

# North Carolina / New England Baptist Partnership

## Suggestions for Filling Out a Request

*We in North Carolina look forward to partnering with you in reaching your community for Christ! The following items are suggestions for filling out the NC Partnership Request Form. These are based on previous experience.*

**Request Form Deadlines:** For purposes of promotion of 2010 projects, **August 31, 2009** is the target date for sending your request(s) in. The request form can be e-mailed or faxed to \_\_\_\_\_, On-Site Coordinator for the NC Partnership. Your request(s) will then be sent to the Partnership Office in North Carolina, where they will be promoted to our churches and associations. ***Of course, we will gladly accept project requests after this date. However, most NC churches will begin making their 2010 mission trip plans in the fall of 2009. It is to your advantage to go ahead and get them in early!***

**The Nature of Requests:** Our philosophy is that **all Partnership requests should be field-generated**. In other words, the request should come from you, as a local Baptist leader. This assures that the ministry accomplished fits in with your vision and strategy for reaching your community for Christ.

From time to time I receive inquiries from those who have very specific skills they would like to offer (i.e. – substance abuse counseling, ministry to the deaf, etc.). If I feel such a request has merit I will send it along to see if you might be interested.

**The Kind of Requests:** The kind of requests that NC Partnership teams have responded to in the past include: Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Clubs, sports camps, community service projects, block parties, revivals, new construction, facility renovations, leadership training, youth and children's camps, prayer walks, and more. Basically, any way you feel a team or individual can be of assistance to you in fulfilling your Kingdom goals should be considered for a project request.

**Project Specifics:** Please be as specific as possible in filling out the requests. In determining which request to respond to, NC churches will be looking at the following things:

- 1) Exactly what will the project entail? What kind of specific skills are needed?
- 2) Where will the project take place? Where will they need to drive to or fly in to?
- 3) What is the date of the project? Is the date flexible?
- 4) What kind of materials, supplies will the team be expected to supply or bring? (if any)
- 5) What are the options as far as lodging?
- 6) How will the team get around once they get there?
- 7) Will the team need to provide all of their food, or will the host church help out with some meals?

**Important Considerations:** North Carolina volunteers have shown that they are willing to go anywhere and do most anything in helping fulfill the Great Commission. In filling out the request form, please consider the following things:

1) **Project Duration:** Please consider a project that will engage a team for at least 3 days. (A week is the norm.) Most teams and individuals will not be willing to come for a 1 day project. If the request involves leadership training or other event that may only take a day or two, consider putting in a request that will involve repeating the session in several areas of the state, or that may involve prayer walking or some other activity.

2) **Housing:** Teams can stay in hotel rooms if need be. Some may even prefer to do this. However, many others would like the option of being able to sleep in the church facility in order to save motel costs if that is possible. If shower facilities are not available at the church, perhaps the team can split up and take showers in church members' homes. In some areas, local colleges rent out dorm space in the summer. Let team leaders know if this is an option.

3) **Meals:** Teams understand that they will be responsible for providing their own meals. If staying at the church is an option, let them know if kitchen facilities are also available to the team. If your church can help with some meals, this will be appreciated. If not, they will understand.

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4) **Construction Teams:** Any construction request should be very specific as to what will be involved, including what skills are needed, square footage, and the kind of building materials the teams will be working with. Construction projects that require no materials cost from the NC teams will, of course, be the most sought after. If at all possible, you should provide materials for construction projects. If your church does not have funds for construction projects, some North Carolina churches may be willing to help out with a team *and* some funds. However, we have found that \$1500 – 2000 is the limit that many teams are able or willing to provide for such projects. A large construction project (basically, any project that will require more than two teams) should be broken down into specific stages, each stage with it's own project request, description, and date. (If you are unsure about this, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Abernathy – info below.)

5) **Other Materials and Supplies:** Most VBS, Backyard Bible Club, camp, and leadership-training teams understand that they will need to bring supplies with them, and are ready to do that.

**Project Exclusivity:** We would ask that a project you submit through the NC Partnership not be sent to another entity. This is to avoid duplication of efforts. It is very frustrating to have a NC team show interest in a project through the Partnership only to find out that it has been promoted elsewhere and accepted by another team. We have a high rate of success in filling projects. Many projects are filled in the fall of the year, but many are also filled right after the first of the year. I will monitor the status of each request along with the On-Site Coordinator. If it looks as though a project will not be filled by us, I will turn that request back in to be submitted to other entities if you so desire. You can also contact me at any time to inquire as to the status of your request.

**Communication:** Communication will play a vital role in the effectiveness of the Partnership. When a team calls to inquire about a request, we will put them in touch with you, the requestor, to go over all details and to decide together whether this is a good match.. After talking with you, they will then let us know whether or not they will take the project. If so, they will be in continuous contact with you up until the time they arrive. Be aware that some team leaders get quite “antsy” if they have not heard back from you on a consistent basis. Please make every effort to answer phone calls and e-mails from team leaders in a timely manner.

Thank you for offering the privilege for North Carolina Baptists to minister alongside you. We look forward to what God is going to do!

Please feel free to contact me any time if you have any questions about filling out a request. Also please contact me with any joys or concerns you may have with the NC/New England Partnership. God bless you as we Partner together!

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