

Culture



Scuba Diving



Episcopal Service



Cuba 2020

Youth Mission & Pilgrimage

- 10-12 youth who will complete 9th grade by June 2020 and are not yet 21 years old.
- 4-5 adult leaders: John McCard, Lauren Richardson, LeeLee Burfeind, Eric Burfeind, & Mary Beth Abplanalp
- A 10-day mission and pilgrimage to Havana, Cuba that includes service work with the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba focused on the “five marks of mission,” cultural exchange, and coral reef conservation expedition with the marine biology department at the University of Havana.
- We’ve partnered with Central American Service Expeditions (CASE) to coordinate our Cuban transportation, accommodations, food, and general logistics. We’ll have a local CASE guide with us every step of the way.
- Scuba Diving Training will be required in advance through The Dive Shop in Richmond.
- We’ll work as a team to fundraise money so the trip is affordable for all. Participation preference is given to students who have previously served on a St. James’s youth mission team.

Mission

A mission experience has exactly that...a mission. You go with the purpose of building something, making repairs, planting a garden, or forming relationships. We will spend part of our time in community with the people of Havana and serving with the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba to support their ministries.

&

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage has an *internal* focus and is meant to facilitate personal reflection and growth on a deliberate journey to encounter God. Through worship, group study, cultural immersion, and scuba diving in the pristine reefs of Cuban waters, youth will have ample opportunity to experience and encounter God in new and unexpected ways.

Application Deadline: April 1, 2019 with \$200 deposit check payable to “St. James’s Episcopal Church.”

Proposed Timeline:

| | | |
|------|---------------|--|
| 2019 | January | Propose the idea at the Youth Ministry Summer 2019 Preview Event to gather interest |
| | February 13 | Information Session for interested parents and youth. Detailed information provided. Initial interest collected. |
| | April 1 | Registration Deadline with \$200 deposit |
| | May | First Team Meeting to begin Creation Care education and plan for Scuba Diving Training. Individual study/reading on Cuba. |
| | Summer-Fall | Scuba training and certification: Phase 1 E-Learning, Phase 2 Classroom & Pool (Sat & Sun), Phase 3 Open Water Dives (Sat & Sun) |
| | Fall | Fundraising Event(s), Search for grants and donors |
| 2020 | Winter/Spring | Team Meetings for travel logistics, passports, Visas, etc. |
| | Winter/Spring | Possible weekend trip to Florida for diving refresher practice at Blue Grotto, FL |
| | Mardi Gras | Youth Missioners volunteer at Mardi Gras event |
| | Spring | Final Trip Details & Parent Meeting |
| | June | Team Commissioning |
| | July | 10-day Trip to Cuba |
| | Late-Summer | Trip Leaders and youth debrief |
| 2021 | January | Youth Missioners present at the Youth Ministry Summer 2021 Preview Event to gather interest in Cuba 2022 Mission & Pilgrimage |
| | Mardi Gras | Youth present about experience |

Estimated Cost:

| | |
|---|--|
| CASE travel package | \$2,095 |
| The Dive Shop Scuba Training | \$595 |
| Diving Insurance | \$75 |
| Personal Scuba Equipment | \$250-400 (The Dive shop will give \$100 credit on gear) |
| Airfare to/from Cuba | \$500-700 |
| Florida Diving practice trip | \$600-700 |
| Approx. Per Person Total = | \$4,100-\$4,800 |
| Targeted Per Person Fee = | \$1,900 |
| Amount to subsidize through grants & other sources = | \$22K-\$34K |
| Amount for Team to Fundraise = | \$15K |

Comparables: Appalachia Mission = \$585; Honduras Mission \$1,500, Holy Land Pilgrimage \$4,000

A top priority for St. James's Youth Ministry is to keep the participant fee to approximately \$1,900 and provide scholarships as necessary to make this experience accessible to anyone who is interested. The actual per person cost is obviously more than this fee, so there will be an expectation of all team members (students, parents, and leaders) that we'll work collectively to raise the additional funds through fundraising and grants.

Questions? Contact Mary Beth Abplanalp, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at mbabplanalp@doers.org or 804-355-1779 ext. 334.

Cuba 2020 Application

St. James's Youth Ministry



Any youth interested in participating in the Cuba 2020 mission & pilgrimage needs to complete this application. A \$200 deposit payable to St. James's Episcopal Church is required with the application by **April 1, 2019**.

YOUTH INFORMATION (please print clearly):

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------------|
| Full Name: | | |
| Circle Grade (2018-2019 school year) : 8 9 10 11 12 HS Grad | | T-Shirt Size: |
| Date of Birth: | Male / Female | Nickname: |
| Student's Email: | | |
| Best Phone: | | Youth's Cell Phone: |
| Have you been on a Mission Trip before? No / Yes - Which one(s)? | | |

Short Answer Question: Explain why you want to go on this Mission & Pilgrimage. *Required response to be written by youth (not parents). Handwrite answer, 8-10 sentences, on back of this page, or type and attach.*

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION (please print clearly)

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1st Parent Name: | Mom/ Dad/ Step-parent/ Other |
| Best Email: | |
| Best Phone: | Home/ Cell/ Work |
| 2nd Parent Name: | Mom/ Dad/ Step-parent/ Other |
| Best Email: | |
| Best Phone: | Home/ Cell/ Work |

Space is limited, so your participation is not guaranteed until after your application is reviewed based on eligibility and a \$200 deposit is received. Participation preference is given to students who have previously served on a St. James's youth mission team (registration for a 2019 Youth Mission is sufficient). Mary Beth will contact families to confirm your space on the Cuba trip shortly after April 1. We will keep a waitlist if necessary. Youth who participate must be available for the entire duration of the trip (exact dates will be set by Summer 2019). Prior to the trip, youth and parents will be expected to attend mission team meetings, scuba diving trainings, fundraising events and team commissioning during worship. Additional paperwork and permission forms will also be required and forthcoming.

Please return completed application and deposit check to Mary Beth Abplanalp by mail (1205 W. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23220), email (mbabplanalp@doers.org), or by hand to the church office.

The Dive Shop

www.thediveshoprichmond.com

Jim McNeal - Owner, PADI Staff Instructor, TDI Instructor, & College Professor. Jim McNeal is the leader of our band of divers and one of the most experienced divers in Virginia. Jim started diving in the 1950s while growing up in West Palm Beach, FL. He started off as a YMCA Instructor and in the early '80s converted to PADI, through which he has certified thousands of students.



Scuba Diving Training Process

Phase 1: Academic E-Learning (Approx. 8-10 hours online at home)

Everything starts with a trip to The Dive Shop. Your first visit is where we get all the paperwork out of the way. You'll fill out your student folder, pay for your course, and receive your PADI e-Learning Code. Students who require a medical physical prior to diving will receive their medical statement. Students need to complete a few hours of independent study online which is outlined in your e-Learning materials.

Phase 2: Classroom & Pool (Approx. Sat 9am-5pm & Sun 12pm-5pm)

This weekend begins with classroom skills review and quiz. We meet at The Dive Shop at 9am for class. Bring your Open Water Diver e-Learning Training Record/Certificate with you to class. Around noon we will take a break for lunch and reconvene at a local pool for underwater skills training. The pool we are using depends on the weekend and facility schedules. On Sunday we'll reconvene at the pool to continue underwater skills training.

Phase 3: Open Water Dive (Approx. Sat 8am-3pm & Sun 8am-3pm)

Most of our students will continue on with us to Lake Phoenix, Virginia's #1 Scuba Park. Yup, we said Scuba Park. Lake Phoenix is a former rock quarry that has numerous large objects submerged (a plane, helicopter, several vans and buses, boats, etc.), giving divers interesting things to see and explore. Just an hour or so South on Interstate 85 you'll find the best freshwater diving in 3 states. This is where you'll complete your training with four final Open Water dives. Students must complete 4 open water dives in the lake during this 2 day period to complete their certification. With the signing of the paperwork and the logging of the dives your instructor will look at you very proudly and say, "Congratulations you're a diver!" You'll then be "open water certified" to dive up to 60 feet deep in good weather. This certification is good for life with regular refresher trainings.

The Dive Shop - 9320 West Broad St. Suite H & I, Richmond, VA 23294, 804-270-0700