

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **“What is the cost of the week?”**
  - Our weekly cost is \$325 per person. If you will be here for fewer than five days, you may be eligible for a price discount. For further details on any point, contact Jared Hamernick at [Jared@sunshinegospel.org](mailto:Jared@sunshinegospel.org) or by calling 773-937-1726.
- **“What does that cost cover?”**
  - Included in our weekly price is all meals (including a meal of deep-dish Chicago-style pizza at Lou Malnati’s), lodging, staffing, transportation costs in the city including CTA fare and parking fare as well as all necessary materials during the week. It does not cover costs such as a trip to a corner store for snacks or spending money while downtown.
- **“Will we/my child be safe” or some variation**
  - This question probably arises more frequently than any other and is probably a natural one. The short answer is YES, you will be as safe in our community as you would be in any other urban context. While our community has garnered a stigma of violence, the reality is that when following a few, common sense, guidelines any risk is minimized. We cover these guidelines in our first night orientation and have never had an incident of personal safety in our decade-plus of hosting students. Additionally, all our staff members live in the community, raising their families and children alongside our neighbors in Woodlawn. Despite the negative stereotypes perpetuated mostly by the media, the reality is that God is at work in our community in some very dynamic ways and we are excited to share those with your students.
- **“Where will we be staying?”**
  - We require that all participants of our week-long program stay on site in our community, either in our own facilities at Sunshine or in a local partner church. Sleeping arrangements are customized to fit each group, but are always on the floor of a building, whether Sunshine or a partner church. As such, we definitely recommend air mattresses or a camping mat, particularly for those whose backs are not as limber as they once were.
- **“With whom will we be partnering?”**
  - This question is very natural, but it is difficult to give a blanket answer. Your team will be serving in one of two ways; 1) Directly with Sunshine, helping us to empower our programs, renovate a new ministry space or in some other tangible and meaningful way. 2) It is also possible that you may be asked to serve with our neighbors, helping to empower and assist them in their local ministries. These partnerships have all been vetted by Sunshine and are dear to us. Service opportunities include but are not limited to construction/demolition, youth outreach programs (sports camps, VBS, etc...). We strive to ensure that every service opportunity is valuable to us as well as to your student.



- **“Can we change/not do \_\_\_\_\_ in the schedule”**
  - Our schedule and each experience is carefully crafted to optimize the learning environment for your student. It is our experience that each opportunity is meaningful and well received upon reflection of the experience. We strongly recommend that every participant be fully involved in each experience for the week in order to have the most meaningful time possible. However, we are willing to be flexible where necessary and will carefully consider any requested accommodation. (We will of course accommodate dietary or physical restrictions as necessary, provided that we are made aware of such).
- **Will we need transportation while in Chicago?”**
  - Yes. In addition to the transportation needed to arrive, your team will need sufficient transportation to drive to various portions of the city at various points throughout the week. Driving while here primarily consists of travelling to and from Service and Listening opportunity sites. We recommend 12-15 passenger vans as they allow for greater flexibility in larger groups. Using a bus (charter, school etc...) is also plausible, though not our primary recommendation.
- **“Will any other groups be joining us?”**
  - Depending on the week, this is a distinct possibility. We often host multiple groups at once and have found that it generally works really well. For specifics on your particular week, please get in contact with us.
- **“Can we set up a long-term partnership with Sunshine?”**
  - Absolutely! We would love to discuss options for partnering in a long-term manner with you. If this is a question you are considering, please don't hesitate to contact Jared at the number or email above.
- **“Can we attend a local church service?”**
  - Yes! Provided that you arrive in time on Sunday morning, we would be glad to connect you to a local church with whom you can worship.
- **“What is Sunshine's address again?”**
  - 500 E 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Chicago IL, 60637. There is parking available on both sides of the street as well as a parking lot owned by Sunshine.

