

CZECH REPUBLIC - 2020

Dates: July 13 - 29

Ages: Students complete grades 10—12

Cost: \$2,400 (*includes food, travel, lodging, insurance and Josiah Venture fees*)

Space: 12-15 students + staff

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 5 – Application / \$100 deposit / references

WHY CZECH?

Though the Czech Republic has a rich spiritual heritage (including Jan Hus, a reformer who inspired Martin Luther and the Moravian Brethren), the forced domination of the Catholic church during the 1800s and the powerful impact of communism during the 1900s produced a nation that now is profoundly secular and quite skeptical of religion. The Czech Republic is known as one of the most atheistic nations on earth with less than one third of a percent of its population being evangelical believers.

In the midst of this, though, the church is growing. God is at work in this country. There is a renewed interest in spiritual things among young people. We have experienced this first hand through our partnership with Kostel Jinak, a church plant in the city of Sumperk. In the last ten years, we have seen the Lord save students in Sumperk who have gone on to be pastors, elders, church planters and ministry leaders — and the fruit continues to multiply.

WHY JOSIAH VENTURE?

Josiah Venture's vision is to see a movement of God among the youth of Central & Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society. JV has grown from three couples in 1993 to more than 200 staff today. Their staff (over half which are national) is located in 12 countries across Central & Eastern Europe. Thousands of young people hear the gospel each year through the ministry of Josiah Venture—and thousands of young leaders are trained each year to be disciple makers.

"Christ's commitment to 'become flesh and live among us' is a great inspiration to us. We believe that an incarnational ministry style with its emphasis on relationships and an understanding of the local setting is essential if ministry is to bear long-term fruit. In addition, we desire to be multiplicative, ultimately impacting entire nations for Christ." –JV's strategy

WHAT WILL MY STUDENT BE DOING?

While in Czech, our time is categorized into four purposeful segments:

Training: Right when we get to Czech, we begin two days of training with other American teams coming to do English camps. We learn how to teach English, experience a typical evening at camp, learn how to lead small groups well, practice sharing the gospel, and learn about Czech culture. It is so important for us as a team to have a few days to prepare and get over jet lag before heading off to a week of camp.

English Camp: After training, we will run an English Camp with a team from Kostel Jinak. High school students from Czech join us for a week-long camp where we teach English, playing games & sports, taking hikes, running activities and evening sessions with camp songs, games, testimonies and evangelistic messages. Our main goal is to build relationships with the students in Czech.

Follow Up: After the camp is complete, we travel back Sumperk. Each of our students stay with a Czech student in their home—many of these families have never even met a Christian, let alone have one staying in their home! We get to continue building relationships and sharing the gospel during times of hiking, BBQs and going to church together. This is such a great opportunity for our students to experience a glimpse of real Czech culture.

Debrief: As a team, we will visit the capital city of Prague to see the city, it's need for the gospel and give us a chance to connect as a team and form relationships within our group that will continue our passion for ministry once we return to the U.S.

WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS FOR FUNDRAISING?

Support Letters: We strongly recommend writing support letters to family and friends to raise support for this trip. Because the cost is \$2,400, their financial gifts will greatly impact how much you have to pay as a family. Sample letters and more detailed information will be mailed out once the team has been announced.

Selling Stocks: As in past years, we will sell stocks during all services on May 3 & 10. This is an opportunity to ask members of our congregation to consider investing in our team by purchasing shares and for praying for us! Team members will receive a portion of this fundraiser by participating.

Easter Breakfast: On Easter Sunday, our Czech team hosts and serves at the breakfast open to the whole church. ***This is a mandatory team fundraiser.*** Watch your email for more information on how you will be involved in set-up, serving and cleaning during that weekend. Commitment will be Saturday, April 11, 9am—12pm & one shift Sunday, April 12, between 7-11am.

Kendre Pust, Global Ministry Admin, sends weekly emails when you have received support from your donors. Any funds received from Easter Breakfast and/or Stock sales will also be added to your fundraising report.

You are ultimately responsible, as parents, for the final balance of your son/daughter's trip. Unless we have previously set up a payment plan for any remaining trip balance, they will NOT be allowed to board the plane on July 13.

WHEN IS THE REMAINING \$2,300 DUE?

Any remaining amount your student owes will be emailed to you July 1 which will include any donations received and kitchen fundraising account. Balances are due on Thursday, July 2.

HOW DOES MY STUDENT GET A PASSPORT?

You can apply for a passport at the Plymouth, Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove or Champlin Post Office as well as City of Robbinsdale offices.

- Cost: Around \$145
- Go to travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html for more information on the special requirements. Read this through before you go—it will save you time & stress!
- Must provide proof of citizenship (*original birth certificate*), photo identification, a photocopy of that identification, and a completed application. If you are under 18, a parent needs to attend WITH you. If you are under 16, BOTH parents need to attend WITH you.
- Photo for passport can be taken at Walgreens, Costco etc. (*read above website for requirements*)

If you get accepted for the Czech trip, **you need to apply ASAP for your passport.** If you already have a passport, check the expiration date. If it's within three months of when we return, it's best to renew your passport.

DOES MY STUDENT NEED IMMUNIZATIONS?

Visit your family physician for a medical check-up. At that time, please tell them where you are going, what you'll be doing, and get any needed immunizations. You MUST be updated on your Tetanus shot!

- Immunizations can be obtained at your regular physicians' office. (*Make sure you contact your health insurance company to see what clinics they cover in the state of MN. They don't cover all clinics.*)

WHEN ARE THE MANDATORY MEETINGS?

Wednesday, March 11, 5-6:45pm

Wednesday, April 1, 5-6:45pm

Wednesday, April 29, 5-6:45pm

Wednesday, May 13, 5-8pm

Wednesday, May 27, 5-8pm + Parents Meeting, 7:30-8pm

Wednesday, June 10, 5-8pm

Wednesday, June 24, 5-8pm

Wednesday, July 8, 5-8pm

All meetings take place at the Extended Campus and dinner is provided (*families take turns providing meals*).

These meetings are **required** unless prior approval has been given by Pastor Harry & Kendall Soderstrom.

HOW DOES MY STUDENT APPLY FOR THE CZECH TRIP?

Due to the size of the team we can take and the intensity of the trip, there is an application process for this trip. Our desire as a staff is to form a team that is God-ordained! We want students who have a heart and passion for missions to apply. It will be a very spiritually, emotionally and physically draining trip for all who attend.

There are FOUR (4) steps to this process:

- 1) Fill out the online application at **newhopechurchmn.org/czechstudents**
- 2) Pay \$100 deposit (*refundable if you are not accepted*) – online, check, or fundraising account
- 3) Send references to PARENT + OTHER NON-FAMILY MEMBER ADULT
 - a. Online reference forms available at: **newhopechurchmn.org/czechstudents**
 - b. Both references need to be completed ONLINE, so you need to send the link to your parent and another adult who will fill it out for you.
- 4) Reach out to Pastor Harry or Kendall Soderstrom to set up an interview.

All four of these steps MUST be completed before your application is due on **Wednesday, February 5.**

The Czech team will be announced **Sunday, March 1** by email.

STAY INFORMED

Check your email! We will send emails throughout the coming months with important information such as fundraising dates, reminders of meetings, etc.

newhopechurchmn.org/czechstudents

www.facebook.com/nhcstudentministries

czechusout.weebly.com & nhcczechusout.blogspot.com (*read about past trips & see pictures*)

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Any logistical questions? Contact Tracy Maas at tmaas@newhopechurchmn.org.