



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **Who is this trip for?** This trip is for current 9th-12th graders.
- **Where are we going?** We will be traveling to Costa Rica through Praying Pelican Missions. They are a well-established international missions agency that works to equip and encourage the local church through short term missions teams. They are familiar and equipped to work with youth groups. For more information on Praying Pelican head to www.ppm.org.
- **When?** June 14-20, 2025. We will fly out ***early*** from Philadelphia International Airport on Saturday, June 14. We will return to Philadelphia on June 21 at 12:30am.
- **Cost?** The total trip cost is \$1950.00. This covers the cost of flights, meals while in Costa Rica, transportation, lodging, and programming costs. While this seems high, the church will offset some of this cost. Once we have a final number, we will communicate the total cost expected to be raised, which will be less than \$1950.
- **What do I owe?** Each participant is expected to pay a \$50 deposit upon registering. The deposit is non-refundable and non-tax deductible.
- **What about the other \$1900?** Part of the missions experience is raising support for this trip. Each participant is expected to send out 50 support letters to friends and family, asking for support through prayer and financial giving. We are placing our trust in the Lord to provide the money we need for this trip. We will work as a team, so if someone raises more than needed, the overflow will go to the group's collective goal.
- **What extra expenses are there?** Students will be expected to pay for food while traveling to and from Costa Rica, and for any extra spending while in Costa Rica.
- **How do I sign up?** When you decide to come on this trip, you will fill out the registration form, pay the \$50 deposit (online through the form, or by handing check or cash to Katie Coleman), fill out a volunteer application, and turn in a colored copy of your passport or passport application. All the links can be found at <https://sycamorehill.life/costa-rica-missions>.
- **What is the commitment to go on this trip?** Each participant, youth and adult chaperones, are signing up with the full understanding that their presence at each team meeting and event is mandatory. These meetings are important for planning, prepping, and spiritual development. Each participant also agrees to meet each deadline and requirement leading up to this trip. If students are unwilling to put in the work leading up to the trip, they will not be permitted to go to Costa Rica.

- **Will we be safe?** Yes, but we cannot guarantee that nothing bad will happen because no experience is 100% safe. While in Costa Rica, we will always be with our Praying Pelican guide, who is a native Costa Rican, and our church host. Praying Pelican hires professional, well trusted buses to drive us everywhere while in the country during our stay. We will have translators with us as well. Praying Pelican has been established in Costa Rica for over 15 years. We feel confident that this trip is age appropriate and safe for our youth to go on.
- **Where will we be sleeping?** We will stay at the local church that we will be serving while in Costa Rica. Youth will bring air mattresses to sleep on. The building is secured and has access to running water.
- **What will we be doing?** When our team is assembled in December, we will decide what type of mission work we would like to do. The options are construction projects, food distribution, children's ministry, VBS, youth camps, and more. Our goal will be to cater to our groups' giftedness, but also to be flexible to do the work needed by our partner church.
- **Who is leading this trip?** Dave DeGennaro and Katie Coleman will be co-leading this trip. We will be looking for at least one more male and female adult chaperones.
- **Who can we contact for more information?** Feel free to email, call, or text the Youth Minister, Katie Coleman, at 610-529-4303 and youth@sycamorehillchurch.org.

We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining our team! We cannot wait to be a part of God's kingdom work in Costa Rica!

*How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who brings good news,
the good news of peace and salvation,
the news that the God of Israel reigns!*
Isaiah 52:7