all within the U.S. and its territories. The major factors considered when selecting a location are 1) adequate opportunities for Christian service equaling at least, but not limited to, one full day, cross-cultural interaction, and appropriate recreational activities, 2) geo-political status, 3) travel time from Redding, and 4) financial impact. There will be opportunity for input regarding trip destinations; however, RCHS administration and school board make the final selection.

Fund Raising

RCHS provides multiple fund raising activities that classes may utilize annually, beginning in the summer before the student's freshman year. Additional senior trip fund raising activities are planned and conducted by each class after approval from the administrator through the staff advisor. An RCHS staff advisor, assigned by the high school principal, will assist each grade level class raise funds specifically for the senior trip. RCHS staff maintains senior trip fundraising accounts. A teacher and class parent advisor will be appointed for each year of high school to assist in fundraising efforts.

Students will raise some funds individually through personal endeavors and raise some funds through shared student activities. A per-student target amount that covers basic trip costs will be established. The per-student target amount includes transportation, fees, insurance, housing, food and a set amount for recreational activities/spending money. All funds raised from shared activities will be shared equally or prorated by student involvement in specific activities. The staff advisor will determine prorated scales as needed.

It is vital for class unity and honoring each other that all students demonstrate a *minimum level of initiative* in fund raising efforts. It is expected that students actively participate in all shared fund raising activities for their class. A minimum level of initiative requires all of the following: 1) attendance at 75% of all fundraising activities while enrolled at RCHS, 2) show consistent evidence of involvement, i.e., planning, preparing, set-up/clean-up, hours of attendance, selling items, providing supplies, etc. Students who meet the target amount early are still required to meet the minimum level of initiative described above.

In the event that a student does not demonstrate a minimum level of initiative, he/she may forfeit the shared raised funds and be precluded from traveling on the senior trip.

In the event that a student does demonstrate a minimum level of initiative, but does not raise the per-student target amount prior to trip departure, the student will not be allowed to go on the trip. However, the senior trip advisor will notify the school family of the need, and all other available options will be pursued to assist the student before the departure date.

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Academic/Behavior Expectations

Students must be in good standing both academically and behaviorally to go on the senior trip. Students not in good standing at departure time forfeit the privilege of going on the trip and forfeit all funds from shared activities.

RCHS student policies and procedures are in effect for all senior trip activities. Consequences for non-compliance will be enforced according to RCHS policies and procedures.

Cooperation

A successful group dynamic requires consistent cooperation of effort in all shared activities and compromise of opinion in the decision-making process. A biblical worldview supports the perspective of both servant leadership and brotherly love as the basis for each individual's attitude, responses, and participation throughout the planning and implementation of the senior trip. It is acknowledged and expected that differences in preferences and/or opinions will arise. It is also expected that once a decision has been reached, affirmed, or determined by the staff advisor, that it will be honored with a proper attitude without grumbling, complaining, or otherwise engaging in behavior detrimental to the group dynamic. *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:35

Trip Leader/Chaperones

The RCHS administration will select a staff member to serve as the trip leader and have RCHS administrative oversight for the entire trip. When both male and female students are trip participants, a second adult will be selected to serve for the other gender (and also serve as the assistant trip leader).

In the event that the mission sponsoring organization requires additional chaperones, RCHS administration will select the chaperones. The RCHS administration will make the selection when necessary. The transportation and accommodation costs for RCHS approved chaperones will be covered by senior trip fundraising income.