

URBANPROMISE INTERNSHIPS

FAQS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What should I bring this summer?

A. Here's our suggestions:

- mostly casual, modest clothing for a hot and humid summer
- some dress-up clothes
- money to do some serious site seeing (Saturday trips)
- Your own sheets; a pillow; one simple blanket. All mattresses are twin (single) size.
- Personal devotional material and a Bible (For use with children, we recommend the NIV, NIV, RSV or Good News editions. We prefer that you do *not* bring a King James Version for use with the children/youth).
- A swimsuit and beach towel.
- Personal items such as towels, soap (and container), washcloth, toothpaste, deodorant, comb, razor, etc. Those who can live without electric hair appliances, *please do so*.
- Youth/Children ministry resources you may have, want, need, or share - music books, game ideas, arts and craft books, skit books, etc.
- An alarm clock
- A small extension cord.
- Summer reading, paper & pens for letters home, addresses of those you wish to write to.

Bring this stuff if you can:

- An electric fan (larger, box fans are welcome).

Q. Do you have any suggested reading?

A. We certainly do! Try these selections;

About Camden:

"Who Could Live Here?" *Time*, January 20, 1992

Savage Inequalities, Jonathon Kozol -- a whole chapter on Camden Education

Hungry Ghosts, Mary Taylor Previte -- a book about the juvenile justice system of Camden with some great history of the city.

Numerous articles in the Philadelphia Inquirer and South Jersey Courier Post

Others:

Theirs is the Kingdom, Robert Lupton -- Short narratives of various urban issues and Christian responses.

Black Like Me, John Griffin -- A true story of one white man's experience as a Negro in the deep south in the 60's.

Race Matters, Cornell West -- A leading African-American scholar examines issues of race, culture, and politics.

More Than Equals, Spencer Perkins & Chris Rice -- A black and a white author discuss racial reconciliation within ministry.

House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros – A look at life for a Latina.

Hungry Memory, Richard Rodriguez -- Reflections of a Latino trying to adjust to Anglo-American culture.

Unexpected News, Robert McAfee Brown -- An American theologian reflects on reading the Bible with the eyes of the poor.

Growing Up Black, Jay David -- Passages from the autobiographies of noted African-Americans highlighting their childhood and upbringing.

Or even:

Autobiography of Malcolm X.

Strength to Love, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison.

Developing Positive Self-images and

Discipline in Black Children, Jawanza Kunjufu.

Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys, Jawanza Kunjufu.

Black Children, Janice Hale-Benson.

Urban Ministry, David Claerbaut.

Among School Children, Tracy Kidder.

Politics of American Cities, Dennis Judd.

Women of Brewster Place, Gloria Naylor.

The Bluest Eyes, Toni Morrison.

Styles in Conflict, Jay David.

Ok, ok, so you don't have half a lifetime to read all of them before you come! Maybe just read a few of the ones that looks the most interesting. Don't worry, you can read the rest when you get home in August.

Q. Is there anything I should bring that would help the ministry?

A. What a great question! Of course, we always have needs and you can play a big part in meeting them. We are always in need of arts and craft supplies and children's books in good condition (especially the classics such as *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe*, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, African-American history or story books, such as *The People Who Could Fly*, and anything about the Latino culture or in Spanish). Books are good to use in camp, but also make the best prizes and gifts.

We ask that **all** summer staff commit to bring at least one of the following: (1) Arts and crafts supplies -- markers, paper, paint, scissors, glue, etc.; (2) sports equipment: baseball mitts, softballs, kick balls and basketballs; or (3) new or good condition used board games and puzzles. **Please mark the intern response sheet appropriately.**

You may want to start collecting game and resource books to supplement the limited material that we have. If you get a move on collecting this material, your team will have a big head start and everyone will think you're so together!

Q. Will I be able to go away for the weekend?

A. Since your time here is short, we discourage summer staff from taking a whole weekend as a

vacation. We ask that people observe the work week of Sunday through Friday. Besides, once you get to know some of the kids in your camp, you *will not want* to be away from them! If a short time away is unavoidable, please clear it with your site Director first. If possible, please contact our office with the information before you arrive.

Q. Is there any information I should have before I buy my travel tickets?

A. As mentioned previously, if you are flying, please make sure to make your destination the **Philadelphia International Airport**. By bus, you can arrive at **Philadelphia** or **Camden Greyhound Stations**. Trains arrive at the **30th St. Station in Philadelphia**.

We will be happy to pick you up at any of these destinations. If you make plans to arrive at a “nearby city,” (including Newark) it will be your responsibility to arrange transportation to one of these locations or to our Camden offices. Unfortunately, we cannot make exceptions.

We will be happy to send directions for anyone driving.

Please note these important and exact arrival and departure dates

Travel Date Reminder

Arrive: Tuesday, June 26th

Depart: Monday, August 13th

Please do not come early. If you do come early or stay late, plan on making your own transportation and lodging arrangements.

Q. What is living in Camden like?

A. This manual is too small and too impersonal to even begin to do justice to the richness and diversity of urban culture. We can say a few things though. The city is very different if you have never lived in an urban area or had much interaction with people from a different cultural or economic background. Many people do experience some culture shock, but don’t let that turn you off. The city has a lifetime’s worth of powerful lessons to teach about God, yourself, others and society. Dive in this summer and try to scratch the surface.

We do have some orientation days at the beginning to help you get started, to ease the adjustment and to give you a base of friends, theories and other practical advice. Reading some of the books listed above can also help to prepare you. Most of all though, we ask that you come with a humble spirit, willing to learn and serve. And, remember the ‘5 Principals to Live by This Summer!’

When people ask about what Camden is like, often part of what they are trying to ask is...

Q. Is Camden SAFE?

A. The short answer is “No.” Drug use and its related crimes, the easy availability of guns in the US, lack of economic opportunities and even poor anger management skills all contribute to the

relatively higher rates of violence in inner-cities. This can be a very dangerous environment. In addition, we know that most of our interns will never be truly streetwise. Because of these facts, we have designed safety rules to help prevent you from being a victim by keeping you from taking unnecessary risks. **You must be prepared to adjust to and make allowances for where you are.**

UP Summer Safety Rules Primer

Nobody walks alone anywhere, anytime.

Nobody walks anywhere after dark.

Everybody must be in the house by 11:00 pm.

These rules are non-negotiable. In our nineteen years of camps, we have never had a staff member physically harmed – when they were following our instructions.

You can help keep you and your team safe by using common sense, by hearing and following the advice and rules we give and by working with us rather than striking out on your own. Please note that if you insist on taking chances that endanger you, others or the organization, you will be asked to return home.

Q. What suggestions do you have for living in the communities in which we work?

A. First, approach the summer as a learning opportunity and be yourself. The summer is an opportunity to share experiences with so many different people. You will be able to learn and grow from them just as they are able to learn and grow from you.

Second, do not classify people. All Black people do not play basketball or rap or have rhythm. All Hispanic people do not speak Spanish and know how to Salsa. All Asian people are not model minorities who came over on boats. Certainly there are cultural traits which characterize every distinct group of people, but each individual is unique, and stereotypes can get you in trouble.

Third, be careful how you talk. Refer to Blacks as Blacks or African-Americans, Hispanics as Hispanics or Latinos, and Asians as Asians or Asian-Americans. Don't use words like 'ghetto' or 'slum' to refer to your location. They suggest that you place yourself on a higher plane than those around you. Try 'neighborhood' instead. Also, do not assume that you can use words or phrases just because the people around you use them. What is ok for an insider may not be ok for an outsider. If you are unsure, hold your tongue and ask your Director.

Fourth, give yourself opportunities to share experiences with your neighbors. Don't drive a car, use public transportation. Don't take your laundry to the UP washing machine, use the local Laundromat. Don't drive to the ShopRite in Cherry Hill, shop at the local grocery store, even with your limited budget. Hang out on the front porch. Use these as opportunities to discover how similar you are to your neighbors and to learn what you really need to live.

Finally, be a good neighbor. Your presence in the neighborhood does not go unnoticed. In fact, you

are being watched and listened to constantly. You are an ambassador for UP, for the local church and for Christ. Dress modestly. If you are in a row home, think about who is on the other side of that wall as you play your music or have fun. Keep your house and your sidewalk clean. Get to know parents. Treat everyone with respect. Listen.

Q. What will my living situation be like?

A. It will be tight, noisy and will lack privacy. But, believe it or not, you will probably be sad to leave all of it behind at the end of the summer.

We will be housing you, and your staff of 5-8 others, at the very best place we can find that is close to the neighborhood in which you will work. Some staffs may be living in church parsonages; others in houses that we rent for the summer in the neighborhood. At worst your housing will be crowded and modest. A mattress on the floor for a bed is not uncommon. Dressers are at a premium and you will probably have to live out of your suitcase. Be prepared to live humbly and modestly.

Living with a lot of people can be very good, or terrible, depending on YOU! Jesus Christ calls His followers to be servants, and He didn't just give us a heavenly command - He demonstrated it with His whole life and actions. The Kingdom needs servants more than it needs devotion leaders or task masters.

Here are some practical suggestions on how to live in one building with many different people.

- Respect other people's right to privacy by knocking on doors before entering, by asking before you "borrow" something, and by keeping noise levels low after hours.
- Adhere to the cleaning and cooking schedule. If you are on the bathroom cleaning team that cleans every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night, do it on those days. Don't procrastinate.
- Sometimes there will be dishes in the sink that "someone" has left behind -- go the extra mile and wash them, *then* send a posse out to find the dirty culprit!
- Be quiet at night or early in the morning if other people are trying to sleep.
- Don't take half an hour in the bathroom -- there will invariably be a long line.
- Be respectful of any special rules in the site you are sharing. For example, if you receive a phone call, be respectful of the time limit.
- Be on time for devotions. Each site will set different devotional and prayer times, but in every case they will happen every day. Each site will be a praying community. We feel it is very important that we uphold the ministry & put before the Lord those specific persons with whom we are working & endeavoring to reach with the message of the Kingdom. Devotions also serve as a way for staff to encourage & motivate each other.
- The above suggestion goes double for meetings. These are crucial to running an effective ministry and everyone's input is needed.

Q. Will I have access to a telephone?

A. Each site will have one phone. You will share it with between 5-15 other people, so be

prepared to suffer with a time limit.

Long distance calls *cannot* be charged to the phone at your summer residence. Please bring a long-distance calling card. In most cases, collect calls cannot be made, either. You will need to have a calling card.

Q. How will I get my meals?

A. UrbanPromise will provide the money or supplies for all meals. Your house will be responsible for preparing your own meals. You will also most likely be responsible for going to the grocery store and buying the food. Your site will be given a menu for the summer, recipes and shopping tips. Don't expect meat and potatoes every night for dinner and don't be surprised if you eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for three days in a row. You will be given a very tight budget, but many sites in the past have eaten very well because they worked well as a team.

Q. Will I see Tony Campolo this summer?

A. From time to time, Dr. Campolo will visit us and encourage us in our work. However, please understand that he is not involved in the day-to-day, hands-on ministry of UrbanPromise in the city. His calling is in preaching and teaching and this calling continues even throughout the summer. Dr. Campolo would say to you that the real joy of the summer is not in working alongside him, but in meeting the Jesus we know in the faces of the young people and staff you serve this summer!

Q. Can I bring my car?

A. Yes, but we don't encourage it. First, you must have insurance and provide proof of your insurance to us. Keep in mind, UrbanPromise insurance will not cover your liability, collision, or other insurance needs when you use your car. If you plan to bring a car there is an *Agreement for Personal Vehicle Use* at the end of the packet which you must sign and return to us. Second, you should bring a "Club" or other steering wheel lock. Third, plan on only having access to on-the-street parking. Finally, for both insurance and safety issues, we cannot allow summer staff to use their car for transporting children. For many people it is a struggle to give up the "freedom" of having a car, but we have found there are many benefits to not having a vehicle here in the summer.

Q. How much money does it cost to work with UrbanPromise? How does Intern Fundraising work?

A. UrbanPromise has no set price tag. We do not charge our interns any fees for room or board. There are still expenses, so we ask that you try to raise \$350 a month. We recognize that how much you raise largely depends on the resources of your church, family and friends. Our expectation is that you put forth your best effort to help sustain the program. **You should not let worries about raising financial support stop you from coming and interning at Urban Promise.**

We have a very simple strategy to help you raise support for the summer programs.

1. The first step is to identify a group of at least 20 friends, family or churches who should be given the opportunity to support your ministry this summer (and we believe if you think real hard you can probably identify way more than 20 people). You should include your parents, college friends, aunts, uncles and other extended family members, friends of your parents, parents of your friends, co-workers and individuals from your church: your pastor, members of the congregation, a Bible study group and the missions committee. **You need to send us a copy of this list no later than 3 weeks after you get this packet.** We've included a sheet at the end of the packet to make that easy for you.
2. Next you need to approach those people or groups (through a letter, get together, phone call...) to share your plans and hopes for the summer and how they can help (prayer, money, care packages...).
3. Third, Bruce Main, our Executive Director, will send each of your possible supporters a letter explaining a little bit about UrbanPromise and the work you will be doing with us. He will let them know that they will be receiving a newsletter from you as well as the regular UrbanPromise mailings. He will also give them an opportunity to decline receiving those mailings.
4. Then, maybe soon before you come to UP, you should follow-up with your possible supporters to remind them what you are doing for the summer and remind them to pray and support you during the summer.
5. Finally, during the summer, every intern will be expected to keep all their possible supporters informed about what they are doing by writing and mailing (or e-mailing) two or three letters.

With this packet, you have received some UP brochures, 40 personalized response cards and 40 return envelopes to assist you with fundraising. (We really think you can find more than 20 people who might want to support you). If at any time you need more of these materials, or if you need additional UrbanPromise brochures, information or a video, please contact the UrbanPromise office. Also, if you would like to discuss fundraising strategy, feel free to call our office.

At the end of the manual is a small appendix with some ideas and advice on who to contact and how to do it. There is also a sample fundraising letter you can use as a model and a copy of the letter that Bruce will be sending out.

Q. Who should I include on my support team list?

A. We suggest including friends and family such as: parents, college friends, aunts, uncles, & other extended family members, friends of your parents, parents of your friends, and co-workers. You should also include individuals from your church: your pastor, members of the congregation, a Bible study group, and the missions committee.

You may also consider various funding sources such as your school, scholarships, grants, and corporate volunteer incentive programs. Be creative, include the unlikely, and don't limit yourself to Christians.

Q. How much additional money will I need?

A. We suggest about \$25-\$50 a week. Everybody's lifestyle is different, so some people will require more and others less than this amount.

You will need money for laundry detergent, coin-operated washing machines and dryers, personal hygiene items, bus fare, movies, ice cream, optional trips to New York, Washington, D.C., the Jersey Shore and Friday nights out. You also will spend some time with youth and you may want to treat them to a soda or an Italian Ice, although spending money like this is not mandatory and is even discouraged for the first half of the summer.

Q. Will I be able to cash checks?

A. Yes, but it may be (very) difficult. Depending on the neighborhood you are assigned to, you may have access to a store that will cash your traveler's checks. Some, but very few, may even cash your personal checks. Of course, almost all stores will charge a fee to cash checks.

We suggest that you use an automatic teller machine (ATM) that services your bank account. Call the bank that you use now and find out if you can access your account during your stay in Camden.

If using an ATM is not an option, we suggest that you bring travelers' checks and/or a small amount of cash.

Q. What will be my mailing address?

A. Your mailing address is:

For regular mail:
Your full name
c/o UrbanPromise
P.O. Box 1479
Camden, NJ 08105

For packages:
Your full name
3700 Rudderow Ave.
Pennsauken, NJ 08110

This will be the best place to have your mail sent *throughout* the summer. Your telephone number will be given to you upon arrival. For emergency purposes, please leave the following number:

(856) 661-1700.