urbaninitiative PARTICIPANT COVENANT | SPRING 2027

Mission Statement: "Urban Initiative is dedicated to developing a Christ-centered heart for ministry and service at Westmont by raising awareness about urban issues and mobilizing students in thoughtful response."

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

Essential Elements. Westmont College wants to ensure that all participants are able to meet the "essential elements" of the program. All participants must be able to meet these requirements, either with or without reasonable accommodations, regardless of their health condition and regardless of whether they have a disability. The College will provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who request them in order to help students meet the essential elements listed below and successfully participate in the program.
College-wide expectations. All students traveling must:

- Be in good academic standing at Westmont or another college or university in which the student is enrolled. Students on academic probation or suspension at Westmont or another college/university are not eligible for a Westmont College sponsored travel program.
- Be in good standing with the Student Life Office. Students on disciplinary probation or suspension are not eligible for travel programs.
- Agree to follow the Westmont Community Life Statement standards while on program, any additional student conduct standards adopted by the particular service and program in which the student is a participant, and local laws.
- Comply in a timely manner with all travel preparation protocols including, but not limited to, **attending weekly pre-trip trainings, completing all assigned preparation tasks, and fulfilling fundraising requirements, journaling assignments, participating in post-trip debrief, etc.**

Program-Specific Essential Elements. The following program-specific essential element(s) may be used to evaluate applicants.

New Students: First Years and Transfers
As a freshman or new transfer student your acceptance to Urban Initiative is conditional upon your attaining a minimum GPA of 2.00 for the fall semester. By signing and dating below you are giving permission to the Records/Registrar's Office to release your academic information to Campus Ministries Staff for verification purposes after your fall grades have been finalized.

Signed _____ Date _____

Returning Students:
To be accepted into Urban Initiative you need a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 *and* cannot be on academic probation during the spring semester of orientation. By signing and dating below you are stating that you meet these academic requirements and give permission to the Records/Registrar's Office to release this information to Campus Ministries staff for verification purposes.

Signed _____ Date _____

STUDENT AGREEMENTS

I. Statement of Personal Commitment

I am aware that the Community Life Statement as stated in the Westmont College Catalog is fully in effect for the entire program starting January 2027 and ending May 2027. I also agree to comply with the standards of our hosts while a program participant. If in the judgment of the staff program director I fail to live by either set of standards, I may be sent home at any time at my own expense and with the forfeiture of program costs already incurred.
I will familiarize myself and comply in a timely manner with the travel policies, protocols, schedules and standards established by Westmont College and the specific program for which I am applying. This includes attendance at all mandatory college-wide and program sponsored pre-trip training and paying my trip account in full (if applicable) by the payment due date – see support model section below. I understand that my failure to comply at any point in the preparation process may disqualify me from the program and may result in the forfeiture of deposits and other charges. I will also sign and fulfill all terms of the *Westmont College Activity Participant's Release, Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement* prior to departure.

II. Consent for Release of Information

I authorize the Registrar and Deans of Student Life to access and review my academic and judicial records at Westmont College and any higher education institution that I have attended. Furthermore, I authorize the release of information contained within any health/emergency forms submitted in preparation for this travel program to my physician, program leaders, Westmont College officials, the foreign host institution or third party provider (if applicable), the hosts (if applicable) to inform and discuss reasonable accommodations and/or to deal with any health related emergency that directly concerns me or involves me in any way, shape, or form while participating on this trip.

I understand that I will be required to complete a survey, share photographs and stories of my spring experience with the Westmont community, and meet with the Director of Student Ministry and Outreach, Faculty/Staff Mentors, and/or UI core team to give feedback and process my experience. *Note: The Director of Student Ministry and Outreach and Urban Initiative Core Team will utilize the information you provide in your evaluation while making decisions about ministry partners and programming for next year.*

III. Global Ministry and Service Covenant

I will constantly strive to mirror the attitude that was modeled in the life of Jesus Christ *(Philippians 2:3-11)*. I commit to serve - with a heart of love - all teams, members, our in-country partners, and those that I come in contact with during the Spring as our Community Life Statement affirms.

IV. Spring Orientation & Debrief Sessions

- ***Weekly Trainings***
  I will attend the weekly training sessions scheduled by my team-leaders.
- ***Debrief Session***
  I will attend the *Urban Initiative Debrief* session to be held once we return – Saturday, April 10th, 2027.

V. Finances

Urban Initiative is committed to working alongside all participants to raise the necessary support needed for their upcoming trips. That said...

1. Personal Investment of Resources

I understand that there will be one initial contribution – the $200 registration fee – due on February 1st, 2027. *This can be paid by charging it to your student account or paying by card. If you prefer to pay by check, please make this check payable to "Westmont College" and designate "Urban Initiative" in the the memo line.*

___ Check this box if you would like to have this fee charged to your student account. *By checking this box, you affirm that you have notified and received approval from the person responsible for paying this account.*

2. Personal Investment of Time & Energy: Required Fundraisers

I will willingly participate in all designated fundraisers, which include:

- **Support Letters -** I will identify a list of 25 names/addresses to whom I will send prayer & financial support letters to in February. The Urban Initiative Core Team will supply me with a sample support letter, letterhead, and envelopes. I will cover the cost for postage.
- **Home Church Support Letter &/or Visit(s) -** I agree to contact a leader from my local church to inform him/her of my Urban Initiative team and explore ways that the church might support Urban Initiative financially and through prayer.
- **Finals Week Self-Care Kits.** I will be available to assemble and deliver self-care kits the Study Day prior to Finals Week. All proceeds will be divided by participant volunteers.
- **Attend Fundraising Training -** I will attend fundraising training and participate in Ministry Partner Development. I will read all assigned documents and watch all assigned training videos by the requested dates. (Training will be held during regular meeting times.)

3. Prior to Departure

Each team member with a *negative personal balance* will be required to submit a check in the amount of that balance prior to departure.

Please know that we do not want individuals to feel they cannot participate in this ministry for financial reasons. If you think this commitment will be an issue for you, please come to the Campus Ministries Office and make an appointment with the Director of Student Ministry and Outreach – Kelley Funk –- to discuss other options. DO NOT REMOVE yourself from the process prior to meeting to discuss your particular circumstances and options.
Also, if you are unable to attend or if you choose to not attend after you have started receiving donations, the funds collected will be used to support others to go on a trip.

VI. Identification

It is my responsibility to provide a valid ID or Passport (for those traveling to outside of California) for my spring travels, and I realize that I have to submit proof of ID with my registration fee on February 1st, 2027.

Print Name

_____

Signature

_____

Date

Permission for trip participation by parent/guardian (required for students under 18 years of age)

_____

Print Name

_____

Signature

_____

Relationship to applicant

_____

Date

Please upload this covenant and picture of your ID to your application – and should you choose to pay your own registration fee, then please drop off the fee by February 1st, 2027. to the Urban Initiative office (2nd Floor, Kerr Student Center) - should you be accepted.

If you have any questions, feel free to email urban_initiative@westmont.edu