



December 2016

Hello Grace Chapel Students and Families,

Thank you for your interest in our student Discipleship & Cross-Cultural Learning Experiences. Summer may feel like a long way away, but we are thrilled that you are taking the time to pray about what God may be calling you to this summer – whether that is growing in relationship with God at camp or learning about a new culture and way of practicing Christian faith on a CCLE.

Both our discipleship and cross-cultural learning experiences provide opportunities to grow in your relationship with God in a unique way. Camp is a remarkable opportunity for you to learn how to share faith with friends – so we invite you to consider inviting a friend to attend camp with you! It will be a time of learning and fun together. And, if you are high school student looking for the next step of discipleship this summer, we recommend to you the Adirondack program and Compass programs (more information and links included in this packet).

Cross-Cultural Learning Experiences are one in a myriad of ways to grow in discipleship. Through months of training and team-building, followed by a week-long immersion in a culture that is different from your own, you will be able to grow in your understanding of how God works around the country and the world. Over the past couple of years, we have been building relationships with ministry partners who embody the principles of sustainable work, mutuality and learning that are essential to helping that helps. You will notice that there are repeat CCLE offerings this year – this is intentional! We are excited to have found partners with whom we resonate, and we are excited to invest deeply, over a sustained period, in their work. We think the beauty of mutual partnership is our ability to return, again and again, to see the progress in the work that God continues to do in the people and places we come to hold dear. So it might seem unintuitive, but we encourage you to consider applying, again, to the same CCLE location that you visited last year. How special it will be to see our friends and notice how God continues to work where we served last summer!

We have intentionally given you this packet earlier than usual this year. This is because we want to give you enough time to prayerfully consider where God is calling you this summer. We believe that CCLEs require energy and attention in order to be entered into with the required preparation and sensitivity. We know that your summer calendar fills up quickly – we want you to be able to carve out the space that will allow you to encounter God in the midst of a busy summer, whether through camp or a leadership experience. Also, we provided this packet to you early so that you can be intentional about asking for financial support for these experiences. Maybe at Christmas, instead of the new iPhone or new clothes, you could ask for financial support for your discipleship or cross-cultural experience?

We are expectant that God will lead us to places where we will experience what God is up to in our hearts and in the world. Please know, we are praying for and with you!

Expectant,

The Student Ministry Team

## 2017 Grace Chapel Student Ministry Discipleship Experiences

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### **MSM Camp | Camp Berea | July 16-22 | [www.berea.org](http://www.berea.org)**

*For current and rising MSM Students.*

We are going to camp this summer! Bring a friend and let's all go experience camp together to build lasting friendships, worship with great musicians, learn about life with God from great speakers and have an all out fun time. And, of course, we will enjoy all the Berea things that you've come to know and love – night games & swimming, frappes, the Blob, and hanging out with the great staff and counselors!

Please indicate your interest at [www.grace.org/students](http://www.grace.org/students) by December 21, 2016.

**Cost: TBD**

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### **HSM Camp | Hume Lake | July 17-22 | [www.humelake.org](http://www.humelake.org)**

*For current and rising HSM Students.*

Hume Lake New England is masterful at crafting a summer camp experience you won't forget. With clear teaching, dynamic worship, high energy games, awesome counselors, and more activities than you will be able to pack into free time, Hume Lake NE is a great place for teens to learn more about having a relationship with their Creator, and have a blast doing it!

Please indicate your interest at [www.grace.org/students](http://www.grace.org/students) by December 21, 2016.

**Cost: TBD**

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## **Other Discipleship Opportunities for High School Students\***

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**Adirondack Leadership Program:** The Adirondack Leadership Program (ALP) is an exciting opportunity for 15- to 18-year-old high school students to develop their leadership potential through adventure. Find out more about this program and applying at [gordon.edu/adventurecamp/alp](http://gordon.edu/adventurecamp/alp).

**Compass:** Compass is a leadership development program for high school students featuring backpacking through the Adirondack Mountains of New York, studying theology under renowned professors at Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and traveling abroad to serve and minister in a cross-cultural context. The early Compass application deadline is January 31, 2017 and all applications are due by February 14. Find out more about this program at [www.gordon.edu/compass](http://www.gordon.edu/compass).

\* Note: These experiences are NOT run by Grace Chapel and will not be staffed by Grace Chapel staff.

## 2017 Grace Chapel Student Ministry Cross-Cultural Learning Experiences

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Please take time to read carefully through each description of our Cross-Cultural Learning Experiences. You will notice that each missions experience has either a **101** or **201** delineation.

- If you have never been on a Cross-Cultural Learning Experience before, the **101** experiences are likely the best fit for you.
- If you have participated on a Cross-Cultural Learning Experience before, then you can consider the **201** experiences, or potentially serving in a leadership capacity on one of our 101 mission experiences.
- Regardless of the 101 or 201 designation, we encourage you to consider returning to a CCLE that you have previously attended in order to continue building relationships and connections with that place.

If you have any questions about what an experience will entail or your suitability for a particular Cross-Cultural Learning Experience, please talk to your Campus Student Ministry Director.

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### 101: Introductory Learning Experiences

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**Boston | July 9-14, 2017 | The Boston Project, [www.tbpm.org](http://www.tbpm.org)**

*Suggested for Current 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

This team will join in the work of Grace Chapel partner, The Boston Project Ministries. Located in the Talbot-Norfolk Triangle neighborhood in Dorchester, MA, The Boston Project engages neighbors and volunteers to build and nurture strong communities, characterized by God's peace.

This team will serve by contributing to the community development efforts of The Boston Project through yard work, painting, organizing, and work with kids in the neighborhood park. Students who apply for this CCLE should have appropriate interpersonal skills for interacting with neighbors in their homes, and be comfortable performing physical tasks outdoors.

New and returning Boston Project students welcome!

**Cost: \$700**

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**Philadelphia | July 9-14, 2017 | The Philadelphia Project,  
www.thephiladelphiaproject.com**

*Suggested for Current 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

Philadelphia is a large and diverse city with a rich history. Originally home to the Lenape Indians who were pushed further Northwest by migrating Europeans, Philadelphia was a politically strategic city during the Revolutionary War. Philadelphia was also a popular destination for Irish and Dutch immigrants, giving rise to distinct neighborhoods and cultures within the city that endure today. After suffering economic setbacks throughout the 20th century, Philadelphia is still struggling to recover.

The Philadelphia Project has been working for 15 years to serve Philadelphia, specifically in the areas of local homeowner support and care for children and families in the Germantown neighborhood. We will be partnering with TPP and a local church to run a VBS kids' camp and work on ongoing home repair projects.

Returning and new The Philadelphia Project students welcome!

**Cost: \$550**

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**201: Intermediate Learning Experiences**

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**Dominican Republic | July 22-29 | World Servants, www.worldservants.org**

*Suggested for Current 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

World Servants has been taking teams to the Dominican for more than 25 years to meet physical and spiritual needs in small villages and communities that are materially poor and often severely underresourced. Past teams have been greatly affected by the attitudes of people living in these communities, gaining a new perspective on the truly valuable elements of life.

We will be continuing to serve in a small village called Consuelito, where World Servants has been serving for two years. Construction will be a significant piece of our daily agenda in the community. The team will also host VBS. Teams also visit people in their homes where groups will be able to learn more about those in the community, engage in spiritual conversations and pray for families. Students who apply for this CCLE should be prepared for physical work in a warm climate.

Returning and new Dominican Republic students welcome!

**Cost: \$2,300**

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## Guatemala | July 16-July 23 | The Potter's House, [www.pottershouse.org.gt](http://www.pottershouse.org.gt)

*Suggested for Current 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

Guatemala is a beautiful country called "The Land of the Eternal Spring," with its green landscapes and mystical volcanoes. Tourism has become one of the main drivers of the economy, Guatemala receives about two million tourists annually. Guatemala has a population of 15 million people - 48% are children who cannot attend school, live in poverty and suffer many injustices. There is more to poverty than we realize. Poverty is more than a lack of money or resources, it has to do with an individual's whole being.

Potters House is a Christ-centered organization and Grace Chapel partner that has been fighting material poverty and serving at-risk children and youth in Guatemala. Their vision is that through a personal relationship with God, every child and youth, would be developed holistically. Potter's House helps fight against poverty by influencing the family, community and nation. Students will run a VBS, offer a free sports camp, participate in prayer walks and meet some of the material needs of the community by helping with construction projects.

Returning and new Guatemala students welcome!

**Cost: \$2,000**

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### Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Commitment Criteria

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In order to ensure that Grace Chapel sends out well-prepared teams, the following will be expected of all students participating on a Cross-Cultural Learning Experience this summer. **Parents AND Students, please read this page carefully before signing "Parent and Student Commitment Form."**

- **Attitude & Character:** Students serving on a Cross-Cultural Learning Experience will ultimately be representing Jesus Christ and Grace Chapel. Therefore, students who are selected to the teams should be living a lifestyle that reflects a relationship with Christ. This doesn't mean we are looking for perfect people, but we are looking for students who are seeking to live a life of integrity. Attitude and behavior throughout the year, as well as displayed on previous missions experiences will be considered when students are applying to join a team. We reserve the right to determine whether a student's attitude precludes them from participation on a CCLE.
- **Involvement:** Students serving on a mission learning experience should have demonstrated regular attendance and involvement at Grace (i.e. HSM, MSM, Kidstown, Café, etc.). Students who are not connected to Grace Chapel will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Priority for placement will be given to students who are regularly involved in the ministries of Grace Chapel.
- **Application:** Each Cross-Cultural Learning Experience participant will need to apply using the online application found on Managed Missions. The link can be found at [www.grace.org/CCLE](http://www.grace.org/CCLE) . This application should take you about 60-90 minutes to complete, but of course that is dependent on each student's processing and writing style. Once we have received your application, we will consider the best placement for you. Keep in mind we may contact you for follow up, if necessary.
- **Post-Cross-Cultural Learning Experience:** Students who have been selected to serve on a crosscultural learning experience will be expected to participate in a team reunion, and share with supporters and others about the experience during the Fall of 2017.

- **Financial Commitment:** Cross-cultural experiences at Grace Chapel are primarily funded through raising support. However, they are also subsidized by the Missions Department. Every member of each Grace Chapel mission team will send out support letters to family and friends who will be asked to partner with them through prayer, encouragement and finances. ***If monies raised through support letters do not cover the entire cost of the experience for the student, students and their families are 100% responsible for covering the balance of the CCLE cost.*** If excess money is raised by an individual, the money will be used to help cover the cost of other team members who were under-supported. If the team raises more than the goal amount, excess funds will go to the Missions Fund of Grace Chapel. The process for sending support letters will be covered at team meetings. Teams are also encouraged to explore other various ways to fundraise support (i.e. organizing a yard sale, selling candles, etc.).
  - For International experiences, each student is required to pay for his/her visa, passport application, medical expenses (including immunizations and medications needed for global travel etc.) and the cost of food on travel days. These costs cannot be added to your fundraising goal.
- **Meetings:** Attendance at each event listed under "Team Meeting Dates" is critical. We know this is a big ask, but our Cross-Cultural Learning Experiences are so much more than the 6-8 days away from home. We take seriously the responsibility to steward the time, money and resources we will be utilizing to prepare well to learn and serve effectively alongside our partners. We realize that you *may* have to miss a meeting, if this is the case, the student participant is responsible for communicating with the team leader *prior* to the meeting. If during the application discernment process, you find that the team meeting dates do not line up with your schedule, you may need to reconsider whether this is the right year for you to participate in a CCLE.

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## Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Application Steps and Important Information

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### Application Steps

1. Carefully read this entire document.
2. Submit your application by **9:00 pm on December 21, 2016.**

A completed\* application includes:

- a. A completed online application: link found at [www.grace.org/CCLE](http://www.grace.org/CCLE)
- b. The "Parent and Student Commitment Form" (PSCF) initialed and signed by student applicant AND parent/guardian.
  - You can submit your signed "Parent and Student Commitment Form" (PSCF) to:
    - Your Student Ministry Director
    - In Person: at The Youth Offices in 3 Militia Drive, Lexington, weekdays 9am-5pm. ○ By Mail to: Grace Chapel Youth Offices; 3 Militia Drive; Lexington, MA 02421

*\*Your application will not be considered for placement until both elements of the application are submitted.*

3. Receive your team acceptance and placement email on **December 23, 2016**. If after receiving your email you decide not to participate on a CCLE, please notify us **by January 9, 2017**.
4. Attend "CCLE Kick Off & Info Meeting" for students and parents on **January 9, 2017**.
5. Be prepared to send out your support letters prior to the first team training meeting on **February 12, 2017**. Upon acceptance, each participant will be receiving more information on these meetings.

## Important Financial Information

**A \$75 deposit is due** by the CCLE Kick Off & Info Meeting on **January 9, 2017**. The deposit is nonrefundable for applicants who are accepted. ***This deposit payment should be made by a parent or a guardian and be submitted on Managed Missions.*** This deposit is refundable only IF a student is not accepted on to a team but will **not** be refunded if the student makes the decision not to participate. *Note: If this deposit is a financial hardship for your family, please contact the Student Ministries Director at your campus.*

**25% of the cost is due on February 1, 2017.** Letters will need to be sent out immediately after the CCLE Kick Off & Info Meeting. *Note: If 25% payment is not received by this date, your team leader or a member of the student ministry staff will contact parents/guardian to verify that support letters have been sent.*

**50% of the cost is due on March 1, 2017.** *Note: If 50% of the cost is not received by this day, the student participant will be subject to be dropped from the CCLE team on the grounds that their account does not contain enough funds to be able to purchase travel and complete fundraising.*

**75% of the cost is due April 1, 2017.** *Note: If this 75% goal is not reached, your team leader or a member of the student ministry staff will contact parents/guardian to establish a financial plan to bring the student participant's account current.*

**100% of the cost and all forms are due by the Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Training Retreat, May 19-21, 2017. If you cancel your involvement after travel is purchased** (airfare, insurance etc.), you will be expected to cover all the fees, penalties and losses incurred at that point. Any exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis by your campus ministry director in consultation with the Next Gen Pastor and the Missions Pastor.

## Timelines for Summer Cross-Cultural Learning Experiences

### Application Process Dates

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
<b>December 4</b>		Discipleship & Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Packet handed out and available online
<b>December 21</b>	Due by 9:00 pm	Cross-Cultural Learning Experience application <u>due</u> ; must be submitted <i>online</i>
<b>December 23</b>		Emails back about acceptance and placement
<b>January 9</b>		Indicate by this date if you elect not to participate on a CCLE

### Team Meeting Dates

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
<b>January 9</b>	6:30-8:00 pm	CCLE Team Kick Off & Info Meeting <i>(with parents)</i>
<b>February 12</b>	1:30-3:30 pm	Team Training Meeting <i>(students only)</i>
<b>March 19</b>	1:30-3:30 pm	Team Training Meeting <i>(students only)</i>
<b>April 23</b>	1:30-3:30 pm	Team Training Meeting <i>(students only)</i>
<b>May 19-21</b>	Weekend	Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Training Retreat at Toah Nipi (Rindge, NH)   <i>100% of the Cross-Cultural Learning Experience cost and all forms are due</i>
<b>Various</b>	TBD	Team Hang Outs/Meetings <i>(to be determined by team members)</i>
<b>June 25</b>	1:30-3:30 pm	Boston & Philadelphia Send Off Party <i>(with parents)</i>
<b>July 9</b>	1:30-3:30 pm	DR & Guatemala Send Off Party <i>(with parents)</i>
<b>Fall 2017</b>	TBD	Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Report Back <i>(with parents)</i>
<b>Fall 2017</b>	TBD	Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Reunion <i>(students only)</i>
<b>November 2017</b>		Global Awareness Week

**Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Training Retreat, May 19-21, 2017:** The Cross-Cultural Learning Experience Training Retreat will take place May 19-21, 2017 at Toah Nipi Retreat Center in Rindge, NH. The retreat will begin on Friday Night and conclude on Sunday in the early afternoon. The material covered during this time is **mandatory** for any Grace Chapel student or adult who is participating on a CCLE team. Logistic information for the weekend will be provided. If you are unable to make a portion of the Missions Training Retreat weekend (which will need to be approved by your team leader in consultation with the Next Gen or Missions Pastor prior to the weekend), you will be responsible for attending makeup session(s) on the first three Sundays in June.

### Financial Commitment Dates

DATE	DESCRIPTION
<b>December</b>	Ask for funding help for Christmas gift
<b>After January 9</b>	Send out CCLE fundraising letters
<b>February 1</b>	25% of cost due
<b>March 1</b>	50% of cost due; inability to have funds by this deadline may result in being dropped from CCLE
<b>April 1</b>	75% of cost due
<b>May 1</b>	100% of cost due