

ROMANIA IMPACT/HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY GO TEAM 2020

Application Deadline: December 15, 2019

Approximate Trip Dates: July 21 - August 4, 2020

Trip ID# ROM0720



IMPACT

Purpose: Daniel and Dana Vieru, directors of Open Roads Ministry, located in Craiova, Romania, and other members of the Romanian Christian community have a heart for children that are living in poverty and challenging home situations, and young adults that grew up in orphanages in Craiova. Our purpose is to work with Open Roads Ministry to minister to this community of young people through local outreach and at a camp in central Romania. We will spend time in Craiova to establish relationships with Daniel, Dana, their leadership team, and members of the Open Roads community through organized sports and games, coffeehouse concerts, work projects, and other outreach activities. We will also travel by bus to a camp to further develop these relationships by participating in activities such as English classes, crafts, sport activities, large group games, small groups, and evening sessions. While at the camp our entire team will serve as leaders that will assist the Romanian team of leaders. Our goal and desire is to build relationships with all the leaders and students we serve. Through these relationships, we hope to see those that do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ come to a saving faith in Him and for those that do know Him to grow in their faith. The goal for our team is to pursue excellence as we develop a lifelong desire to serve others, to develop leadership skills, to foster relationships with our team and the people we will meet in Romania, to gain a better understanding for the global church and our part in global service and mission work, and most importantly, to grow in faith and in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Trip Dates: The trip will be **July 21 - August 4**.

Team Members: Space on this trip is limited. Approximately 13-16 high school students and 6-8 adult leaders will take part in this trip. The trip generally has been a mix of returning students and adult leaders from past years and students and adult leaders who are new to our Romania partnership. We are looking for team members that have skills in leadership, music, drama, sports, crafts, etc. It is important that our team members are mature, available, willing, and flexible, and would make a positive contribution to the team. The team will be made up primarily of student leaders within the Blackhawk High School Ministry community who have chosen to grow and serve in the Madison area throughout the year. Team members will be expected to be actively involved in Blackhawk High School Ministries and trips in addition to this mission trip. The team will be heavily weighted with upperclassmen because of the population we serve, though we encourage freshmen and sophomores to apply. The ideal candidate has a heart to serve and a desire to use the gifts that God has given you in whatever way He chooses. They also have a desire to build, or continue to build, relationships with the church and the community of Craiova, Romania.

Application Process: After reviewing this document and praying about your decision to apply, please fill-out the [online GO Team Application](#) by 11:59pm EST on **December 15, 2019, the sooner the better**. After reviewing applications, some students may be asked to meet with trip leaders and/or members from the Global Impact team to discuss their desire to join the team. From this group, the team will be selected in early January 2019. Please recognize that due to trip limitations we may not be able to take all those who apply. If we are not able to include you on the team you will be notified via phone call or email. If this is the case we encourage you to consider applying to this trip or another Blackhawk GO Team opportunity in the future.

Who is leading this trip?

Melissa Ernst and Pat Brady will be leading this team. There are more people currently considering and praying about being part of the adult leader team. Many of our leaders are returning leaders on this trip.

Accommodations: While in Craiova, Romania we will stay in the homes of families from Open Roads Orphan Ministry as well as facilities of Ethos Christian Ministry. We will spend five nights at camp where we will be split into cabin groups with other Americans and Romanians.

During debrief, we will stay approximately two nights in a clean, safe, and affordable hostel in a city yet to be determined (in a nearby large city or layover city). In the past, we have stayed in Budapest, Hungary. We are currently working on these details.

Safety Concerns: The US Department of State has issued a general worldwide travel caution (dated 1/15/2019) in response to threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens throughout the world. Please visit <http://travel.state.gov> to read warnings and for more information on traveling abroad to Romania.

We monitor the security situation in any destination country including Romania. We are frequently dialoguing with the in-country ministry partners to assess any safety concerns for traveling teams. We will continue to monitor all upcoming news related to traveler safety in the country.

Cost of Trip: The trip will cost approximately **\$2,600-2,900** per participant (pending airfare costs and budget finalizations). A support raising goal in this range will be announced at the first team meeting. Though it is not required, families are encouraged to contribute an initial gift of their choice to help with start-up funds and early expenses. The rest is to be raised through supporters (family, friends, etc.). Each team member is required to:

- 1) Send out 80-90 support letters
- 2) Attend the scheduled training meetings, team retreat, and work days. Below are team meeting dates:
 1. Team Meeting #1 – Sunday, January 19, 12:30-1:30pm
Student/Parent
 2. Team Meeting #2 – Friday, February 7, 5:00-9:00pm
 3. Team Meeting #3 - Sunday, March 15, 6:00-9:00pm
 4. Team Meeting #4 – Thursday, April 16, 5:00-9:00pm
 5. Team Meeting #5 (work project) – Sunday, May 17, 1:00-5:30pm
 6. Team Meeting #6 (overnight retreat) – Thursday, June 11 – Sat., June 13
 7. Team Meeting #7 – Monday, June 29, 5:00-8:00pm, BBQ/Bonfire
 8. Team Meeting #8 – Sunday, July 19, Parents Mtg 4:00-5:00pm,
Team Packing Party 5:00-7:00pm
 9. Celebration Show and Tell – A Sunday after the team returns –
date and time TBD

Passport Requirements: Participants must have a valid passport that does not expire within six months of our return to the USA (February 28, 2021). The current turn-around on passports can be 8-12 weeks. In order to avoid a conflict with our departure dates please send in your passport application/renewal forms when you submit your application for this trip. You can learn more about this through the US Postal Service at www.usps.gov or at our local branch of the post office.

To Prepare for the Trip: Pray that God will direct the team leadership to choose the team members that He wants to be a part of this trip. Pray for God to prepare your heart for what He has for you during this trip. Pray for your teammates and leaders, and the people you will meet in Romania.

If you are selected to be on the team you may need some vaccinations and medications and will need to make an appointment with one of the local Travel Medicine Clinics (contact your primary physician). If you have not been on a short-term trip before you should do this as early as possible as some of the vaccinations require repeat visits. We will go over this during the first meeting in February.

Climate in Romania: Craiova is very similar to Wisconsin summers. Bring layers because it will get cool in the evenings when we are at the retreat in the mountains. Bring sturdy athletic shoes and, if possible, lightweight hiking boots. A full packing list will be given out during a future meeting. If you'd like to see one from past trips, please contact Angie (contact info below).

Questions? Contact one of the following:

Melissa Ernst, Trip Co-Leader, Melissa@harborathletic.com

Pat Brady, Trip Co-Leader, pattyloubrady@gmail.com

Angie Ipsen, High School Ministry Central Coordinator, aipsen@blackhawkchurch.org or 608.828.4200

Maddie Blanchard, Impact Ministries Administrative and Global Outreach Assistant, mblanchard@blackhawkchurch.org or 608.828.4200