



Dear Parent/Guardian of Minors,

Thank you for helping your son or daughter pursue his/her desire to participate in **Cru's High School Gap Year Program!** My team and I support you as a parent, and your role as guide and guardian of your son or daughter. I want to keep open communication with you about our Gap Year program and what it involves.

Some very important information is included in this packet. Please take time to read it and let us know if you have any questions. After you read the confidential questions on the next page and the explanation of our financial policy, please **sign the consent form and send it to Cru-High School Global Missions, 100 Lake Hart Drive, Dept 3200, Orlando, FL 32832.** *We must receive the Parent/Guardian Consent form **before** your student's application can be evaluated.*

The questions on the next page are the same questions your student is asked on the application regarding his/her moral convictions and health/medical information. Your student's answers to these questions are private and will be held in strict confidence. Your son/daughter's application will only be viewed by the person evaluating it and the Gap Year leaders overseeing his/her personal development on mission. These confidential questions help team leaders develop a plan to encourage their personal growth.

All Gap Year participants (students, staff members and other adults) are carefully selected. Once accepted, participants receive special written and verbal leadership training to prepare for the global experience. Part of this training comes through an acceptance packet and a Go-Pac.

Students who participate in Cru's Gap Year gain several positive benefits:

- International travel in a supervised, Christian context
- Greater confidence in communication skills
- Greater appreciation for America as well as other countries and cultures
- Development of leadership abilities and gifts
- Life-changing ministry opportunities
- Personal spiritual growth and faith-stretching experiences
- Focused service to help expand an ongoing youth movement in the host country
- Experience with the dynamics of working on a team

Cru is an interdenominational Christian Organization with over 26,000 staff and 550,000 trained volunteers serving in over 190 countries. We emphasize communicating our faith in Christ with others and building Christians in their walk with the Lord. Cru's purpose is to help fulfill our Lord's Great Commission as recorded in **Matthew 28:18-20**. We have been offering Global Missions for over 30 years, and are really excited about your student's interest in joining us!

It is possible that sending your teenager to be part of a Gap Year is also a step of faith for you. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Tim Ehrhart
National Director of Global Missions
Cru-High School
Office: 407-826-2008
tim.ehrhart@cru.org

Questions your student will see on the application:

Values and Practices Information

We know the following are sensitive questions. This information will be treated confidentially and will only be seen by individuals directly involved in your student's application decision and by appropriate mission leadership. Their honest answers will not necessarily disqualify them for acceptance. Our main concern for asking the following questions is to make sure this mission will be a good fit for them—meaning, if they struggle with any of the following, the environment on a particular mission may or may not be a good place for them to be. We are concerned about their growth. We may need to discuss the questions further. If your student prefers to discuss their answers in more detail over the phone, please have them respond to each question in writing and at the end of their written response also indicate that they would like for us to call them.

Values and Practices Information:

1. In the last 12 months have you...
 - been intoxicated with alcohol?
 - used narcotics, hallucinogens, drugs or tobacco products not prescribed by a physician?
 - struggled with an eating disorder?
 - had any incidents of intentional self-injury or cutting yourself?
 - struggled with or participated in same-sex relationships/practice?
 - had any incidents which would not fall in line with 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 by controlling your body in holiness and honor? (You may have different terms for these, but some examples would be: viewing pornography, oral sex, sexual intercourse, and/or any other sexual foreplay)
 - If you answer yes to any of these you will be asked to please explain the relevant details. Examples of helpful details: explain the activities and situations you have been involved in and how frequently. Would you consider this an area with which you struggle? Include steps you have taken to change that involvement. Who have you included in your journey regarding this area? Are you willing to refrain from this during the mission? If you prefer a phone call to discuss this answer, respond to this question by writing "please call."
2. Briefly explain your understanding of what the Bible teaches about sexual purity (principles). What have you done to pursue this standard (both in convictions and practices)? Please be specific.

Health/Medical Information

Why are we asking health/medical questions? It is important for them to understand that the challenges of their own pre-existing conditions (physical, psychological, emotional) along with the specific environment on mission may present difficulties for them.

The following are some conditions you may encounter on mission:

- Extended air-travel
- Housing without elevators, or air conditioning
- Extensive walking, or taking public transportation possibly while carrying luggage
- Full and/or very demanding schedule
- Food that is prepared for all mission participants (you may not have control over what food is available)
- Being or working in a beach environment where people wear bathing suits all the time
- Spending a year with others who are different than you
- Sharing cramped living quarters
- Not having your own space most of the time, and limited free time

Please note: A pre-existing medical condition does not necessarily disqualify them from being accepted to participate on mission, however it is a necessary component of the application process to ask these questions. Know that we may not be able to arrange for all your needs.

1. In light of the situations listed above, do you have any significant health issues, physical limitations or disabilities that may affect your ability to participate fully on mission or would require special arrangements in order to take part?
2. If you take any medications, will you be able to have enough for the duration of the mission?
3. Do you have any allergies? To what?
4. Do you receive any on-going medical treatments? If so please comment.
5. Do you have any psychological/emotional conditions or struggles? (Examples: depression, phobia, suicidal thoughts, significant anxiety, bipolar disorder.) If yes please explain the history, frequency, and treatments/steps you've taken to get healthy.



Cru-High School Global Missions
100 Lake Hart Drive, Dept. 3200
Orlando, FL 32832
407-826-2323

Financial Policy Information

One of the most thrilling parts of a Gap Year is seeing other people partner with our team members by pledging their prayer and financial support. Time and time again, students are in awe of how God provides for His work. Many express that the process of enlisting others to join them in this endeavor is one of the most faith-building elements of their experience.

While this is an exciting journey of faith for each student, it is also an important responsibility to assume. Most students see God provide in amazing ways. Many exceed their financial goal and designate the extra support the Lord provides to those who still need support. However, there are times when a student does not reach his/her financial goal before the Mission Briefing.

The following guidelines apply to participants on our Global Missions:

- When a receipt is issued for donations to Cru, a non-profit organization, these funds become the property of Cru – not the individual who solicited the donation.
- Mission costs do not include domestic airfare to the mission departure city. However, team members can claim reimbursement for domestic airfare if they have raised extra money to cover that cost.
- If a team member raises more money than the cost of the mission, the excess amount stays within the mission.
- If a team member has a shortfall in support raised to pay for their Gap Year, these options apply:
 - If the participant is within \$500 of his/her cost by the Gap Year start date, arrangements need to be made to cover that shortfall before departure with these options in mind:
 - Team members who raise excess funds, can designate them to those with a shortfall
 - A Cru staff member or a Cru city ministry can transfer the needed balance to the person
 - The participant or his/her parent/guardian can give personal funds to cover the balance
 - The parent/guardian can agree to send the financial support to Cru while the participant is on the first part of their mission here in the states
 - If a participant has a significant shortfall in financial support one month before departure day, he/she or the parent/guardian should call the Global Missions office or Gap Year Leader to discuss next steps.
 - If a participant and/or a parent/guardian are uncomfortable making payment arrangements or committing to raise the necessary support before departure, participants can withdraw from the mission, but again, the money already raised is non-refundable
- If a Gap Year member withdraws from mission, these guidelines apply:
 - There may be pre-paid, non-refundable expenses which will need to be paid. These could include cancellation fees for airfare, visa costs, lodging deposits. The person who withdraws needs to inform each donor of his/her decision including:
 - Any funds already raised are used first to cover the costs incurred up to that point
 - The remaining balance, if any, is non refundable and will remain with the mission
 - If the amount of the expenses exceeds the funds available, payment arrangements need to be made with the Global Missions office to cover the difference.

*Thank you for taking this step of faith along with your son/daughter as they help fulfill the Great Commission. We look forward to serving you! **Contact the High School Global Missions office with any questions.***



Parent/Guardian Consent

Please return this form to:
Cru-High School Global Missions
100 Lake Hart Drive, Dept. 3200
Orlando, FL 32832

Name of Student _____ Name of Mission _____

I/We have considered our son's/daughter's plan to apply for the Gap Year Program. I/We understand that Cru will seek to provide for his/her safety and welfare, but I/we have also discussed the risks that are involved in international travel. I/We realize that Cru is simply giving him/her the opportunity to participate as a volunteer. I/We consent for my/our son/daughter to participate in a High School Gap Year.

Yes No

Parent/Guardian's Advice to Minor:

Comments

Please check one of the following

- I/We have encouraged our son/daughter to participate.
- I/We are not opposed to our son/daughter going, but we have the following reservations listed to the right under *Comments*.
- I/We have advised our son/daughter not to participate on a mission for the following reasons listed to the right under *Comments*.

I/We have read the confidential questions my student will be asked on the application, and give consent for my/our son/daughter to answer those questions. I/We understand his/her information will be treated confidentially and will be seen only by individuals directly involved in his/her application decision and by appropriate mission leadership. I/We have read and understand and agree to the Financial Policy Information as stated in this packet.

Yes No

Mother/Guardian's Signature Date

Father/Guardian's Signature Date

Please Note: The signature of each legal guardian is preferred. However, we understand that in some situations not all guardians can sign the same form. Signatures do not need to be on the same form. If necessary, this form may be copied and signed individually. If only one signature can be obtained, that is acceptable to apply for the mission. Please be aware there will be other forms which require both signatures in order for a minor to participate on a mission. For questions or concerns regarding this, please call the Global Missions Office at 407-826-2323 or cruhs.globalmissions@cru.org

