FAQs

Everything you need to know to be prepared for the NYC Trip

IMPORTANT DATES

1. When is the deposit due?
    - A $125 non-refundable deposit application fee is due at the time of online registration. This fee is applied towards the cost of your trip.
2. When is my trip balance due?
    - Final balance on all registrations is due on or before June 30th. Any balance remaining after June 30th will be automatically charged to your credit card.
3. What are the registration deadlines for the trip?
    - Early Registration: November 1 - December 31
    - Regular Registration: January 1 - March 31
    - Late Registration: April 1 - May 31
    - After May 31st, registrations will be based on availability only and will require full trip cost payment at time of application.
4. What is my responsibility for the cost of the trip?
    - As a participant in this mission trip, you assume full responsibility for payment of all mission trip costs. Spread Truth encourages you to raise support from donors for these costs, but the ultimate responsibility is yours.
    - As a convenience, Spread Truth automatically charges your registration credit card for the remaining balance on the due date if you have not notified us in advance of an alternate payment.
5. Are there any payment plans to pay off my final balance?
    - A participant may choose to pay for their trip in weekly or monthly payments via credit card or automatic withdrawal from a checking/savings account. This can be helpful to those who decide not to raise support from donors by spreading payments out.
    - Please contact Spread Truth by phone (309) 452-3213, and we can discuss payment plan options.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

1. What are our lodging accommodations?
    - New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge
      333 Adams St
      Brooklyn, NY 11201
2. What about my transportation to/from New York City?
    - Team members can book their transportation and transfers through our travel agency, Peoria Charter. This can include transportation by plane, train, or bus from any departure city of the team member's choosing. Payment will be required at the time of booking; however, this cost may be reimbursed with donated funds.
    - If you do book your own transportation, please let us know of your estimated arrival time.
    - Spread Truth does not reimburse with donated funds for those booking their own transportation.

3. What are the benefits of booking through Peoria Charter?

    - You're provided with the best flights possible. We are able to reserve multiple tickets on a flight so your group can arrive together.
    - Tickets booked through Peoria Charter may be tax-deductible, and donations can be received for that cost.
    - You will have an agent's assistance with missed connections, flight delays due to mechanical issues or weather conditions, and baggage delays.

- Tickets booked through our agency are arranged for the correct arrival and departure times in New York City, in accordance with our specifications.
- Someone will meet you at baggage claim when your flight arrives in New York City and help you with your transfer.
- You will have first available hotel space should a flight get canceled due to weather conditions and be rescheduled for the next day.
- Travel can be booked from any location you request. Multiple city options are available.

4. May I drive to New York City?

- Team members are welcome to drive to New York City if they wish. If you choose to do so, we advise that you research where you can safely and cost-effectively park, as parking for a week can be quite expensive.

TRIP COSTS & RAISING MONEY

1. What is the trip cost? (Based on Double Occupancy - 2 people/2 beds OR Couple Occupancy - 2 people/1 bed)
   - NOTE: This trip cost does NOT include money for meals or travel.
   - **Early Registration: November 1 - December 31, 2026**
     - Single Occupancy: $2, 246
     - Double Occupancy: $1, 349
     - Triple Occupancy: $1, 090
     - Quad Occupancy: $930
   - **Regular Registration: January 1 - March 31, 2027**
     - Single Occupancy: $2, 296
     - Double Occupancy: $1, 399
     - Triple Occupancy: $1, 040
     - Quad Occupancy: $980
   - **Late Registration: April 1 until May 31:**
     - Single Occupancy: $2, 346
     - Double Occupancy: $1, 449
     - Triple Occupancy: $1, 190
     - Quad Occupancy: $1, 030
   - **Saturday Arrival (1 day early): An additional $150 per person**
2. What does the cost include?
   - The trip cost includes hotel accommodations , meeting space, OMNY card, trained leader, training materials, support materials, and evangelism materials, as well as online account management, which includes processing of all donation support.
3. What if I don't want Double Occupancy?
   - The price for Quad Occupancy (4 people/2 beds) is $980/person (for regular registration period)
     - However, the only way we can guarantee quad occupancy is if the following criteria is met:
       1. You secure a room for four people of the same gender or two married couples or a family.
       2. For rooms with team members 18 years old or younger, there must be at least one adult (21 years or older) in that room.
   - If you want Quad Occupancy, you must call the Spread Truth office at (309)452-3213 or e-mail us at office@spreadtruth.com. Please reference: JULY TRIP QUESTION in the reference/subject area of your email.
4. Will I receive a trip statement?
   - Statements can be viewed on your Fundraising Dashboard under My Donations. This statement shows donations/payments received toward your account (this will include each donor's name and amount).
5. How do I receive donations toward my trip cost?

- Each team member will be set up with an account at Spread Truth Ministries. This account is specified by the team member's ID number. Team members will receive their member ID number via email within 3 business days after their application and deposit are received by Spread Truth Ministries. Their account is where donations/payments will be deposited.
- Donations may be mailed directly to the Spread Truth office at 306 N Main St, Bloomington, IL 61701. Donations and payments by **check should be payable to Spread Truth Ministries.** We cannot accept checks that are made payable to an individual team member.
- **Donors can give two ways online:** they can access the give page via the direct link you send them, or they can access the general give page and select the name of the person they are sponsoring. All donations are tax-deductible.

6. Do you have a support letter I can send?
   - Team members are encouraged to send out their support letters as soon as they sign up for the trip. A support letter is available through your GO Trip account once you register an account. This is a form letter that can be personalized with your personal information.
   - Team members should reference their member ID number on all support letters sent.
7. What are my payment options?
   - **By check:** mailed to and made payable to Spread Truth Ministries. Include your member ID number in the memo line of the check.
   - **Online**: with a credit card through your account.
8. What other costs can I expect to pay?
   - **Meals and travel are not included in the price of the trip.** Participants are allowed (by the IRS) to raise support over the cost of the trip for meals. This allowance is $69 for travel days and $92 for full days in the city. Most people spend much less than this on meals - this is just the allowance from the IRS.
   - Any additional funds that are raised beyond the cost of the trip and the daily meal allowance may go towards reasonable travel costs (if booked through Peoria Charter). If after trip, meal, and travel costs have been met, any additional donated funds will be placed in the Spread Truth Ministries general fund to purchase evangelism materials.
   - **Money raised for food and travel allowance will be accepted until June 15.** Team members will be reimbursed by check, which is mailed 5 business days prior to the trip.
   - **Trip participants are responsible for any unforeseen expenses incurred during the trip, including but not limited to** missed connections, weather delays, extra hotel nights, additional meals, room damage, and medical expenses. Peoria Charter will supply trip participants who purchased trip insurance through them appropriate claim forms for covered reimbursable expenses.
9. What if I raise more funds than my trip costs and meal money?
   - Excess funds will not be transferable to other trip members unless they are immediate family members (spouse, parent, child, or sibling). In addition, excess funds will not be transferable to future trips. Excess funds raised over the initial cost of the trip and meal money will go into the trip general fund.
   - Meal and travel money can be raised until June 15. Donations received after June 15 will automatically be placed in the general trip fund unless it is going to pay off a trip balance. According to IRS guidelines, tax-deductible donations are at the sole discretion of Spread Truth Ministries.
10. Do I need medical insurance to go on the trip?
    - While it is not required, we prefer that all team members have medical insurance coverage while on the trip. Anyone not covered by a regular policy will be asked to sign a medical insurance release form indicating they will be responsible for any out-of-pocket medical insurance expenses.
11. Does Spread Truth Ministries offer trip insurance?
    - No; however, Spread Truth recommends purchasing a travel protection plan to help protect you and your investment from the unexpected. Consider travel protection for Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, and more.

    - This trip insurance must be purchased at time of booking travel through Peoria Charter to cover pre-existing conditions.
12. What if I decide to cancel my trip?
    - Your $125 application fee (deposit) is non-refundable. In addition, the following fees apply if you decide to cancel your trip:
        - 60 or more days prior to trip departure: $125 deposit
        - 59-45 days prior to trip departure: $325 ($200 cancellation fee plus $125 deposit)
        - 44-31 days prior to trip departure: $525 ($400 cancellation fee plus $125 deposit)
        - 30 days or less prior to trip departure: $1399 (entire cost of trip including deposit)
    - If you purchase trip insurance when you booked your travel, and your cancellation is a covered reason, you will recoup most cancellation fees from the insurance company. You will not recoup the cost of insurance.

SIGHTSEEING ACTIVITIES

- You are welcome to plan your own evening activities on Monday through Thursday evenings. We have required meetings on Sunday and Friday evenings.
- We occasionally plan group activities to visit some of the most popular sites; this is a great resource for those unfamiliar with New York City.
- Sightseeing activity fees are the responsibility of the trip participant. Since this is for entertainment purposes, tax-deductible donations received to an account cannot be used toward the activity fees.
- Please join the private NYC Facebook page you'll be provided with to connect with other participants. This is a great way to find what others are doing on their free evenings, where to eat, or what not to miss!

PREPARATION BEFORE THE TRIP

- What about training?
    - You will receive an e-mail at the beginning of June with information concerning training. **It will be important to read all trip emails and to join the private FB group.**
    - In addition, you will receive further evangelism training while in NYC during our morning sessions and from your cord leaders and experienced team members.
- What should I bring with me to NYC?
    - All airline tickets are e-tickets. You must have a government-issued photo ID for airport check-in (this can be a driver's license with Real ID, passport, visa, etc.) Refer to TSA guidelines for proper documentation.
    - Bible
    - Backpack
    - Good walking shoes
    - Money for food ($300 is recommended for meal money; many eat for less)
    - Money for sightseeing and souvenirs
    - Sunscreen or hat (you'll be outside a lot)
    - Wet wipes or anti-bacterial hand wash
    - Limit your luggage to one checked bag and one carry-on per person - checked bag weight 50 lbs. or less
    - Breakfast/Snacks (i.e., Pop Tarts, cereal bars, crackers, granola bars, and pretzels). These things can also be purchased at stores near the hotel.
    - Sweater or jacket for the meeting room
    - Extra clothes (it gets hot during the day)
    - At least one person (and sometimes more) has had their luggage lost by the airline; for this reason, please put at least one change of clean clothes in your carry-on, as well as any medications or other necessities you may need.
    - The rooms provide: a safe, hair dryer, coffee maker, ironing board, and iron. There is no self-serve laundry at the hotel. Laundry at the hotel is a paid service.
- May I request a roommate?
    - We will do our best to honor roommate requests but cannot guarantee them.

    - For rooms with team members that are 18 years or younger, there must be at least one adult (21 years old or older) in that room.
    - Requests should be made on your application or via email (office@spreadtruth.com)
- What is the dress code in NYC?
    - Make sure your clothing is modest and remember that we are ambassadors for Christ.
    - Modest pants and jeans. Non-revealing shorts or skirts. No low-cut tops or midriff tops. No spaghetti-strap, tank, or strapless tops or dresses. Sleeveless tops are acceptable.
    - Nothing torn or frayed. No t-shirts with questionable material on them.

DURING THE TRIP

- What happens when I arrive in NYC?
    - Registration is from 10:00 am until the required meeting at 6:30 pm on Sunday night. There will be signs to direct you to our check-in area. **Do not check in at the front desk.**
    - We will be distributing hotel rooms from 3:30 pm until 6:00 pm or as they become available. A ballroom will be open for you if you wish to rest until your room is ready.
    - If you are arriving a day early and/or did not book through Peoria Charter, please send us your flight information or ETA if driving so we know the approximate time to expect you.
    - At registration, you will receive a packet of information for the week, including, but not limited to, the week's agenda, cord list, and t-shirt.
    - You may want to do a little sightseeing or grab a bite before the required meeting on Sunday night at 6:30 pm. A nearby restaurant guide will be provided for you when you arrive.
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- What is the typical itinerary for the week?
    - A typical itinerary is below. Final itineraries with exact times will be provided in your registration packet when you arrive in NYC.
    - Daytime:
        - 8:30a - Morning Session
        - 9:00a - Evangelism & Pray
        - 10:00a - Head to ministry locations
        - 5:00p - Hotel, cord group debrief (subject to travel times, cord leaders, etc.)
    - Evening:
        - Sunday - Required Opening Meeting
        - Monday - Free Night (optional: Chinatown/Little Italy group outing)
        - Tuesday - Free Night (optional: Prayer meeting groups traveling together to Times Square Church or Brooklyn Tabernacle)
        - Wednesday - Free Night
        - Thursday - Free Night (optional: Chelsea Market/Highline group outing)
        - Friday - Required Closing Meeting
- When will I receive a cord list?
    - A "cord" (Ecc. 4:12) is the group of 10-16 people with whom you will be ministering throughout the week. Each cord is led by an experienced leader.
    - You will receive your cord list in your registration packet when you arrive in New York City. Because changes are sometimes made at the last minute for various reasons, these lists are not provided prior to the trip.
- May I choose other team members to be in my cord?
    - When we place you in a cord for the week, our goal is to place you with at least a few other people from your group/church/location.
    - Through experience, we have found that the best mix is to place people from various groups together. This provides an opportunity to bond with other Christians from across the U.S.
- What guidelines do I need to abide by at the hotel?
    - No loud, boisterous talking in the hotel. No running in the hotel hallways.
    - Be courteous of other hotel guests and team members.
    - If you are under 18, an adult must always accompany you. An adult is someone 21 years of age or older.
    - Any damage to a room is the responsibility of the room members.

    - Boys and girls should not be in the same room unless chaperoned by one of their group leaders.
    - You will be assigned to a specific room. You are not to switch rooms for any reason. If you have a problem with your room assignment, please see a Spread Truth Ministries staff member.
    - All rooms with an 18-year-old or younger must have at least one adult, age 21 years old or older, staying in that room.
- Are there any specific guidelines by Spread Truth Ministries?
    - You are required to attend all group meetings. **Please be on time.**
    - Your cord leader is in charge of you while at your ministry track. If your cord leader asks you to meet at a certain time, please do your best to be there on time.
    - You will be assigned to a specific cord and cord leader. You are not to switch cords for any reason. If you have a problem with your cord, see a Spread Truth Ministries staff member or speak with your cord leader.
    - Always ask permission before you use someone else's property. Keep track of your own materials, Bible, etc. Do not leave them lying around on the floor of the general meeting room at the hotel.
    - Please stay out of places that might harm your testimony.
- How can I make sure I am safe while in NYC?
    - Inside the hotel, always be with another team member.
    - You should not travel alone anywhere outside the hotel without your Cord group, church group, a man, or 3-4 ladies per group.
    - 18- to 20-year-olds should be in groups of at least 3 when leaving the hotel, and they may not escort those under 18 outside the hotel.
    - Carry only a small amount of cash with you each day.
    - When you are traveling to your ministry track, always stay with your Cord Leader and other cord members.
    - Listen for your Cord Leader's instructions.
    - Instructions on whether to get on or off the subway will only come from your Cord Leader.
    - Do not stand on the edge of the subway platform.
    - Move quickly when entering or exiting a subway car.
    - If you are left on the subway, go to the next stop and get off. Walk to the front of the platform and wait for the rest of the cord to come and get you.
    - If you do not get on a subway train and are left at the station, walk to the front of the platform and wait for the rest of the cord to come back to your location and get you.
    - Look for opportunities to witness to someone of your own gender.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

- Are there any age restrictions for the trip?
    - There are no age restrictions for our mission trips. We have had attendees as young as 6 years old and as "young" as 88 years old.
    - We do request that a parent or grandparent accompany children under the age of 13.
    - Older attendees or those with physical limitations can request a slower-paced cord group.
- Are there age-related guidelines?
    - A parent or grandparent must accompany children under the age of 13 on the trip.
    - Any team member under 18 must have a parent or legal guardian complete the liability release form on the participant agreement.
    - Those 13-18 must have a designated guardian attending the trip who is 21 years of age or older.
    - Team members under the age of 18 must have an adult (21 or older) staying in their room while in NYC.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

    - Phone: (309)452-3213
    - Email: office@spreadtruth.com - Please reference: JULY TRIP QUESTION in the reference/subject area of your email.