

Registration for the

2012 Bahamas Summer Mission Trip for Youth from the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church



Registration and Medical Form

Note: This emergency/permission form must be completed and on file with the church in order for each youth to participate. Youth will not be allowed to participate without a completed and signed form.

I give permission for my child(ren) _____ to attend the North Georgia Conference UMC Youth Mission Trip to The Bahamas Methodist Habitat, Eleuthera, Bahamas, June 2-10, 2012 .

Signature of parent/legal guardian

Home or Cell phone number
where parent can be reached during weekend

Date

Parent e-mail address: _____

Youth cell or pager number (if you'd like us to keep him or her informed of upcoming events through texts):

Youth e-mail address: _____

Do you give permission for photos of your child(ren) taken at this event to be posted on the church or conference website? ___ yes ___ no Youth T-shirt size: _____

NOTE: It is necessary to get a passport for this trip. Start your application right away.

Emergency Info & Waiver in Lieu of Health Examination

Youth's Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (Zip)

Father's Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Pager/Cell #: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Pager/Cell #: _____

Please list emergency contacts below other than yourself:

1. Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Relationship: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Relationship: _____

Please complete hospital/medical information:

Insurance Co: _____ Group/Policy#: _____ Phone # _____

Insured's Name: _____ Doctor's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

- 1. List allergies to drugs, medication or foods _____
- 2. Please list any drug(s) or medications to be taken regularly _____
- 3. Date of last tetanus shot: _____
- 4. Has there been recent illness, or exposure to contagious disease(s)? _____ If so, what? _____
- 5. Is this person subject to fainting? _____ Convulsive Seizures _____ Diabetic _____ Nose bleeds _____
Cramps _____ Asthma _____ What medication is prescribed for the preceding condition? _____
- 6. Limitations of activity? _____
- 7. Is there a history of chronic infection of nose, throat, ears, sinus or lungs? _____ If so, what? _____
- 8. Is there a history of heart pathology requiring restricted activity? _____
- 9. Is this person subject to any skin disease? _____

I hereby give permission for _____ (youth) to participate in the North Georgia Conference United Methodist enterprise for which he/she is enrolled, and do not hold the enterprise or the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church, any of their representatives, staff or officers (to include officers, etc. of enterprise) responsible for sickness, injury or death resulting from any physical unfitness of my child to participate in the enterprise activities. In case of medical emergency, I understand every effort will be made to contact a parent or guardian. The information provided regarding my child's medical history and condition is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by staff, representatives, or officers to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and to order injection, anesthesia or surgery for my child as named above.

Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.
_____ (Notary Public)

My commission expires on _____.
Rev. 8/29/2003

(Name of Parent or Guardian)

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

Dear Volunteer Applicants:

Bahamas Methodist Habitat is a disaster relief and emergency home repair Outreach Ministry of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church through which volunteers serve together to repair and build homes for low-income families in the Bahamas. Our goal is to improve the living conditions and lifestyle for families in need in the Bahamas, while offering *transforming experiences for volunteers and homeowners* alike by sharing and receiving the Love of Christ. The hope is that volunteers will return home with an expanded view of the world and an inspiration for creating ways to be involved in their own community. Homeowners will come through the experience with safe living conditions and renewed motivation and hope. **We would like to invite you to come serve with us in this exciting and unique opportunity to put your Faith into action this year.**

We encourage you to review the service opportunities in this packet. Facilitated by an administrative staff, volunteers give of their time, resources, and talents to serve citizens in need of home repairs and new home construction. Giving with love, volunteers focus on remedying the substandard living conditions for individuals caught in economic distress and unable to complete these repairs themselves.

We have a wonderful staff that is willing to serve you and cater to the specific needs of your group. We want this to be the best experience possible and are dedicated to that end.

Things to know:

- It is highly recommended and helpful if some members of your group have construction knowledge, but the staff will teach you everything you need to know. You just have to be willing to learn...and serve!
- Volunteers Arrive on **Sunday** afternoon and Depart the following **Saturday** morning.
- Volunteer fees cover: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Lodging, On-Island Transportation, Building Materials, Site Leaders, BMH T-Shirt and Tools needed for the duration of your stay (but we are always in need of donated tools).
- Air-fare is **not** included in the cost.
- BMH is open to all people from all walks of life; **this is not just for Methodists!**

Our goal is to address inferior housing by facilitating an opportunity for volunteers to find the place where their gifts and talents intersect with the needs of the world. In 2011, BMH is hoping to connect 800 volunteers to the housing needs of the Bahamas. **We look forward to seeing you here when you join us in this exciting opportunity to serve.**

And always remember while serving...

Blessed are the Flexible, for They will Not be Bent Out of Shape...

Peace and Love.



Abraham "Abe" McIntyre
Executive Director
Bahamas Methodist Habitat

Expectations, Rules and Regulations

(The following are BMH rules and regulations for all volunteers.)

Bahamas Methodist Habitat is a disaster relief and home repair service and all activities and energies should be focused to this end. You have made a commitment to BMH, and on the basis of that commitment we have committed to the housing needs in the Bahamas. We expect all volunteers to participate fully in each aspect of the BMH experience.

These Expectations, Rules and Regulations apply to all BMH volunteers.

- BMH staff has overall responsibility for all activities. Directions given by the staff are to be strictly observed.
- Adult leaders are responsible** for the safety and conduct of their youth volunteers at all times (at center, worksite, or community) while your group participates with BMH.
- The summer youth program is designed for senior high youth (in the case of this trip, 16-18 or those who have completed 10th through 12th grade at the time of the trip).
- Everyone is expected to act responsibly the entire time they are in the BMH community. Since you will all be coming from outside the region, you will be an obvious presence in affiliation with BMH. There might be times when you need to modify your lifestyle or habits so as not to be offensive to the community as well as being a good representative of BMH. Take your cues from the staff.
- Please use tools, supplies, materials and other resources **responsibly** and for their intended home repair purposes. Always keep the safety of others a priority, as well as being sensitive to the family you are serving. If a family requests that you stop an activity, please respect their wishes.
- Possession or use of illegal drugs, tobacco, or alcohol is **strictly forbidden!** Violators may be asked to return home immediately at the parents' expense.
- The center staff will inform you of any specific center or community guidelines prior to or upon your arrival.
- No pets are permitted at the center.**
- Females are not permitted at any time in the males' sleeping area. Males are not permitted in the females' sleeping area, at any time.**
- A strict 10:00p.m. quiet time and 10:30p.m. "lights-out" rule applies to all volunteers. Possible exception will be Friday night, when lights out can be extended to 12:00a.m. if agreed upon by staff and adult crew leaders.

- Center attire**-Discretion in clothing must be used at the center and in the community. Shirts must be worn at all times. When leaving the center grounds, modest shorts and T-shirts will be acceptable attire. **Halter, spaghetti strap and strapless tops, sports bras worn as an outer garment, spandex clothing, bike pants, or shirts and hats expressing alcohol/beer slogans and obscenities are not acceptable.**
- Work attire**- T-Shirts, **long pants** (light cotton, scrubs, jeans) and sturdy shoes (work boots are preferred) must be worn at all times at the work site. Sweat pants, shorts, ripped pants, half shirts, sleeveless shirts, sports bras, tank-tops and halter tops are not acceptable.
- Because you are visiting an unfamiliar community, please always go from place to place in a group of three or more people. **Never travel alone.**
- All volunteers (youth and adult) are expected to **participate fully** in the programs of BMH, including meals, chores, meetings, evening gatherings and special events. To keep the center functioning smoothly, volunteers will be asked to assist in center clean up, tool and supply organization, after meal clean up, loading/unloading of building materials.
- To ensure sensitivity to families we serve, taping with video equipment is strictly prohibited.
- The use of audio equipment should be limited at the work site. Audio equipment can be used if it is approved by the homeowner, non disruptive to the neighbors, and appropriate in content.
- A work crew is 6-8 people. Groups with 9 participants must be divided into two work crews (5 & 4). This number limitation ensures sensitivity to the family as well as maximum efficiency at the work site. However, the ninth person may be a helper to the staff at the center or if highly skilled, could function as a floater/advisor! Please check with the staff before your trip.
- Fire arms, air rifles, BB guns, any kind of weaponry (or replicas) or fireworks are not permitted.
- Working hours are from 8:30am- 4:30pm Monday - Thursday. There will be sight seeing and recreational activities on Friday, or your last full day on the island. This is to ensure the best possible experience for you, the staff and the families we serve.
- If you must leave the worksite during the day for any reason, please go in groups of three and inform your entire crew.
- We expect lunch to be eaten at the worksite. You may bring extra sandwiches to share with family members. (Some individuals will go out of their way to make you feel appreciated- even overextending themselves) If a family member insists on showing their appreciation by preparing lunch, accept their offer. If you have any questions or concerns- please check with the staff.

- ☑ Audio equipment use at the center will be at the discretion of the staff.
- ☑ BMH does not condone or tolerate sexual harassment or abuse of **any** kind and will take measures to reconcile the situation.

**DON'T FORGET THAT YOU MUST HAVE A
PASSPORT TO ENTER THE BAHAMAS.**

! You are REQUIRED to have a Valid Passport to Enter / Exit the Bahamas !

**If you do not have your Passport as of yet, please do so ASAP because of the
amount of time that it takes to process the application.**

FAQ

Who is the project sponsor? BMH is an Outreach Ministry supported by the **Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church** and their associated churches along with local and foreign supporters who care deeply about serving others. BMH is also supported by the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

Who can participate? BMH is designed to host young and old alike. We host service organizations, church youth groups, Sunday school classes, groups of friends, corporate teams, and anyone else that has a passion for service. We are able to accommodate 40 volunteers at one time at Camp Symonette and can host smaller groups, up to 30, at other locations throughout the Family Islands.

Who supervises participants? Each group participating in BMH is required to have at least one adult for every four youth (17 and under). **We also ask that groups bring skilled leaders to aid in the construction projects.** Adult group leaders are directly responsible for the actions of their group and must adhere to BMH policies.

How much does it cost? The cost for the camp is **\$600 per person per week**. (This North Georgia trip requires an additional \$400 for air transportation and fees.)

What does BMH provide?

- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, and fresh drinking water
- Lodging at local facility
- Construction materials and tools for worksites and projects (You may bring your own tools or ones to donate.)
- Skilled local Site Leaders
- BMH T-Shirt
- On-Island transportation
- Excursion Day, to see and experience the beauty of the Bahamas
- The opportunity to make an impact and change lives!

What does BMH expect? Volunteers must come with a servant's heart and mind that is flexible to change. God may surprise us with new opportunities to serve and we must be willing to follow that calling. Prepare yourself for conditions that do not include all the comforts of home. Respectfully interact with people who are different from you within your group and the community.

What about Insurance? Due to the nature and location of our ministry, and in case of an unforeseen emergency, we require EACH VOLUNTEER to purchase traveler's insurance through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission at www.UMVIM.org (Listed on homepage under "About UMVIM – International"). This policy ensures continuity when emergency circumstances arise. *You do not have to be a member of the United Methodist Church to obtain UMVIM Insurance.

When can we Serve? Year-Round. Summer is our busiest season but we have wonderful Fall, Winter, and Spring Break opportunities which are great ways to beat the cold back home. Work commitments average one week in length. Long weekend or extended period trips are available as well. Volunteer groups arrive **Sunday afternoon** and departure **Saturday morning**. Reserve your dates early to ensure your desired trip.

Do I need to bring tools? No, we provide tools and materials for you while you are here serving. However, if you have tools that you would like to bring, we encourage you to bring them. We are in constant need of new or good used tools and accept donations with open arms. We will be in contact with your group within 1 week of your arrival to tell you about your projects and a suggested tools list. Past groups have transported them in Rubbermaid containers or plastic Footlockers.

Where do groups stay? Groups will stay together at one of our volunteer sites close to where your project is located. This will either be on Eleuthera, Andros, or New Providence (Nassau). We have bunk beds at most of our facilities. You will **need to bring** beach and bath towels, light sheets in the spring, summer and fall and a light sleeping bag during the "winter". Pillows are provided. Indoor or outdoor showers will be available at each facility.

Where do groups work? Groups will perform their service work at homes referred to BMH by community contacts and pre-selected by the staff. This will include homes in need of emergency repair, new home construction, or community events that need service. Our criterion for home selection helps to ensure safe working and living conditions for volunteers and home owners.

How are work crews arranged? Groups will be divided into work crews by their group leaders, dependent on the size and difficulty of the project. Work teams range in size between 6-8 people per project. **Each work crew must have at least two adults, with one having construction skills (Highly preferred but not necessary).**

What is a typical day like?

6:30 am Wake Up

7:00 am Morning Devotional (Volunteers are asked to share in this responsibility)

7:10 am Breakfast

8:00 am Leave for Work Site

4:00 pm Leave Work Site for Beach

5:30 pm Showers

6:30 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Evening Activity/Free Time/Devotions

10:00 pm Quiet Time

10:30 pm Lights Out

What language do Bahamians speak? Bahamians speak English but with their dialect you will be able to understand at least 80% of what is said here in the islands. The staff and community members will help you with the other 20%.

What kind of money do they use? Bahamians have their own currency. Its exchange rate is .005 to the USA so they use it daily at a 1:1 ratio. This is a huge help to tourists and missionaries because there is no need to exchange money before or after you get here. There is one ATM's available in Governors Harbour (20 minutes South).

What type of electrical service do they have? We use 110V just like you do in the USA. There is no need for special adapters.

Can we snorkel? Yes, there are quite a few good places to snorkel here. We unfortunately do not have equipment for your use but feel free to bring your own and enjoy the gorgeous underwater world that is here. (Donated Snorkel gear would provide for future groups if you would like to leave yours)

How bad are the bugs? Depending on the time of year they can range from not too bad to annoying. We suggest cool long pants, socks, and shoes to keep them off your legs during the day and night. They are worse at sunrise and sunset. We have Mosquitoes and No-see-ums/Sandflies. The latter are more of a nuisance but guarded with plenty of bug spray you will be okay. It is highly recommended to bring at least **three** cans of bug spray per person, the more Deet the better. Hopefully you will not need that much but it is better to be safe than sorry. Brining mosquito nets are not mandatory but are helpful.

How safe is the island? The Family Islands are extremely safe. As with any foreign country there is a need to be respectful of cultural differences. You must use common sense while here (don't walk around alone, don't leave valuables out, etc) but in everyday life there is nothing to be worried about. There is light government turmoil in the Bahamas but it has not affected our volunteer experience. Crime is very low; there is little drug use and very few acts of violence. Your group will be safe here at BMH as long as proper precautions are used.

Should I come and serve with BMH? **Absolutely!!!**

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Important Notes:

Check with your airline for number of bags allowed and weight limits per bag.

Remember to pack necessities in a **carry-on bag** in case luggage gets lost in transit.

When entering the Bahamas, inform Immigration that you will be staying with Bahamas Methodist Habitat at the facility that we have already informed you of.

Paper Work:

Missioner Profile/Release of Claim

UMVIM Mission Accident Insurance

Parental Consent Form (You, your team leader, and your church should have a copy)

Passport and **Photo I.D.**

Medical Documents: immunization records, copies of prescription drugs, and personal medications.

Your personal prescription drugs

Flash Light

Notebook, pen and/or pencil

Bible/Devotional Materials

Camera, film, batteries, charger, USB Cord to Share pictures with Staff before you leave

Cash for souvenirs and recreational activities

Swimsuit, One piece or Two Piece with a cover up

Beach and Shower towel

Underwear / socks / etc.

Pajamas

Battery operated Alarm Clock with extra batteries

Glasses and/or contacts

Casual clothes/shoes for evening activities (long pants will protect you from hungry mosquitoes)

Pack *less* than you think you need. You can wear them more than once.)

Church Clothes (slacks and shirt for guys, knee length skirts or dresses for girls)

Work clothes (For a week: 4 T-shirts, 2 pairs of **LONG PANTS**, closed toed shoes such as athletic shoes

(NO SHORTS ARE ALLOWED AT WORK SITE!)

Work gloves, safety goggles, hat and/or bandana

Linens (twin sheets w/ pillow case) or sleeping bag

Gatorade Mix for your days out on work site (Individual Packs work best or 5 gallon mixes)

*To save space, the following items should be carried in bulk for use by the whole team,
instead of each team member bringing his/her own.*

Basic Toiletries: soap, shampoo, conditioner

First Aid Kit Supplies (Band-Aids, antibiotic ointment, anti-itch ointment, Benadryl, etc.)

Hand sanitizer/antibacterial hand soap

Sunscreen

Insect Repellant (Products with Deet repel mosquitoes, Skin-So-Soft keeps sand fleas off skin)

Anti-itch Cream, Benadryl pills

Small Personal Fan

Non-essential:

Snack foods in re-sealable containers or Ziploc bags

Rain poncho

Wide brim hat to keep sun off of face

Caps or t-shirts with your team logo on it

Shower shoes

PLEASE DO NOT PACK:

Excessive hair styling products

Scented lotions

Air mattresses

Perfume/cologne (they attract mosquitoes and other bugs!)

Electrical items such as hair dryer

WISH LIST

General:

Ice Machine

Bicycles

Dry Erase markers

Flashlights

Box Fans

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Hatchets

Mason Hammer

Tarps (of all sizes)

Axe

Large Push Broom

Large Dust Mop

Vice Grips

Channel Locks

Skill Saws

Variety of Saw Blades

Battery Powered 18V Combo Kits

Paint Brushes/Rollers of all sizes

Pry Bars (variety)

Line Levels

Speed Squares

Drywall Square

Hard Rakes

Ladders (all sizes)

Clamps

Concrete Floats

Needle Nose Pliers

Hammer Drill

Knee Boards (for concrete)

Lineman Pliers

Hand Saw

Work Lights

Chisels

Drill Bit set (wood and metal)

Tin snips

100' Measuring Tape

Long Handles for Paint Rollers

A/C Window Unit 10,000 BTU

Fasteners:

16d to10d Galvanized Nails (50 lb.)

Drywall Screws 1 ¼"

Cut Nails (concrete) 1.5" and 2.5"

TapCon Screws

Hurricane straps

Wire nuts (red, yellow)

Recreation:

Snorkels, Fins, Masks

Balls of all types

Basketball net

Board Games, Cards

A/V:

LCD Projector and Screen

Radio/CD/Tape Player

Transportation:

Bicycles

15 Passenger Van, Diesel Preferred

Diesel Flat Bed Pick Up Truck

Check with the BMH prior to you arrival to see if there are special needs that have arisen.

Please let us know if you need help transporting Donated goods.