

Diocese of Joliet Missions

Navajo Nation Mission 2024

June 1 -14 2024

Chinle, AZ

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MISSION PLAN

1. Core Values and Mission Goals

SERVANT LEADERSHIP: All service is for the glory of God. By that token, to lead, to place the needs of others before your own, a participation in the leadership of Christ who calls us to be his friends (John 15: 9-17).

- To form team members to recognize their talents as Christians called to mission.
- To improve the living conditions of the Navajo people through construction projects.

FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST: Constantly growing in our personal relationship with Christ through the sacraments, personal prayer, fellowship, and service to the poor.

- To help people hear and understand God's plan of love for their lives

COMMITMENT TO THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES: Faith, hope, and charity respectively expressed through catechesis, evangelization, and putting faith into action.

- To recognize our need for God.
- To share our faith through personal relationships and through charitable service on the Reservation.

JUSTICE & SOLIDARITY: To understand the causes of injustice and to stand with and be present to the needs of the poor.

- To learn the culture, history, spirituality, and needs of the Navajo people.
- To form relationships between the Navajo people and the team.
- To recognize the Navajo relationship with God's creation.

2. RESERVATION

The Navajo Reservation is the largest reservation in the U.S. and is in four (4) states (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah). The capital is Windows Rock. There is a museum and other sites in the area to visit. The Navajo people, who go by the name Dine` (The People), are very proud of their heritage and of their service in the U.S. Military. (There are cultural activities to various degrees to experience in the evening and on the weekend.) At all times be respectful of the Navajo people and culture as friends and fellow citizens. Team members are missionaries and friends first, tourists second.

When we take on a project, it has to be completed to the best of our ability. In the past, the Navajos, as with other Native Americans, have been the victims of many broken promises.

Because alcohol is illegal and a great cause of pain on the Reservation, alcohol is not permitted while on mission.

3. TEAM DONATION AND FORMS

The mission donation will be \$1160.00.

The donations do not have to come from your personal funds. Team members are encouraged to obtain monetary help from others, so they can share in the mission. Several members in the past have raised more than \$1,160 through friends, churches, and other organizations. A donation letter is available from the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization. All donations are tax deductible. The donations will be used for air and land

travel, construction expenses, meal preparation, and groceries. All extra funds raised will be donated to some need on the Reservation.

All checks are made out to the Diocese of Joliet and should have “Navajo Mission Trip” written on the memo line. If someone is donating money to you, make sure your name is also on the memo line so we know to whom the money should be credited.

Team members are expected to complete all application and medical forms, which include a statement from your doctor, and attend all pre-mission meetings. Team members must be 18 years or older. Team members will be expected to pledge to the goals of the mission. All applications must go through the Mission Selection Committee.

Members of prior Diocese of Joliet missions just need to inform the office of their intent and any changes in application information. They still need to complete the Assumption of Risk and, if over a year old, a new medical form.

4. TEAM FORMATION

Attendance is required at all formation meetings. Unless notified, all meetings are at the Blanchette Catholic Center 16555 Weber Rd, Crest Hill, IL 60403.

5. PROJECTS

Projects among the Navajo people and parish facilities will be screened by team leaders with advice from OLF staff. A small group will travel to Chinle, AZ in early March or April to assess the projects in the light of the abilities of the team members.

For projects we follow these basic principles

1. The project is a basic need and not a want
2. Navajo culture will be respected at all times.
3. We leave the family better off than before the project.
4. The project is within the team’s talent
5. The project can be completed with the timeframe of the mission.

6. ASSIGNMENTS

The general construction tasks will be construction carpentry, electrical wiring, roofing, and plumbing. Team members may be asked to carry materials, cleanup, or assist electricians, carpenters, or plumbers. Tasks may also include hanging insulation, hanging plasterboard, taping and mudding, tear down, and painting, (Although there is much to do on the Reservation and these other tasks may be appealing to the team member, team members are expected to focus all their efforts during the workday on construction projects.)

Some projects are at OLF, others with Navajo families. Unless certain skills are needed at a job site, members will be rotated through the job sites. Of course, other necessary, non-construction activities may present themselves. The group as a whole will evaluate these as far as time, talent and treasure permit.

7. JOB SITE AND TRAINING

The job site(s) are professionally run. Each job site will have a Job Site Leader who will discuss the needs and goals of their job site with the Job Site Coordinator. The Job Site Leader is in charge of the safety, construction, work assignments, and rest periods. The safety and health of team members are primary concerns. Rest and water periods during the workday are mandatory.

Each team member must adhere to instructions. Any problems, such as health and safety, must be reported to the Job Site Leader immediately. While on site, team members must not leave the job site without the knowledge of the Job Site Leader.

(It would be helpful if team members were familiar with some form of construction either through job experience or through home improvements. Minimum job skills are necessary, but not mandatory. Unskilled team members will be instructed and/or coached by either the Job Site Coordinator or another experienced team member. Team members must be willing to accept this instruction and coaching.)

MISSION LOGISTICS

8. ACCOMMODATIONS

OLF has few beds for women in the Convent and lower Food Pantry. Men sleep in the unfinished 2nd floor of the Food Pantry. Participants should bring bedding, pillows, and an air mattress and air pump as needed. This will be discussed at the 2nd Formation Meeting.

9. ACTIVITIES

Upon arrival in Albuquerque, we will begin the Mission with a short retreat at a Benedictine Monastery in Pecos, New Mexico. There is enough space for all to have their own room and bathroom. We will eat dinner and breakfast here, attend Sunday Mass, and offer our mission to God prior to serving on the Reservation.

On the second Sunday, all new members will be taken **on** a brief tour of Chinle. One can go to Canyon de Chelly on the weekend or any time after the day's activities. Weekend activities include Gallup, Hubbell Trading Post, Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock, and St. Michael's Indian School.

10. DAILY SCHEDULE

Weather and work conditions can affect the daily schedule. Should this situation arise, your cooperation and understanding are appreciated. Remember, you are on a mission, so inconveniences, schedule, and project changes should be considered the same as fasting. The team travels together to and from job sites. Team members must be aware of other team members and not act independently. It is recommended to shower after they leave the job site for the day. Team members are expected to be on time for team-scheduled events.

11. EMERGENCIES IN THE FIELD

Minor injuries will be treated on-site using supplies from the team first aid kit. A vehicle is always available in the event a trip to a doctor or hospital is required. Some team members may be certified in CPR or First Aid, but this will not be known until the team is assembled. The nearest non-Navajo hospital is in Gallup, NM. *Chinle Comprehensive Care Facility* is for Navajos, but they will take emergencies. All instances must be reported.

12. FOOD

Team members are expected to help shop, cook and cleanup for meals. At times, the team eats together outside of OLF. **We will try to accommodate special dietary requirements, but be aware that resources are limited.** Water and Gatorade will be provided from Team funds.

13. ITINERARY

Volunteers should be aware that schedules can and do fluctuate. Saturday and Sunday are days to go and do sightseeing, shopping, visits, wash clothes, or simply crash and relax. Some may wish to work, but are not encouraged. Of course, on the Reservation all schedules are tentative.

Day	Activity
Saturday	Fly to Albuquerque, Drive to monastery for retreat
Sunday	9:30 Mass at monastery, conclude retreat, drive to Chinle
Monday - Saturday	Work at OLF, work sites
Sunday	9 a.m. Mass, tour area
Monday - Wednesday	Work at OLF, work sites
Thursday	Work at OLF, work sites, clean up, pack
Friday	Return home

14. PHYSICAL CONDITIONING

Please show this section to your physician when he/she is completing your health statement.

To the examining physician:

Your patient has volunteered to join a Diocese of Joliet mission team, which has specific physical demands of which you and your patient should be aware. We need your accurate evaluation of your patient's ability to meet the conditions detailed below in order to safeguard his/her health and safety, and ensure that s/he can participate fully and effectively.

Overview

Team members should be in good health and physical condition. They will be required to use hand tools, power tools, lift, stretch, carry materials, walk, climb ladders and experience dry dusty conditions. Most work is done in full sun. Chronic conditions of all kinds, especially respiratory conditions, are not advisable in this mission. Psychologically, team members should be prepared to work as a team with several others with different backgrounds. Previous team members with from fifteen (15) to seventy-five (75) years old, with 31% to 53% female.

General Conditions

Temperatures	From 50 to 90-degree Fahrenheit, cooler at night
Windstorms	Dust devils, small brief whirlwinds, avg. 8mgh, even sandstorms
Humidity	21 (afternoon) to 54 (morning)
Altitude	5.506 ft.
Rainfall	Avg. 3 rain days, ¼ inch
Sunshine	85%

Volunteers should be able to walk 2 miles per day across moderate terrain.

(Workday generally is 7:30 am to 3:00 pm with breaks.)

Medical Conditions of Special Concern

The follow medical conditions (or limitations) would make participation difficult or uncomfortable for volunteers. Also listed are health hazards that may be encountered in the mission area. Some limiting medical conditions are shortness of breath, emphysema, heart conditions, chronic arthritis, blindness, and unregulated low blood sugar, inability to tolerate the sun. Health Hazards include sunstroke/dehydration, altitude sickness, plant allergies, and sunburn. We encourage regular water intake to avoid dehydration and big hats, appropriate clothing to avoid sunburn and sunstroke.

Team members should have a current Tetanus X shot.

*Team members should bring two weeks, plus extra, of any prescription medication, and any prescribed emergency medications. There is one grocery store in Chinle for prescription and non-prescription medications.

15. PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN – VIRTUS CERTIFICATION

All members must have completed the Virtus *Protecting God's Children* program. People selected to participate in the mission will be given instructions to create an online Virtus account where they will become certified to safely work with minors and peers on the mission.

16. REIMBURSEMENTS

If a team member makes purchases for a job, gas, groceries, then they must obtain a receipt and turn the receipt to the designated person the day of the purchase. The team member will be reimbursed at the end of the mission.

17. RESOURCES

Local library: Navajo, The Long Walk. Check the date and perspective.

Blood Runs Like a River Through My Dreams: A Memoir; Nasdiji

The Book of the Navajo; Raymond Friday Locke; July 2002 latest Ed.

Several mystery novels; Tony Hillerman

Newspaper www.navajotimes.com

General www.navajocentral.org

Government www.nps.gov/cach

Chinle, AZ www.city-data.com/city/Chinle-Arizona.html

18. SAFETY

At no time leave the parish campus or work site without letting someone know where you are. Do not wander at night. Always in pairs.

Team members who respect, cooperate and watch each other's back make for safety awareness. Leaders should be aware of the project at hand, the limits of each member, and safety.

Gloves	Tight leather is best. What you grip should not slip out of your hand and your gloves should not slip off.
Head Covering	You must wear something on your head. You must wear sunscreen. Wear a bandana to protect your neck from sunburn.
Safety Glasses	<u>(MANDATORY, you must wear them at all times while on the construction site.)</u>
Personal Health	If you feel faint, dizzy, or disoriented, please stop, and see your team leader. Only you can know what is normal with your own body. If something does not feel right, then inform someone in charge. Heat stroke and heat related illnesses start very subtle and then explode violently.
Water	Take regular water breaks. To avoid extra garbage, bring a refillable water bottle.
Dust	Dust devils or dust storms are a common occurrence. It is always windy and dry on the Reservation. Cover face and nostrils and stop breathing until the dust devil passes. Masks will be available for those working with insulation, sanding plaster or sawing.

19. TRAVEL PLANNING

Local team members normally fly from Midway to Albuquerque, NM. From there the team will drive to Chinle, AZ in rented mini-vans and regular vans. The team returns to Albuquerque, NM on the last Friday to depart for Chicago or elsewhere.

The Office of Catechesis and Evangelization arranges all travel. Out-of-state team members should contact the office to arrange travel so they will arrive in Chicago to travel with the team or in Albuquerque, NM, to meet the team members. If for a very strong reason a team member must arrive late, it is best to arrive on Sunday or Monday. Usually someone drives back on Monday to Gallup to purchase construction supplies. There is a train from Albuquerque to Gallup and motels in Gallup.

20. VEHICLES

Mini-vans and vans are rented in and returned to Albuquerque, NM airport. Drivers must have a valid driver's license. Must be 21 years or older, must have a non-suspended license with no outstanding tickets, and must have no driving related health limitations. Those who volunteer to be the main driver on the vehicle with the rental agency must have a credit card that can cover the rental charge of \$2500. All drivers will be asked to sign a document that the preceding is true. Normally we have at least two team members drive the tools from Chicago to Chinle, AZ. THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET TRANSPORTATION POLICY will be followed.

21. WHAT TO BRING

Do no bring more luggage than you can carry and handle on your own. We recommend that you pack a carry-on bag with an extra set of work clothing and personal essentials in the event your luggage is lost and/or takes several days to catch up with you. Usually, the airlines determine the baggage limit and those limitations are sufficient for the transportation vehicles to and from Albuquerque. Please do not ask other team members to carry luggage for you. There is a fee for extra or overweight bags, which you will have to pay.

(You can bring other construction tools, but to prevent massive duplication and bringing too many unneeded tools, a list will be developed based on the nature of the projects and discussed at the second formation meeting.)

An extra pair of shoes (tennis shoes, etc.) is often handy as work boots can get dirty and uncomfortable after a full day of work. Work boots should be well worn in and comfortable.

NO BROKEN TOOLS!! The handle is never *slightly* cracked.

Personal Tools (Mark all your tools)

25 ft retractable tape measure

Carpenter pencils (2)

Flat Pry Bar

Flat Scraper (5 or more in 1 tool best)

Gloves (leather, the tighter the fit the better)

Hammer (the weight you can handle)

Retractable razor utility knife of good quality

Safety glasses (not googles) and sun glasses

Sharpie black marker

Small crescent wrench or pliers or channel locks

Straight-blade and Phillips screwdrivers

Tool bag to fit all inside (Bags are better than boxes and buckets for packing)

Tool pouch

Personal Items

Hat

Sun Screen SPF 30 or over

Water bottle to fill from main water jug and to reduce extra plastic litter

Work boots, clothes, and socks