CONNECT FORT WORTH
Put your Faith into Action
at Ridglea Christian Church in Fort Worth TX

SAMPLE GROUP
We are so glad you are coming and can’t wait to serve, learn, worship and grow alongside you! We hope you have the best week ever!

TRIP GOAL:
The goal of this trip is to serve with and learn from people that put their faith into action through relational, sustainable, and dignity-giving service and justice in order that you might be empowered to put your faith into action in new ways when you go home. We believe that a root cause of much of what is hurting our communities is that we are disconnected from each other. We don’t know each other and so we are afraid and we take advantage of each other intentionally and unintentionally. We want to help you learn to connect to your neighbors, community, God and yourself in new ways!

Your trip will focus on how we can partner with our refugee & immigrant neighbors. This is a trip where you cross the bridge to get to learn about your neighbors whose life experience might seem different than your own. You will work in such places as the International Newcomers Academy, Refugee Services of Texas, Disciples Refugee & Immigrant Ministries, Church World Services, a Refugee Garden and more and learn from an immigration lawyer, refugees, non-profit leaders, and refugee & immigrant teachers. Each day will include service, reflection, learning and fun! We will continuously ask the questions who, what, so what and now what?

Who? Who is involved? What strengths and wisdom and insight do those who are marginalized bring to the situation? Who are our neighbors?
What? What is going on here? What does our faith say about it? What are we missing?
So What? Why does this matter? Why does this matter to us? Why does this matter as people of faith?
Now What? What can we do about it? How can we work for sustainable change? How can you get to know your neighbors better in your own community? How can you partner with those who are struggling? How can you use your gifts and passions and resources to work alongside your neighbors for change?
CONTACT INFORMATION:
Allison Lanza, Director Connect Fort Worth
Email: allison@ridgleachristian.org
Cell Phone: (817) 913-6925

COST:
The cost of the trip is $250 per person for trips 3 nights or longer and $75 per person for trips 2 nights or less, along with a $100 refundable cleaning deposit. Checks can be made out to Ridglea Christian Church with “Connect Ministries” in the memo line. You can also pay online on our website www.connectministrytrips.org. A $100 deposit and application is due to reserve your dates. Half of your anticipated fees are due 90 days before your event. The balance is due the first day of your event. The deposit will be returned within 30 days following your event if all rules and regulations are followed. These costs help cover the costs of lodging, utilities, showers, laundry, the use of 2 kitchens and all kitchen supplies, breakfast & lunch cold foods, event planning, a program coordinator to lead education & reflection times and to lead you during all service activities, and one meal.

LODGING:
You will stay at Ridglea Christian Church in Fort Worth, TX
6720 W Elizabeth Ln,
Fort Worth, TX 76116
www.ridgleachristian.org
(817) 738-0612

Wi-Fi:
Wi-Fi is available. The network is RCCMain and the Password is Jesusrocks

Logistics
1. We have showers & laundry at Ridglea. There are only 2 showers so it will be important to develop a shower schedule as a group.
2. You will be sleeping in classrooms. There are 4 different sleeping rooms you can use. 13 mattresses are available from Ridglea, and you may also bring your own air mattress or cot. You will also have a dedicated meeting space that is yours for the week.
3. You are responsible for your own meals and there are two kitchens available for use. There is a small kitchen in your gathering space where you can prepare breakfast and lunch. There is a larger commercial kitchen where you can prepare dinner. You can use the kitchen supplies provided as well as dishes and silverware. You are welcome to use food that is left over from previous groups and we will let you know what food is available the day before you arrive. Cold breakfast & lunch foods will be provided. There are several grocery stores nearby.
4. You are responsible for your own transportation. A representative from Connect Fort Worth will always be with you on each site visit!
COVENANT AND GROUND RULES:

- Be kind and respectful, to yourself, others in the group, the spaces you are in, and everyone you meet. Treat everyone as a child of God and every place as a sacred space.
- If you want to take pictures that include people other than your group, ask first if it is ok to take their picture. Highlight people’s strengths and dignity in all pictures.
- Choose joy and gratitude-complaining isn’t helpful
- Be flexible
- Be present. Pay attention to the moment you are in. This means not being on your phone or talking to others when we are serving or listening.
- Look for God’s presence all around you.
- Keep space clean-better than when we arrived
- Be willing to help, no matter the job. If you don’t have a job, ask, “how can I help?” If someone gives you a job, say, “I would love to help!”
- Stay with the group, make sure you have a leader’s phone number and someone always knows where you are
- No alcohol, drugs or weapons on this trip
- When you see something beautiful, stop and thank God.
- Support, encourage and pray for each other. Be each other’s cheerleaders
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect, as a beloved child of God
- Be curious instead of judgmental
- Treat everyone as a possible teacher and learn every day
- Please stay in groups of three or more.
- Please stay inside the church after dark.
- Do not leave anything valuable visibly open in your car. Keep your cars locked.
- Recycle or compost everything you can: Recycling is located across from the kitchen near the women’s restroom and there is a tub for composting in both kitchens. There are trash and recycling dumpsters between our Learning Garden and Glass House.
- Get sleep. You want to be well rested to serve well!
- Have an amazing time
TEAMS:
Your group will be split into four teams, with a responsibility as listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning</td>
<td>Awesome</td>
<td>Incredible</td>
<td>Fantastic</td>
<td>Wonderful</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>Wonderful</td>
<td>Awesome</td>
<td>Incredible</td>
<td>Fantasy</td>
<td>Wonderful</td>
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Responsibilities:
Cooking: Set out breakfast, set out stuff to pack lunches, cook dinner
Cleaning: Clean up from meals, do a general clean-up of our space (bathrooms, meeting area, kitchen, etc.)
Worship: hand out prayer partners, lead us in evening worship
Communication: Take pictures throughout the day, write at the end of the day about what you did that day to share later with the church, and write a thank you card for each place you visit

REFLECTIONS:
At the end of the day we will reflect on what we have done. During this time, we will answer questions like the following:

- What did you do today?
- What did you see, hear, smell, taste, touch?
- What was your favorite part? Least favorite part?
- What do you know now that you didn’t know when you woke up in the morning?
- Describe a new connection you made today
- Where did you see service? Where did you see justice?
- Today did you see anything relational, sustainable, dignity-giving? Describe it
- How will you take something you experienced back with you?
Itinerary

Prepare to be flexible 😊 What happens day to day could change. This happens when you travel with groups and work with service and justice organizations. When change happens, be prepared to smile and say, “Great, I can’t wait to see what happens next!”

We will try to keep you informed of any changes as soon as we are aware.

Saturday:

8:00 – Arrive, get unpacked, make yourself at home! (when you are 30 minutes form the church call Allison)
8:00 – 8:30: Quick welcome, COVID-19 policies and tour of the church

Sunday:

9:00 – Connect Orientation (Learning Garden Picnic Tables)

- Introductions: name, why you are excited about being here, share one interesting thing about yourself.
- Beach Ball Game
  - Beach Ball
- Go over purpose of trip: Why Connect?
  - Talk about how we are so disconnected as a society.
  - Talk about service & justice in relational/sustainable/dignity giving ways.
  - Talk about how this is a learning trip primarily-not a service trip, and how can we do this the rest of your life.
- Talk about why we serve in many different types of places.

- Go over packet, schedule, covenant
- Hand out prayer partners
- T-shirts and Masks
- Discuss shower schedules
- Goals for Trip
  - Posters/big paper and markers
- Mission Game
- Service/Justice River role play to learn difference between service and justice
- Definitions of service/justice/relational/sustainable/dignity-giving
  - Paper for groups
- Scripture of the day: Isaiah 58:1-12
- Watch movie: With*
- Art Meditation: Go out and preach the good news, if necessary use words
  - Paper and markers

10:30 – Get ready for church (make lunches?)
11:00 – Church
12:00 – Eat lunch
1:30 – Volunteer at Refugee Garden (wear closed toe shoes)
3:30 – Steel City Pops & Reflections & Prayer Partners

- What did you do today?
- What did you see, hear, smell, taste, touch?
- What was your favorite part? Least favorite part?
- What do you know now that you didn’t know when you woke up in the morning?
- Describe a new connection you made today?
- Where did you see service? Where did you see justice?
- Did you see anything relational, sustainable, or dignity-giving today? Describe it.
- How will you take something you experienced today and use it in the future?
- Where did you experience God?
- Prayer Partners

5:00 – Bedtime: Dinner, Worship & Free Time on your own

Monday:

7:30 – Wake up & Get Ready & eat breakfast & pack lunches (wear closed-toe shoes)
8:00 – Morning check in

- Go over day
- Morning Mantra: Poster
- Quote of day: Hebrews 13:2
  - “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”
  - What does this mean to you?
  - What does this mean in how we treat others when we see God in them?
  - What does this mean in how we set up immigration & refugee policies?
- Video
  - Video: Freedom School: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3uMwM2hJfw
  - Video: Second a day https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aa3o7vWG93w
  - Week of Compassion: Hold on Tight https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGYDXuJhnVk
  - Refugee/Asylee/Immigrant https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwMEhc-8trM
- Prayer Partner Pass Out

9:00 – Connect Time: The Power of Connection

- Today we are going to talk about connections-in small groups
  - What does the word connect mean to you?
  - Who are we connected with? Who are we not connected with?
  - How do we connect?
  - How are we disconnected?
  - How was Jesus’ ministry about connection? Name at least one story
• Come back together and share your connection thoughts!
• Connection Map!
  o Large paper and markers
  o Draw a map of your town as a group. Who lives there? Who are you connected with? Who are you disconnected with?
  o How are you connected with refugees/immigrants?
  o How are we disconnected? How can we as communities be more connected to people who are different than us?
• Play hula hoop game: Talk about how there is enough for all of us if we choose to use share our resources differently—but we can’t do this until we know each other (relational—because we don’t trust each other), learn how to do it sustainably (so we believe in abundance rather than scarcity) and learn to see each other and treat each other with dignity

9:45 – Head to Refugee Services of Texas
10:00 – Hear Marvin’s Story
10:45 – Head to Water Gardens
11:00: Lunch at Water Gardens
  1502 Commerce Street

12:30 – Head to meet Freedom School
1:00 – Freedom School
  o Take pillowcases

3:00 – Head back to Ridglea
3:30 – Free Time & Group Work at Ridglea
6:00 – Dinner served by Ridglea with Sharon Stanley Rea from Refugee & Immigration Ministries as Guest Speaker
7:00 – Reflections & Prayer Partners

• What did you do today?
• What did you see, hear, smell, taste, touch?
• What was your favorite part? Least favorite part?
• What do you know now that you didn’t know when you woke up in the morning?
• Describe a new connection you made today?
• Where did you see service? Where did you see justice?
• Did you see anything relational, sustainable, or dignity-giving today? Describe it.
• How will you take something you experienced today and use it in the future?
• Where did you experience God?
• Prayer Partners

8:00 Worship, Free Time & Bedtime on your own

Tuesday:

7:00 – Wake up & Get Ready & eat breakfast & make lunch
8:00 – Morning check in

- Go over day
- Morning Mantra
- Scripture of the day: Quote of day: Leviticus 19:33-34
  - When an stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”
- Our faith teaches to welcome the stranger because you were once a stranger. When have you ever felt like a stranger? When have you ever felt unwelcomed? How can that help in how you relate to the stranger and refugee today?
- Talk through the day
- Watch videos: We’re not that different, Rouau, & Fernando & David videos
- Prayer partner pass out

8:40 – Head to LaDera Palms RST Clubhouse
9:00 – Refugee Orientation from Zoey & Hear Marwa’s story
10:30 – Puppetry with Amphibian Productions & kids at Ladera
12:00 – Lunch at church

1:30 – Connecting with People Different Than Us

- Play “Why” Game in four different groups
  - Pick something you have seen and ask “Why?” at least four times to figure out why this is an issue.
- Talk about how we can connect with people different than us without our first reaction to be afraid of them, judging them, or ignore them.
- Play Marker Game:
  - What is on the outside is not always what is on the inside.
- Play Label Game:
  - Write one negative label for how others have seen you,
  - Write another for how you would like to be seen,
  - Write one last for how God sees you
    - This is true of everyone we meet! Think about groups in our culture that our mislabeled. When we connect, we can help to change this!
- Read poem: “My Name is Not Those People” by Julia Dinsmore

4:00 – Reflections & Prayer Partners at Pelicans | 6517 Camp Bowie Blvd

- What did you do today?
- What did you see, hear, smell, taste, touch?
- What was your favorite part? Least favorite part?
- What do you know now that you didn’t know when you woke up in the morning?
- Describe a new connection you made today?
• Where did you see service? Where did you see justice?
• Did you see anything relational, sustainable, or dignity-giving today? Describe it.
• How will you take something you experienced today and use it in the future?
• Where did you experience God?

5:00 – Dinner/Worship/Free Time on your own

Wednesday:

7:00 – Wake up & Get Ready & eat breakfast & make lunch (wear closed toe-shoes)
8:00 – Morning check in

• Go over day
• Morning Mantra
• Scripture of the day: Acts 2:1-18
  o Thing to think about today: In the Pentecost story, everyone else didn’t become like the disciples, but the disciples learned to speak everyone else’s language. Think about how in mission we typically try to make other people like us, but the spirit teaches us instead to learn from them. Learn their language, their culture, hear their strengths and ideas and let them be the experts! When we connect with others we can serve in this way. Today let someone else be your teacher
• Watch Week of Compassion videos & Hutterite community & Refugee Olympic Team video

8:30 – Head to LaDera Palms (Monarch Pass Apartments) | 4500 Campus Dr
9:00 – Volunteer with RST - setting up ESL Classroom and setting up apartment
12:00 – Lunch at church (make ceiling tile)
1:00 – Work on Migrant Vigil for Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries
2:00 – Meet with Ayesha at Church World Service and do advocacy work for SIV’s
3:30 – Do our Migrant Vigil for Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries
4:00 – Connecting with Ourselves (Clearfork Park | 4801 Edwards Ranch Rd)

• Quote from Fredrick Buchner - “God calls you to the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep needs meet”
  o This week we have served in lots of different places and ways. Pick the one that you have felt most comfortable and strong in. Why? What did you do best in that situation? Be specific.
  o On paper write things that bring you deep gladness. Write things that you feel are the world’s deep needs. How can you put them together?
  o Paper & Pens/Markers
• Group Affirmations: Where have we seen God in each other this week?

4:00 – Reflections & Prayer Partners

• What did you do today?
• What did you see, hear, smell, taste, touch?
• What was your favorite part? Least favorite part?
• What do you know now that you didn’t know when you woke up in the morning?
• Describe a new connection you made today?
• Where did you see service? Where did you see justice?
• Did you see anything relational, sustainable, or dignity-giving today? Describe it.
• How will you take something you experienced today and use it in the future?
• Where did you experience God?

5:00 – Dinner/Worship/Free Time on your own

Thursday:

7:30 – Wake up & Get Ready & eat breakfast & Make lunches
8:00 – Morning check in
• Go over day
• Morning Mantra
• Scripture of the day: 1 Timothy 4:12 & Romans 8:38-39
  o “Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”
  o “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
• Things to think about today
  o How can you when you go home set an example for others based on what you have seen and learned to make sure everyone knows that are dearly loved and are treated that way?
• Talk about the day
• Watch any videos we have left
9:00 – Half of the group to LaDera Palms to finish up projects/half to INA
12:00 – Lunch at INA
1:00 – Work at INA
3:00 – Connecting back home (TCU or Stockyards)

• Read Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmation for Faith Leaders (copies for each person)
• Split into groups. Choose 2-4 of these statements. How can you put these into action in practical ways your community? Make it your mission to do this! What will you need? Whose support?
• Come up with 1 way you will help when you go home (as an individual, as a church, with another group you are a part of)
• Reflections & Prayer Partners
  o What did you do today?
  o What did you see, hear, smell, taste, touch?
  o What was your favorite part? Least favorite part?
  o What do you know now that you didn’t know when you woke up in the morning?
  o Describe a new connection you made today?
Where did you see service? Where did you see justice?
Did you see anything relational, sustainable, or dignity-giving today? Describe it.
How will you take something you experienced today and use it in the future?
Where did you experience God?

5:00 – Dinner/Worship/Free Time

**Friday:**

7:00 – Wake up & get ready & eat breakfast
8:30 – Morning check in
  - Go over day
  - Morning Mantra
  - Scripture of the day: Genesis 2:2-3
    - And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.
  - What is Sabbath? How do we all need it? How can you experience it today? How is Sabbath a justice issue?
    - Tell Sabbath as a justice issue story
  - Evaluations

9:00 – Free Day! Explore Fort Worth.
Cleaning Check List for the end of the week:
- Take out trash and recycling to dumpsters outside
- Empty compost tubs in the compost pile in learning garden
- Sweep & vacuum floors (in rooms you have used)
- Stack mattresses in storage room
- Double check space for forgotten items
- Dispose of left-over food that is perishable
- Label & make a list of left-over food future groups can use
- Load dirty dishes into the dish washer and start cleaning cycle
- Place dirty wash rags & towels in washing machine
- Empty coffee pot, if used

EMERGENCIES – in case of an emergency call 911

Complete Care Camp Bowie (Emergency Clinic)
6006 Camp Bowie Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76116

Cooks Children’s Hospital
801 7th Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas 76104

Walgreens: Intersection of Camp Bowie and Ridglea Ave
6346 Camp Bowie Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76116

Storm Shelter: Bathrooms located across the hall from the Youth Room

What to Pack
- Bedding
  - We will be sleeping on the floor. Bring a sleeping bag or sheets and an air mattress or cot. If you would like to borrow a mattress from the church, we have 12 available. Please let us know ahead of time.
- Clothes
  - Dress will be casual every day. Make sure to bring closed toed shoes and at least one outfit that can get dirty. Don’t forget sleeping clothes
- Toiletries
  - Shower stuff, toothbrush, toothpaste, face wash, etc.
- Towels
  - Bring a towel for showers and washcloth if you need one. You might also bring a swimming towel if you choose a swimming activity on your free day.

- Water Bottle
• Sunscreen
• Bug Spray
• Snack to share
• Souvenir money
• Games you like to play
• Bible
• Hat
• Journal
• Donations (if you would like to make them) to our volunteer sites: Canned food, children’s books, travel size toiletries, children’s crafts
• Copy of Insurance Card
• Phone and Charger

FOOD:
• Most of your meals we will cook and eat together at the church unless otherwise noted. You can make breakfast and lunch in the youth lounge. We will have coolers for you to take your sack lunches in. If you want ideas for meals out let us know

GROCERY STORES:
Tom Thumb
Ridglea Plaza
6377 Camp Bowie Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76116

Sam’s Club
6760 Westworth Blvd
Westworth Village, TX 76114
Attractions for Explore Fort Worth Day

FORT WORTH:

Texas Christian University:
Tour with TCU Admissions (free)  TCU Athletics ($$)
https://admissions.tcu.edu/  https://gofrogs.com/

Museum District:
The Modern Art Museum (free)  Kimbell Art Museum (free)
https://www.themodern.org/  https://www.kimbellart.org/tickets

Cowgirl Hall of Fame ($12.00)
http://www.cowgirl.net/

Downtown:
Visit Sundance Square (free)  Water Gardens (free)
https://sundancesquare.com/  1502 Commerce Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Stockyards:
Daily Cattle Drive (free) and the World’s Largest Honkey Tonk ($)
www.fortworthstockyards.org

Trinity Trail:
Walk the Trinity Trail (free)  Go kayaking down the Trinity River ($$)
Fort Worth Zoo ($$)
Must reserve in advance:
https://www.fortworthzoo.org/
http://www.kayakfortworth.com

The Botanical Gardens ($6 for age 6-15, $12 for Adults age 16-64)
https://www.fwbg.org/buy-tickets

Movie Theaters:
Rave Cinema Ridgmar 13 Movie Theater ($$)  Coyote Drive-In Movie Theater ($$)
2300 Green Oaks Rd  223 NE 4th St
Fort Worth, TX 76116  Fort Worth, TX 76164

Swimming:
Forest Park Pool ($5)  Burgers Lake ($)
2850 Park Place  http://www.burgerslake.com/
2850 Park Place  1200 Meandering Rd
Fort Worth, TX 76114  Fort Worth, TX 76114
ARLINGTON:
Head to Six Flags over Texas ($$$)
Buy tickets in advance https://www.sixflags.com/overtexas/store/tickets

Texas Ranger Baseball Game ($$$)

Cowboys Football Game ($$$$)

DALLAS:
Visit the Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas and learn about JFK ($$)

Dallas World Aquarium

There are a TON of things to do in Fort Worth!
If none of these look like what you want, let us know and we can brainstorm more!