

Service Missions: A Guide for Parents or Guardians and Families

Missionary service is an exciting time for missionaries and their families. Parents play a vital role before and during a missionary's service. You are part of the team that will design a service mission plan for your son or daughter. You also encourage and support your missionary during his or her service.

Service Mission Plan

Each service missionary has strengths and talents that will help build the Church and serve the children of God. A successful service mission provides meaningful service opportunities and helps missionaries grow.

Missionaries may serve in one or more assignments. Generally, assignments are made as follows:

- The candidate meets with the bishop to talk about mission opportunities. The bishop must feel that the candidate is worthy to serve a mission. If he does, the candidate fills out the form in the online missionary recommendation system.
- All applications will be reviewed by a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He will determine whether a candidate serves a proselyting or service mission. The prophet then extends a call to serve.
- After the candidate accepts the call, parents work with priesthood leaders and the service mission leader. They find assignments that match the missionary's abilities. (See sidebar.)
- The candidate and his or her parents meet with the operations manager at the service location. The bishop may also join them. They decide whether the opportunity is a good fit.
- Everyone should feel good about the assignment. Once they do, the service mission leader inputs the assignment. A service missionary may have multiple assignments.
- The bishop and stake president will review and approve the assignment and schedule. An assignment letter is generated and sent to the stake president along with the missionary badge and the *Service Missionary Handbook*.
- The stake president receives the assignment letter and reviews it with the candidate. He also reviews the *Service Missionary Handbook* with the candidate and then sets him or her apart as a missionary.

Supporting Your Missionary

When your missionary begins serving, offer the following support:

- Financial support. This includes medical and dental costs, transportation, and other expenses.
- Advice and guidance. Allow your missionary to make decisions. Ensure that your advice is in line with the direction of priesthood leaders and the operations manager.
- A spiritual home environment.
- Encouragement and spiritual support.
- Help with the written daily schedule. (See pages 26–27 in the *Service Missionary Handbook*.)
- Follow-up on each day's activities.

Additional resources are available at ChurchofJesusChrist.org/service-missionary.



Service Mission Team

- Service mission leader: Works with candidates, parents, and operations managers to determine if an assignment is a good fit.
- Stake president: Oversees and approves the customized assignment process.
- Stake service mission specialist (where called): Can help the service mission leader with visiting candidates and their parents within their stake to discuss skills, abilities, and possible assignments.
- Operations manager: Supervises the missionaries' daily work. Provides guidance, support, and training. May request on-site leaders to help.
- Development counselors from the Church are available to service missionaries through a bishop's referral. Development counselors can assist service missionaries with vocational development and skills as part of their long-term goals.

Questions?

- Contact your service mission leader.
- Visit [ChurchofJesusChrist.org/service-missionary](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/service-missionary).
- Call the Service Mission Office in Salt Lake City at 1-801-240-4914 or email at support-servicemission@ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

