

TPS France 2020 Service Trip Information



A good education is more than just classes. International travel and service prepare students for career and life in a multi-cultural world. TPS provides opportunities for service, leadership, and cross-cultural experiences, and the France trip is one of several foreign service trips TPS offers every year. This trip has three primary components:

Encourage the French Church

Evangelical believers in France make up less than 1% of the population. The English component of our bilingual kids Bible camps attracts families from outside the church, and after the camps the churches can continue the relationships with families who are interested. Our TPS team of students and adults leads two weeks of full-day camp, including songs, crafts, Bible stories, games, and more.

Encourage the International Church

The church in Marseille is made of believers from over twenty different countries, including faith-workers from different English-speaking countries. This trip has been providing a Bible Camp in Marseille since 2008 and in Carcassonne since 2016. Prior teams have also served in Nice/Saint Paul de Vence, Lyon, Aix-en-Provence, Narbonne, and Montauban, usually moving on when a local group is able to take over the summer ministry project. TPS brings ministry resources to these churches that are not always available to them locally, with extra hands to multiply the outreach impact.

Reformation History



To understand the religious history of France, we begin our trip with two days in the Cevennes Mountains, historic stronghold of French Protestantism. At the Musée du Désert, we study the “desert” period that the Huguenots faced during persecution from the French crown, and the dangers they faced for their faith. We also learn how secularism has become the dominant belief system in France. A hike up to a cave where Huguenots met secretly to worship, despite the threat of gallows, imprisonment, or death brings to life their example of steadfastness under persecution.

When is the trip?

The approximate dates of the trip are July 4-22, 2020. These approximate dates are from the group meeting at the Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) on the day of departure to the group parting in the Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) on the day of return.

Who may participate?

Students ages 16 and up, siblings, friends, parents, and teachers. All interested participants must apply and be accepted. Individuals under the age of 16 will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and much younger students would be required to have a parent apply for the trip as well. We are also happy to consider applications from alumni and college students.

Do students get credit for this service trip?

TPS is a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. The total service hours from this trip earn each participant (U.S. citizens only) an individual Bronze Award. TPS will provide the certificates in fall 2020. Students may report this on their college applications and résumés. More information is here:

<https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/the-award>

How does the travel work?

Participants must have a valid passport and make their own flight reservations to and from the Washington, DC point of origin. TPS cannot support a U.S.-based participant traveling overseas unaccompanied to meet our group (families living overseas should contact TPS to discuss options before applying). Participants will be required to be at Washington, Dulles Airport (IAD) in the afternoon of the day of departure and to have travel arrangements from Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) on the afternoon of return. Participants must coordinate their specific arrival and departure plans with TPS after overseas flight times are confirmed.

How much money must I raise or donate to participate?

The donation requirement is \$3,300 for a U.S.-based participant. Participants should expect to provide one-third by June 24, and then the remainder within three months after the trip ends. Participants may also propose an alternate plan to pay the remainder over time. The Potter's School (TPS) is a 501.c.3 organization and donations made to TPS for France Project 2019 are tax-deductible for the U.S. donor.



Participants coming from outside the U.S. may be assigned a different donation requirement to better match their individual travel and participation profile. This must be worked out as part of the application process. Non-U.S.-based participants who are serving in support-based work outside their passport country may also be eligible for support from the MK Service Trip Fund (see below).

What expenses are covered by TPS and what should I expect to pay?

TPS pays all mission and trip expenses, planned and unplanned, from the group meeting at the Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) on the day of departure to the group parting in the Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) on the day of return.

In addition to a donation requirement, participants pay all individual expenses, planned and unplanned, prior to the initial group meeting and after the final group parting. Individual expenses include: obtaining a valid passport; elective

vaccinations (none are specifically required); luggage and travel necessities, including snacks and personal medications; travel to and from Washington, DC; lodging in Washington, DC after the trip (if needed to support individual travel from Washington, DC); and personal spending money for snack or souvenir items purchased during the trip. TPS cannot reimburse individual expenses related to this trip.

Special Opportunity for MK's already serving outside your passport country

Thanks to a generous donor, you could receive support for up to half of your required donation. Please consider our MK scholarship opportunity:

<https://www.pottersschool.org/mk-trip-scholarship>

Additional Information or Questions

Want to know more? There are videos, photos and testimonials here:

<https://events.at-tps.org/france>

If you have questions you want to discuss individually, please let us know and we'll reply by email or arrange a phone call with you. Please direct all questions to:

FranceTrip@pottersschool.org

How do I apply?

All interested participants (including parents and other adult participants) must apply and be accepted. The application is here:

<https://www.pottersschool.org/service-trip-application>

The application requires a reference (if you have been on a TPS trip before, no reference is required), so you may want to get working on that soon, even if you're still trying to decide whether this trip is right for you. **Please note that the application is due by March 9, 2020.** All applications and questions should be submitted to

FranceTrip@pottersschool.org

We hope to hear from you and look forward to serving in France with the team that God brings together!

