

Info - Sturgis, SD Mission Trip (Street Evangelism to Bikers)

Sturgis Trip	Drive Option	Fly/Airfare Option
Dates:	Fri. July 31 - Tues. Aug. 11, 2009	Sat. Aug. 1 - Sun. Aug. 9, 2009
Min. Cost:	\$110 + transportation (est. \$205)	\$110 plus airfare (est. \$380-\$800)
Est. Cost:	\$185 + transportation (est. \$275)	\$185 plus airfare (est. \$380-\$800)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, June 1, 2009 (Soft deadline)

75% of Money (\$65.00) Due: Monday June 15, 2009 MUST have application by then!

TEAM: 20 Adults (men and women over 18)

TRIP FOCUS: Street outreach, servant evangelism & 1-on-1 witnessing to bikers and vendors in Sturgis

TRIP LEADER: Sam Connor (770) 301-1937

Mission trip details:

The world's largest motorcycle rally is held in Sturgis, SD each August - bringing over 400,000 visitors to a sleepy farm and ranch town of 6,400. We will serve and evangelize this group of visitors, mostly bikers from all over North America. Our main service opportunity is sharing our 3-minute testimony at a tent setup by the Dakota Baptist Convention. In 2007, over 4,700 people heard a testimony and registered to win a motorcycle, and 870 of them made decisions for Christ. In 2008, over 5,000 people listened, and there were 1,337 decisions for Christ. They allow people willing to listen to a Christian testimony the opportunity to register for a free motorcycle - to be drawn on Sun. Aug. 9. Over 150 volunteers will be manning this tent sharing their testimony.

We'll also help with a bike wash or ice cream/bratwurst giveaway with the Sturgis Wesleyan Church, and we'll give away water at a downtown booth with Sturgis 1st Baptist Church. You can also choose to serve with CMA (Christian Motorcyclists Assn.) at any of their 11 ministry locations, from helping people at the Motorcycle Museum to the All Harley Drag races. Feel free to ask Sam Connor, Mike Gibby, Cindy Battles, or Don Bolton about their 2008 trip to Sturgis. There's a place for you to serve God in Sturgis!

Who, what, when, where, how?:

Anyone over 18 that is willing to share God's love to others in a practical way, and willing to learn to share a Christian testimony in 3 minutes is welcome to join us. You do not have to be a member or attender of Crossroads Church to participate on this trip, but you must agree with the Crossroads Statement of Beliefs. Everyone will have the opportunity to share the gospel message with others on this trip, but no prior evangelism experience is needed. You do not need to be a motorcyclist either, to serve with DBC or to join or serve with CMA. Our target audience, however, is bikers, and the vendors that sell to bikers.

What about lodging, meals, and transportation?

Trip minimum, \$110.00, includes \$50 to church for lodging, and \$60 for Bibles/tracts. Other expenses are responsibility of traveler. Normal trip cost of \$185 includes optional T-shirt, 2 meals, side trip to Crazy Horse/Mt. Rushmore. You might guess what happens when you bring 400,000 visitors into a town with 110 motel rooms. The cost of a hotel room gets pretty high (\$3,000+). So, we'll sleep in Sunday school rooms or fellowship halls at local churches (with shower facilities). Bring a sleeping bag, cot, or air mattress. Two meals will be provided, but with different schedules, etc. - you're on your own for most meals. We'll likely get breakfast at the church where we stay. There are over 900 vendors in Sturgis, at least 20% of them selling food.

If you desire to fly, buy your airfare early! In 2008, airfare went from \$340 in Jan. to over \$1,200 in May. Forget about using buddy passes or non-rev standby flights, demand too high. Book airfare early! If you

drive a car or motorcycle, plan on two nights hotel or camping enroute. If you want to ship a bike, we will try to find someone interested in driving their truck or trailer, hauling a few bikes, and split the fuel costs. Ship bike commercial is about \$950, ship bike with one of our people driving two bikes - about \$400 each. Otherwise, airplane riders need to share rental car costs. (If flying - Book Your Flight Early!) Oh, renting a motorcycle in Sturgis for a week - \$1500-2200.

Application process and financial support:

You need to complete a standard Crossroads Church mission application, and agree with the Statement of Beliefs. \$50 deposit is due by the trip deadline, June 1. 75% of money is due 2 weeks later. Please don't let lack of funds be a reason for not going on this, or any other mission trip. If God calls you, He will equip you! There are people in your small group or circle of friends that can't go, but are willing to support you with prayer and finances. We'll help you send support letters, so they can pray for you and make a tax-deductible contribution to this trip.

Background information on this rally:

The Sturgis rally is the second oldest motorcycle rally in the U.S. (the oldest being Laconia, NH). In August 1938, Pappy Hoel, a local Indian motorcycle dealer, hosted a motorcycle race and stunt rally (with 19 participants). This rally has been held each year, except during WWII. Sturgis has grown to be the biggest biker rally in the world, with more out-of-town visitors than any other event in the world, including the Super Bowl, Olympics, or Mardi Gras.

Year	Rally	Attendance
2007	67 th	507,234
2008	68 th	401,000
2009	69 th	? est. 450,000

(The price of gas in August 2008 was over \$4.00 per gallon).

Why over 18 only?

There are certainly plenty of kids wandering around Sturgis. It's not the most wholesome environment, and there is heavy drinking (particularly in the evening), and a lot of skimpy-clothed women. In the public, non-campground areas, there is virtually no nudity, but body paint is prevalent. Our ladies in the DBC tent probably shared the gospel with 25 or so painted women last year. We stay away from the campgrounds and bars, where the "contests" get very wild, so we're not exposed to any of that. But, for all the above reasons, we think an 18+ policy is best for our team.

What about training for the team?

We can assure you that YOU can be trained to share what God has done in your life to a stranger, and even to share it in 3 minutes or less. We will train you to do that, at 3 different training sessions before leaving. You must attend at least one of them.

Tentative meeting schedule:

May 31 at 12:30 pm	Crossroads, Room 115	Info Meeting, testimony training
June 21 at 12:30 pm	Crossroads, Room 115	Team Meeting, Training
July 26 at 12:30 pm	Crossroads, Room 115	Team Meeting, Training