

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Personal Pronouns: _____

2020 Madagascar Application Form (Ambassador)

**Rocky Mountain Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
7375 Samuel Dr, Denver, Colorado 80221 * 303-777-6700**

General information...

At the time of the trip: -Youth (high school) -Young Adult (post high school to 30) -Adult

Ethnicity: _____

Church or Campus Ministry: _____

Cell phone: _____ Send me updates by text message! -Yes -No

e-mail address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

Congregational or Campus Ministry participation (committee, programs, worship assistant):

Second language(s):

Have you traveled outside of the country... when and where:

Primary Parent/Guardian Information *(for those 17 and younger)*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Phone #: Home - _____ Cell - _____ Work - _____

e-mail address: _____

Emergency Contact or Second Household...

Name and relationship: _____

Phone #: Home - _____ Cell - _____ Work - _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

Medical & Insurance information...

Do you have insurance? -Yes -No

Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Insurance company: _____ Policy #: _____

Medical conditions...

Details... medications...

**I have reviewed and agree to all aspects of the "Terms of Participation", noted on page 2 of the cover letter.
(Parents of those 17 and younger agree to the Consent of Treatment)
With this registration I am including a \$100 refundable deposit.**

signature of participant and date

signature of parent (17 and under)

This waiver is valid for the trip and all meetings and gatherings before and after. Medical information will be kept confidential among adult leaders. Originals will be kept on file with the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA. Photocopies are to be considered like the original.

Return to: Rocky Mountain Synod; Attn: Madagascar Trip Application; 7375 Samuel Dr; Denver, CO 80221

Or scan and e-mail to: pastor@lcmcsu.org

Please answer the following questions.

Share your hopes and desires for applying to participate in this trip... both on the trip and afterward.

What gifts, skills, interests, abilities, and experiences do you bring to the team? Please share specific skills you use to communicate with others (singing, guitar, keyboard, drama, storytelling, graphic arts...)

Describe your relationships with people that are of a different ethnic background or socioeconomic group that your own.

Respond to the following...

Being "in community" means:

Being an "ambassador" means:

The following characteristics are helpful when traveling in a large group... to an unfamiliar place... over many miles... sometimes finding yourself outside of your comfort zone... Use the following scale to rate how you see yourself.

1 = This characteristic is a natural part of my personality!

2 = I can be like this characteristic.

3 = It takes some work on my part to be like this characteristic!

_____ I am able to be flexible, to "go with the flow."

_____ I really like working as part of a team.

_____ I can give up personal space and share physical space with others.

_____ I can "rough it" for a few days (no shower, little sleep, different bed each night).

_____ I have a sense of humor and can laugh at myself.

_____ I can be accountable to a group (be on time, contribute to the conversation, help).

_____ I can monitor my own behavior to meet group expectations and the group covenant.

_____ I am responsible and trustworthy.

_____ I am self-conscious about how I represent where I am from.

_____ I am curious and adventurous when it comes to new opportunities.

_____ I eat and enjoy a variety of foods.

_____ I am comfortable being the only person in the room like me.

_____ I am a patient person.

2013 Madagascar Application Form (Support Team)

**Rocky Mountain Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
7375 Samuel Dr, Denver, Colorado 80221 * 303-777-6700**

Support Team Information...

(Each ambassador should have a team of support people that help as: prayer partners; fund-raisers; social media experts; experienced travel advisors, or: others. These members include people outside of one's family and include members of one's own congregation and a part of the greater church. Additional members can be listed on a separate piece of paper.)

Name: _____

Relationship to ambassador: _____

Role on the team: _____

e-mail address: _____

Name: _____

Relationship to ambassador: _____

Role on the team: _____

e-mail address: _____

Name: _____

Relationship to ambassador: _____

Role on the team: _____

e-mail address: _____

Name: _____

Relationship to ambassador: _____

Role on the team: _____

e-mail address: _____

Financial Support... *(This trip is estimated at \$5000 per individual for the 16 day trip. So that youth and adults can participate, community and congregational support is essential.)*

- Our Support Team is committed to raising the necessary funding for this trip.
- Our Support Team has special circumstances surrounding our ability to raise the necessary funding. (Please note those circumstances on the back of this page.)

How will the Support Team help to bring the ambassador's stories home... shared within congregations, faith communities, campus ministries, and the greater church?

We will support, encourage, and care for our member attending the 2020 Madagascar Trip as we join the Rocky Mountain Synod in sending ambassadors to walk with our companion synod siblings in Christ.

signature of a support team member

signature of support team member

Payments can be made directly to the Rocky Mountain Synod and will be held for the specific expenses of the ambassador being sent by the Support Team. Make sure that all payments are clearly marked for the 2020 RMS Madagascar Trip and the person participating in the trip. If the ambassador should be unable to make the trip, refunds will depend upon what expenses for the trip have already been paid.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

FOR GOING ON THE 2020 MADAGASCAR TRIP OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD, ELCA

WAIVER OF CLAIMS I hereby agree to waive any claims or right that I might otherwise have to legally accountable the Rocky Mountain Synod, its employees, officers, or agents for injuries or loss of life that might occur as a result of these activities. I will not hold the Rocky Mountain Synod liable for personal items that are lost or stolen.

RELEASE FOR ACTIVITY I am aware that this trip will be physical demanding and I may be exposed to health risks beyond my control. I am voluntarily participating in these activities and I assume all risks that might result.

The Rocky Mountain Synod and the trip leaders will make NO evaluation or recommendation whether you are physically or emotionally fit for any activities. It is always advisable to consult your physician prior to undertaking any strenuous physical activity or going on such trips.

RELEASE FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS The Rocky Mountain Synod has my permission to use pictures, video, and information about me in any and all publications including print and electric media. Some basic information including my name may accompany my picture.

CONSENT FOR TREATMENT (for parents of those 17 and younger) By signing the 2020 Madagascar Registration Form I, hereby give permission for my child to participate in this Rocky Mountain Synod Sponsored Trip. I authorize the designated adult representatives who are acting in a leadership role to consent to and authorize the administration and performance of all treatments that may be considered advisable or necessary in the judgment of attending physicians, in the event that the participant should be admitted to any hospital, or be in need of any medical treatment. This authorization shall continue for such a time as the participant is involved in pre-trip meetings, the trip, or travel to and from Madagascar. I take full responsibility for all charges and fees related to treatment.

I understand that the care and safety of the participant will be primary in this event and that all attempts will be made to contact parents/guardians if an emergency or accident should happen.

COVENANT OF PARTICIPATION

- Strive to accomplish the established goals of the trip.
- Participate in all aspects of the trip, including preparation and follow-up meetings.
- Always work toward the safety of the whole group.
- Respect those traveling in the group, our hosts in Madagascar and everyone encountered on the trip. This includes being open to people of other generations, genders, socioeconomic and ethnic identities.
- Be open to new experiences and physical challenges.
- Complete other documents as needed and pro-active in responding to communications.
- Remember you are baptized... God loves you... you are God's own.
- Follow the example of Christ and love others...

Summing up the commandments, Christ said, "Love God with heart, soul, mind, and might and love neighbor as you love yourself!" Matt 22:37ff

2020 RMS MADAGASCAR TRIP GOALS



Walk alongside our Lutheran siblings in the global church - Deepen our identity as body of Christ in our two cultures/contexts.



Build relationships with seminarians and their families at Betela Seminary - Increase our capacity to share the story of each other's lives and experiences.



Experience the life and ministry of one of the Rocky Mountain Synod's four companion synods in Madagascar - Expand the celebration of Christ who gives us reason to sing and give praise.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD, ELCA

7375 SAMUEL DR.

DENVER, COLORADO 80221

303-777-6700 * WWW.RMSELCA.ORG



2020 MADAGASCAR TRIP

Walk with your siblings in Christ living in the country of Madagascar and help your siblings in Christ in the Rocky Mountain Synod to walk with our companion synods and especially the Betela Seminary on the other side of the planet. The Rocky Mountain Synod (RMS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is preparing for a trip to Madagascar during the summer of 2020. This is a 16-day trip taking twenty representatives (ambassadors) on an “accompaniment” experience.

This is not a sightseeing trip. This is not a service trip. Those going on the trip are ambassadors representing Christ, the RMS, congregations, campus ministries and communities of the RMS. We will first spend time in the capital city of Antananarivo for orientation to the country and the Lutheran church. Then, we will spend several important days with students, their families, faculty and staff at Betela Lutheran Seminary. **It is a particular goal of the RMS to grow in relationship with these future church leaders and pastors.** Our delegation will then be divided and sent to the four companion synods of the RMS before returning together to the United States.

Upon returning the group will be invited in a number of ways to tell the stories of the people, and in particular the seminarians of the Lutheran church in Madagascar.

Each participant on the trip will need to compile a **Support Team** that will send, support, and welcome back the ambassador. This team should be made up of people from one’s home congregation or campus ministry as well as surrounding congregations and other ministries of the RMS. For example, the team for a young adult might be made up of members of conference congregations plus someone from the local campus ministry and a member of the RMS Student Council. The team will help the individual in finding funding as well as praying for and helping the ambassador discern how to share what they have experienced once they have returned from the trip.

Transportation and accommodations may at times be less than what is familiar in the United States. There are risks due to limited medical response and treatment in addition to greater exposure to disease and other physical challenges. Political infrastructure has also been fragile in Madagascar for a number of years. Travelers should be physically fit, mentally ready for the rigors of international travel, and socially open to new and different experiences, people, and food.

Though the trip comes with some risks, being exposed to the greater body of Christ as it reaches around the globe is a powerful and life-giving/life-changing experience. To be considered for the trip, please fully complete the attached application. **The ambassador form and the Support Team form must be returned to the synod offices or emailed to pastor@lcmcsu.org by October, 31, 2019 with a \$100 deposit.** The deposit will be returned to those who are not selected. An additional a \$400 fee will be required in November from those who are selected.

Selection will be based on the goals of the trip while working to be as diverse as possible. Consider the established goals of the trip as you apply. They are printed on the second page of this cover letter. All participants must also agree to the “Terms of Participation.” Medical examination, medications, and shots in preparation for international travel will be an additional financial responsibility of participants.

Recognize that the trip is estimated to cost \$5000. Dates for the trip are tentatively set for May 26 to June 10, 2020 but those who apply should be somewhat flexible if the dates should shift. Applicants may also be contacted for more information if needed for the group selection process. **Applying for this trip should come with much discernment and conversation with your family, faith community, greater Christian community, and God.**

Questions can be directed to the 2020 Madagascar Trip Planning Team:

Pr Brad Doty – bdoty@stphilip-co.org

Pr Diana Linden-Johnson – pastordiana.peaceelp@gmail.com

Pr Paul Judson – paul.judson@firstluth.org

Deacon Erin Power – epower@rmselfca.org