

Junior Christian Service trips require student fundraising

Costs are rising for some trips, and students and families must find ways to pay.

Jack Guardiola '20
COPY EDITOR

Juniors have selected their Christian Service trips for 2018. Students are charged with raising a portion of their travel expenses, while the remaining expenses are subsidized by the Christian Service program.

Trips to South Africa and Fiji are priced at \$2,000 for students, while the other trips to Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, New Orleans, Peru, and Houston are priced at \$1,600. This represents an increase in cost from 2017 for some of the trips.

"Last year's service trip did not include insurance, and then because of the rises in airfare and that type of stuff, we needed to increase the prices," Christian Service Coordinator Mr. Stephen Borish said.

According to Borish and Christian Service Coordinator Mrs. Kimberly Wright, there are multiple ways a student can pay for his trip.

"In the past, students have asked family members, their parish," Borish said. "I know students in the past have gone and done collections at their parish where they'll get up and say 'I'm going on a trip, this is what I'm doing, at the end of the service I'll have a collection if you'd like to donate money.' Other kids have made t-shirts."

Borish said that other students reach out to organizations or companies. "A lot of companies

dedicate a good amount of money to organizations or people who are going to do some sort of goodwill."

Some students come up with creative ways to raise the funds for the trips.

"One year a student made luggage tags. His father had a business that produced these luggage tags and he sold luggage tags that had Malvern Prep on it," Wright said.

Other students, like seniors John Connors and Dave Wiener, used more traditional methods to raise their money.

"I had a job for two years beforehand, so I used all the money I had saved up to pay for the trip. I actually worked here, I teach swim lessons at the pool," Connors said.

Wiener raised the money by asking for it. "First thing I did was I went door to door around my neighborhood asking my close friends who lived there, and then I asked family, brothers, cousins, and grandparents," he said.

Although some students might be concerned about raising the funds for the trip, it is mandatory that students complete the service trip after junior year as part of their graduation commitment.

Luckily for students and families, an endowment for the Christian Service program covers 50% of the expenses for the trip. However, if a student is struggling to raise the funds, he should reach out to Malvern's administration, according to Borish.

According to Wright, there are rarely times when a student can't raise enough money.

"A lot of students actually collect more money than they need, they are so successful at collecting donations that they have excess," said Wright.

Borish, who is also a 2010 alumnus of Malvern, said he went to Peru and loved it.

"I went to Peru and I went with Ms. Cirone [Mrs. Nicole Wilkinson] and Mr. [Jim] Stewart," Borish said. "It was just an awesome experience. I spoke Spanish, so I was able to communicate with people, but it was really cool to hear their story and realize that you might meet somebody, and they might live in a super small hut, but they wake up every morning with a smile and are happy."

Borish stressed the importance of revisiting a site.

"What we see in a lot of communities we work with is we come in, do some sort of work, and because there's something going on in the community itself or in the government, the issues are never resolved," he said. "So it's really important that we build communities that we consistently go back to and help to make sure that they know that it's important to work on the thing we say we're going to work on."

Wright said that every student she has spoken to after his trip loved it. "I don't know anybody who did not totally enjoy the experience," she said. ◇

According to Gould, these sessions will teach the students about meteorology, geology and ecology of the area.

The students that are interested in the Summit Trip will be able to attend preliminary hikes that will prepare them for New Hampshire, Gould stated. She anticipates around ten students attending the Summit Trip.

The first Middle School hiking trip of this year, an excursion to Hawk Mountain in Kempton, PA, took place on October 12.

"Our first hiking trip was offered...for kids who thought they might be interested," Gould said. "Including that one, it will be three or four hiking trips before New Hampshire."

Hawk Mountain provided some preparation in a sense, but it was not an indication that the students who attended would automatically attend the New Hampshire Summit Trip, according to Gould.

The most recent trip to Hawk Mountain was offered to the members of the Upper School Outdoors Club as well as the eighth graders. Hawk Mountain served as an opportunity to both connect the Middle School with the Upper School Outdoors Club, and for the participating eighth grade students to see if they'd like to pursue the New Hampshire trip.

The Outdoors Club tries to do an outdoors-oriented event once a month or every six to eight weeks depending on timing, according to Harkness, who co-moderates the club.

"We had over one hundred kids sign up, and that has been one of the struggles," Harkness said. "It comes down to time. How much time do the students have?"

While offered to everyone, only one member, sophomore Tommy Bevevino, attended the trip with the eighth graders.

"Tommy came to me and said he wanted to go," Harkness said. "I think it was great that he could attend the trip."

"It was pretty cool to be able to be outside and do something different during a school day," Tommy said. "It was definitely a great opportunity that I'm glad I took."

Tommy also stated that the mountain was very surreal and was an awesome place to visit.

Harkness said he hopes more students from Outdoors Club will go on future hikes, and feels they are great opportunities.

"Our goal with the trip was to just tag along with that Summit Experience," Harkness said. "Really it is an opportunity to explore the natural Pennsylvania ecosystem." ◇

Snap Map leads to M.E.C.O. questions

Actually keeping streaks or location actually leaked? The world may never know.

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On the weekend of September 22, some students speculated that a feature in Snapchat called Snap Map leaked the location of the senior M.E.C.O. (Malvernians Encountering Christ in Others) retreat to future candidates.

Snapchat created a new feature in their update in June called Snap Map. Snap Map lets you share your current location to your friends and is updated when you open up the app.

"The students don't know where M.E.C.O. is and it's kind of an unwritten rule not to tell people," senior M.E.C.O. Leader Liam McKnight said. "You don't know where you are going before so when you get there, it makes the experience even better."

There is a no phone policy that is explained to students and parents in a meeting before each M.E.C.O.

"It is our expectation that their kids would not bring their cell phones," Co-Director of the M.E.C.O. program Mr. Andrew DiDomenico said. "If we see the phone, we tell you to put it back in your bag."

So if there is a no phone policy is enforced, how would the location be leaked?

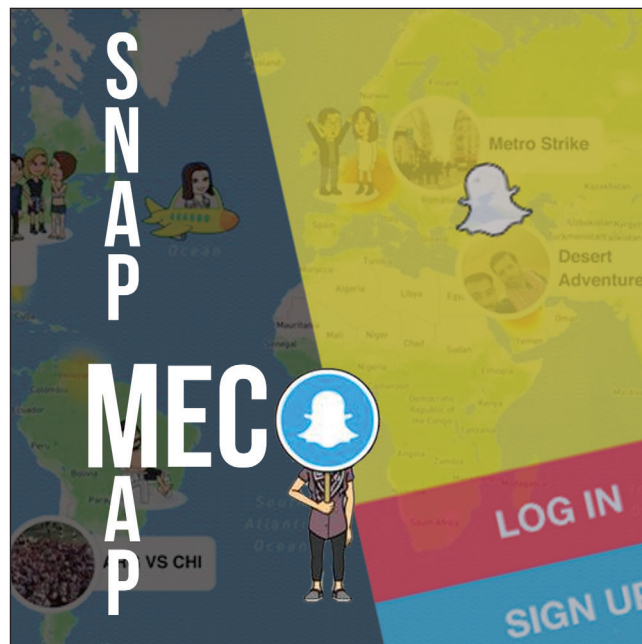
"When we got home from M.E.C.O., there was a bunch of rumors flying around that one of the candidates left his Snap Map on which would give their location," McKnight said. "A bunch of people not on M.E.C.O. saw that and thought that's where M.E.C.O. is."

September M.E.C.O. candidate and current senior Danny Taylor was troubled at the situation.

"It's definitely upsetting that people really thought it was the location," Taylor said. "I heard the M.E.C.O. kids were talking with some of the leaders, and some of the football kids thought that location was given away but it truthfully wasn't."

Senior Brendan McDonough was the student whose Snap Map was on during the September M.E.C.O.

"I can say that it was not me in that exact location," McDonough said. "First, people zoomed in where the [location] was and it was someone's house. And second, hours later, she was on the highway. I think that kind of cleared things up."



C.Bennett

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-Liam McKnight

Snap Map. After the tutorial, Snapchat gives you three options: all your friends, select friends, or only me Snapchat.

The "only me" feature is called Ghost Mode where you choose to not share your location with others. Although you don't share the location with others, you can still see your friends locations who have Snap Map on.

Although students going on M.E.C.O. can put the feature on Ghost Mode, McKnight has some advice when it comes to bringing a phone on M.E.C.O.

"Everyone is kind of tentative not being with their phone," McKnight said. "Once you get there, you'll see it's good to step back and have an experience. Take the time and enjoy the moment and not be looking at your screen all day."

However, when it comes to finding someone to keep your streaks, McDonough has a different approach.

"My advice is to find someone as far away as possible and have them take your streaks and turn on Snap Map," McDonough said. "Keep stirring the pot and create a little bit of excitement, so people get talking about it— and furthermore the confusion about where M.E.C.O. is." ◇