

# **SCS Global Missions Training Program 2024**

**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.” Acts 1:8**

The vision of global missions training for SCS was set when the high school was being “developed” and has been put into action the past 16 years as grade 11 and 12 students served in Mexico in 2005 and Bolivia from 2006 to 2019 and 2023. Our prayer is that the vision will continue to be fulfilled in 2024 as we look for God’s guidance.

Participation in a global missions training program contains many great opportunities. We will have the chance to share God’s love with others, to expose ourselves to missions, to be part of a cross-cultural experience, and to become transformed people. We encourage you to prayerfully consider whether God wants you to be a part of this global training program.

## **Questions you may have:**

### **1) Why is this a “training program” and not a “mission trip”?**

The current North American model of many short-term mission trips is not an accurate model of what is exemplified Biblically. It can be irresponsible, both in the lives of the participants and to the local people, to do “missions” in the short term. Our hope for this program is to truly walk through what discipleship can look like with a result of a better understanding of a missional lifestyle. While the focal point of our program is definitely “the trip”, we feel that there are invaluable lessons to be learned in the many different steps along the way. Therefore, the learning is in the process, not in the trip.

### **2) When is the trip?**

The trip will occur during the week prior to the Easter Break and a portion of the Easter break. This is governed by when we get flights, but we do want to give the participants a portion of Easter break to recover and adjust back to North American culture and food (tentatively April 2 – April 12, based on flight availability).

### **3) Do I have to go on the trip?**

The simple answer is NO, but the entire school year is focused on this program. This year is a steep year of learning, stretching, and, hopefully, application.

### **4) What if I do not attend the trip?**

Since SCS has placed an emphasis on missions, those students who are not part of the global mission trip will have a local mission training experience led by Ms. Stonehouse. This experience will take place during the school days leading up to Good Friday, during which the students will partner with various ministries around Saskatoon.

### **5) How much does the program cost?**

The 2024 global missions training program is estimated to cost \$84,000 (\$3,500 per participant). This amount is based on 14 years of experience, recent flight costs, and uses a team consisting of 24 students with 3 staff team leaders. In keeping with Canada Revenue Agency guidance, our school, as a registered charity, will be raising money for the missions training program, not for specific individuals.

The tuition fee for the 2024 global missions training program is \$1,100. As tuition, all or a portion of this fee may be refundable (subject to conditions) and receiptable for tax purposes. You are also welcome to spread the payment of this fee over the same time frame that you pay the rest of your SCS tuition fees.

The balance the amount required to fund this program (approx. \$2400 per participant) is fundraised by the participants and their families. There are unlimited options for the fundraising needed to make the trip happen.

The staff organizing and running the trip are available as resources for the parents and students. We have seen many fundraisers over the years, and we are available to give advice on what has worked well in the past. We will also work with the students and families to write informative and individualized fundraising support letters. Traditionally, we have had each student send out 50 letters. This can be very daunting but generally these letters have produced 80% of the funds needed for the program, so they are worth the work!

When we finalize the flights at the beginning of the 2024 year, there may be some financial assistance available to students who have worked hard to be involved in all aspects of the program but were unable to raise all the funds necessary to go on the trip. There will be an option to complete a financial assistance request and participation form. If there are funds available, and if the student has fully participated in all aspects of the program, they may be approved to receive some assistance. This is obviously dependent on the number of students requesting money.

**Please Note:** The Charities Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency regulates the manner in which Saskatoon Christian School issues charitable tax receipts. To comply with these regulations, monies received must be a gift to be eligible for an official tax receipt. Financial contributions to our missions training program are no exception so please understand all monies collected are a donation to SCS for our missions training program. That means the monies are not designated to a specific individual and, as such, are non-refundable.

As some of you may be aware, SCS has stepped back from raising the funds students need to participate in the global missions training program. This shift in fundraising responsibility has resulted in many changes to the way SCS is involved. Here are a few of the more obvious or major changes:

- The mission training trip expenses for this year's leadership team will not be paid out of the fundraising activities for this year's missions training program. Instead, these expenses will be sourced from funds held in reserve for the mission program. In future years, we anticipate budgeting for the leadership team's expenses as part of the school's operating budget.
- This year, the only mission program fundraising activities officially considered as "school fundraisers", as opposed to "student/family fundraisers", are the Sarcan Recycling Program and Fundraising Support Letter Campaign. Only donations to a school fundraiser are eligible for official tax receipting.
- Only "school fundraisers" should be presented/advertised as such. "Student/family fundraisers" are not sanctioned SCS events/activities and should not be presented/advertised as such.
- Because it is a school fundraiser, any funds raised as a direct result of the Fundraising Support Letter Campaign remain the property of, and under the control of, the school. It is for this reason that CRA allows SCS to issue official tax receipts for "fundraising support letter" gifts. SCS will associate these funds with each student's trip account based on their fundraising efforts under this campaign but any amounts raised in excess of the balances outstanding in each student's account will be deposited to the mission program's reserve fund. Conversely, funds raised as a direct result of a student/family (or group of students/families) fundraiser are the property of that student or family or group. Thus, it is entirely up to that student/family/group to deposit any part of those funds to the student mission training trip account(s) at SCS. However, if a student/family/group has advertised a purpose for their fundraiser (i.e. to raise money to go on a school trip), integrity and honour would dictate that any funds raised be used for that purpose.
- School staff, equipment, supplies and accounting software are only available for "school fundraisers". This includes SCS deposit books, office supplies, debit/credit machines, etc.

## 6) Why Bolivia?

We have a relationship with those we encounter in Bolivia. In Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, we are asked to "go back" to those we have served. Ken Switzer, former youth pastor from Avalon Alliance, has been working in Bolivia since 2006, so we have had the opportunity to return to partner with Ken and many other mission organizations in Bolivia (El Jordan, Women's Prison Ministry, El Camino boys' home, Compassion, and more). Because of our connection with Ken, we are able to cater to each team's needs. There is great value in being able to return to the same location each year, including:

1. Familiarity with location, surroundings, ministry, etc. It allows a team to prepare with greater intention and to be much more efficient/effective.
2. Building of relationships and trust that can continue year after year.
3. Ongoing contact throughout the school year.
4. Greater long-term purpose. Ministry can extend from basic building of relationships to intentional discipleship, etc.

## 7) What will we do in-country?

Ministry partners have often included:

**La Jornada** - Working and ministering to the young men Ken has living with him. These young men are finishing high school and starting a post-secondary education. This is a continuation and fruition project to get young people who started on the streets, went through school in an orphanage, became Christians, and are now working towards an education that will give them a career. These young men have the potential to be the Bolivian Christian leaders of tomorrow.

Working and ministering at the **YWAM girls' and boys' orphanages**. These homes are for the abandoned children who live on the streets of Santa Cruz, most of whom are victims of drug addiction and prostitution. Their mission is to assist, support, educate and teach the gospel to these children.

**Women's and Youth prison ministries** - We have gone to the women's prison to minister to the children that are in the prison with their moms. For many of these children, this may be the first time they have heard about Jesus, watched a drama, done a craft, or tasted a lollipop. You should see the expressions that greet us with these first-time experiences!

Partnering with **Misión Betel, Amparo, and Remember Nhu**. Each of these are ministries that work in a neighbourhood of highly impoverished people. They work to give the children hope and keep them out of the sex trade which is a high risk for girls in this socioeconomic state. We perform VBS at each of these ministries and we get to visit the families in their homes and make food with them. The powerful thing is that amidst all that they do not have, they passionately care and pray for us. These are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Many SCS families have **Compassion** children they support. One of the cool opportunities we have in Bolivia is to visit the children who have been adopted into the SCS family and bless them in their project to love these children.

Growing partnership with Ken's church – **Iglesia Kairos**. Most of the members of this church are active in ministry in Bolivia, which means that we have more and more avenues through which to serve. Their love for our students is meaningful and powerful.

**Our time in Bolivia will include work projects and VBS with the different missions as well as times of worship and prayer with and for the people of Santa Cruz, Bolivia.**

### **8) When will we be training for this trip?**

Formal training will begin in January of 2024. We will be using our Christian Ethics class, and after Christmas break, we will meet every Monday after school until 8pm (called "Missions Monday") for team building activities, basic Spanish language learning, poverty awareness, spiritual challenge and preparation, and logistical planning for the mission training trip.

### **9) How do I apply (students and chaperones)?**

Students and chaperones will apply almost immediately via an application and information form, external references, and a parent form. Prior to applying, students who plan to participate in the program will be required to read and respond to the book of Acts. Applications are due by Friday, September 29, 2024.

Please understand that not everyone, including adults, is "cut out" to go on a mission trip. It requires a commitment to flexibility, understanding, an ability to "go with the flow", always having a "plan B", and working outside of your comfort zone by a wide margin. The vision of this trip is based around transformational experiences for *SCS students*, and although we welcome applications for adult chaperones, we cannot facilitate unlimited additions to an already large team. We suggest the following when considering becoming an adult chaperone:

1. Take it before God to gain a sense of His leading
2. Talk to someone who has gone before.
3. Consider the financial cost of the trip, \$3500.
4. Examine how you like to be organized and how flexible you are.
5. If you are chaperoning, you will need to experience the training with the team.
6. Consider the reality of working with young people for an extended period of time.
7. Your son or daughter needs to approve your attendance.

**We hope that you will prayerfully consider participating in the 2024 Missions Training Program.**

**Immunizations:**

Each participant will need to have certain shots before they go on the mission training trip – if you are reluctant to have your child take these immunizations, please understand we will not be able to take them on the mission training trip. These shots can be started at your earliest convenience and no later than February 2024. You will need to go for at least two rounds of shots before we go on the trip and it takes a couple of weeks to book these appointments each time, so don't procrastinate.

**Required:**Tetanus Vaccine

No charge. Most students will have had this shot in grade 6.

Yellow Fever Vaccine (DIN #00428833) \$180Hepatitis A Vaccine (DIN #02243741 or #02237792)

\$82 X 2 shots if under 18 years of age, \$90 X 2 shots for adults

Hepatitis B Vaccine (DIN #02243676)

\$84 X 3 for people of all ages) This shot is only needed if you are an adult since most of us received this shot in grade 6 and are vaccinated for the next 20 years.

**NOTE:** Twinrix (DIN #02237548) is a combination of the Hep A and Hep B vaccines. It involves 3 immunizations, the second of which needs to be one month after the first and the third which is 6 months after the first. Only the first two must be done before the trip. The cost is \$86/shot if under 18 years of age and \$95/shot for adults.

Depending on your health insurance, one or more of these vaccines may be covered.

## Clinic Options:

- 1) Yellow Fever Assessment \$50, and \$25 for the additional. (In groups of 2-6 ppl)

Please understand that personal medical history information will be discussed at this consultation, so if you are not comfortable with this you should not book in with multiple participants. Assessment fees are waived if you get the vaccine.

- 2) Full Travel Health Assessment \$90 for the first person 16 years of age or older and \$45 for other guests – assesses for more than just Yellow Fever. Assessment fees are waived if you get the vaccine.

\*There is still a Yellow Fever shortage across Canada – it does not seem to be currently affecting Saskatoon, but it is still wise to book early to ensure you have the vaccinations you need.

**Recommended but not required are:**Malaria Medication

7 different types range from \$0.02 to \$5.00 per pill with some of the pills starting 2 weeks before the trip and some starting 2 days before the trip and going throughout. Please check with your local pharmacist.

Typhoid Vaccine (DIN #02130955) \$83

Can choose between a single injection (last 3 years) or 4 pills over 7 days (lasts 7 years).

**Passport:**

Please begin the application process for a passport as soon as possible. Passports are required for travel to Bolivia and need to be to your leader no later than January 30, 2024, to finalize flights. Passport applications are available on-line or in person at the Canada Building in Saskatoon. Passports that expire within six months after we leave for Bolivia must be renewed before we leave. If the traveler is 15 years old, it is a youth passport that needs to be requested, which expires when they turn 18 years old.

Passport	Adult	Child
	16 or over	15 and under
5 year	\$120	\$57
10 year	\$160	

**Note:** A cloth passport carrier that goes around your neck is required for this trip. They will be supplied by our travel agent on the "pack and pray" night a week before we leave.

**Packing Items:**

Please plan to purchase many of the items a person needs when travelling internationally. They will need things like a set of cheap sheets, toiletries, hand sanitizer, insect repellent, anti-itch lotion, sunscreen, and clothing for summer that adheres to SCS dress code. We suggest you prepare for these costs by purchasing them throughout the year as you see them go on sale. Many of the summer items we need will go on sale at the end of the summer season. A specific packing list will be provided but is subject to change depending on outreach activities.

**Spending Money:**

We will need to purchase meals when travelling to and from Bolivia. We will also have a time in Bolivia when the team will have an opportunity to pick up gifts of appreciation/souvenirs for their siblings, parents, grandparents, etc. The students do not need more than \$150 to \$200 US for this experience, but we leave the amount to your discretion. Please note Bolivia will only accept US dollars in new condition. Small denominations are strongly recommended.