GUIDE

How to plan mission trip t-shirts before the team leaves

Who gets a shirt, which shirt fits the work, what it should say and how to order sizes, so the whole team travels as one.

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A mission trip t-shirt does three jobs at once: it lets leaders find every team member in a crowded airport or worksite, it tells the people you serve who you are, and it becomes the thing the team remembers the week by. Planning the order well comes down to a few decisions made before anyone picks a design.

Who should get a mission trip t-shirt?

Every person traveling with the team should get a mission trip t-shirt, and many churches also order shirts for the people who make the trip possible from home. Start with the confirmed roster, then add leaders, drivers, any host partners you plan to give shirts to, and the families or prayer partners who support the team. Writing that list down before choosing a design turns a guess into a count.

Which shirt works best for a mission trip?

The best shirt for a mission trip is the one that fits the climate and the work. The Ministry Gear gear guide names the Gildan 2000 cotton t-shirt as a budget friendly classic that is particularly good for service trips, and the Gildan 2400 cotton long sleeve as a versatile choice for service events, mission trips and winter camp. A long sleeve helps with sun and brush on a worksite. A short sleeve is easier in heat and humidity. When the team will wear the same shirt on travel days and work days, choose it for the work day.

What should a mission trip t-shirt say?

A mission trip t-shirt should say who you are, where you are going and why, in words a stranger can read in a few seconds. Most teams put the church or ministry name on the front with the trip name or destination, and a verse or theme on the back. A short verse reads better from a distance than a long one, and the Ministry Gear list of good Bible verses for t-shirts is a useful place to start. If the team is serving where another language is spoken, a phrase in that language is a kind touch, and someone fluent should check it before the design is approved.

The Ministry Gear catalog has mission trip designs for trips to Mexico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, plus designs for disaster relief and serve days. Any of them can carry your church name, verse and colors.

How do you choose a color for a mission team shirt?

A mission team shirt color should be easy to spot and comfortable where the team is going. Bright colors make it simple to count heads in an airport, a bus station or a market. Lighter colors stay cooler in direct sun. Darker colors hide worksite dirt but hold heat. Ink colors matter too: a design that pops on one shirt color can disappear on another, so ask the designer which ink and shirt combinations read best before you approve.

How do you order sizes for a mission team?

Sizes for a mission team are easiest to order from the roster itself: ask every traveler for a shirt size when they register, then order those sizes plus a small cushion. When some sizes are still unknown, the Ministry Gear size distribution guide recommends a bell curve. Put about a third of the order in the most common size, which for a group of adults is usually Large, add fewer of the sizes on either side, and only one or two at the extremes. Lean slightly toward bigger sizes, because it is easier to fit someone in a larger shirt than a smaller one.

If you are unsure how a style fits, call 888–812–4044 and ask for blank sample shirts for sizing. Some charges may apply, and samples come without your design printed on them.

When should a church start the mission trip shirt order?

A church should start the mission trip shirt order as soon as the roster is mostly set, not the week the team leaves. Design, proof and approval take some back and forth, and late registrations are easier to absorb when nobody is rushing. Put the date the team needs the

shirts on the request so the Ministry Gear team can plan from it. Ordering a few extra shirts at the start is usually simpler than placing a second small order later.

How does designing a mission trip shirt with Ministry Gear work?

Designing a mission trip shirt with Ministry Gear starts from a design in the catalog or from your own idea, sketch or logo. A designer adds your church name, trip details, verse and colors, then sends the design for you to review. You can ask for as many changes as you need, the design help is free, and nothing prints until you approve it. To begin, get your free design or call 888–812–4044, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Pacific.

Ministry Gear 888-812-4044 ministrygear.com

Ministry Gear designs custom church t-shirts for youth groups, camps, mission trips, worship teams and church events.