



WEEK ON MISSION PLANNING GUIDE

July 12-19, 2025

**KidsFest Day Camp | Livingston
Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

[**hopehills.church/partner**](https://hopehills.church/partner)

Dear Mission Team Members & Leaders,

Thank you so much for giving your time, energy and finances to come to Calgary, Alberta, Canada this summer and work with our church to **help every person from every place find hope in Christ!** We are so grateful for you!

Calgary is an amazing city with nearly 1.5 million people, **95% of whom do not know Jesus Christ!** Coming to our city for a Week on Mission will not only help our new church regain essential traction after Covid and build key relationships, but can help equip you and your church for mission back in your city! You will get to join our church planting team to see what ministry here looks like as well as gain experience sharing the gospel with “post-Christian” people who have little to no Christian understanding. Our desire would be that your team takes back a new perspective and even some new ideas for living on mission with your church in its community. Our lives and mindset have already been transformed through our disciple-making efforts in Calgary and I know you and your team will be transformed too!

With our church being in a new community development, there are many great opportunities for us as a new church to serve our neighbours so we can connect them with Christ and each other. Each year, we host various kids camps like soccer and KidsFest (our mobile VBS) and other community events for the whole family such as our annual Kite Festival, kids carnivals and Stampede BBQs. The sky's the limit on the type of events we do, but we do every event and activity from our mission of **Connecting Neighbours to Christ and Each Other**. We host events and run activities to not simply give people a good, fun time for their family but to build a relationship and earn the right to help them find hope in Christ through the gospel. And we're seeing it work here in our community!

We greatly appreciate your coming for a **Week on Mission July 12-19, 2025 to help our church run our annual KidsFest Day Camp!** Last summer, we had over 300 kids attend camps over 2 weeks! These camps help us “break ground” in new communities still being developed so we can build trust and relationships in a brand new community. Fun and community are universal languages in our very diverse city! We design our camps to allow kids to be exposed to God, the Bible and the Gospel while having a great time *and* to give you opportunities for gospel conversations with parents and adults there as well. We host these camps for four days so that you can build relationships with the kids and their families and connect them with us before you return home. After your team leaves, we intentionally continue the conversations and relationships.

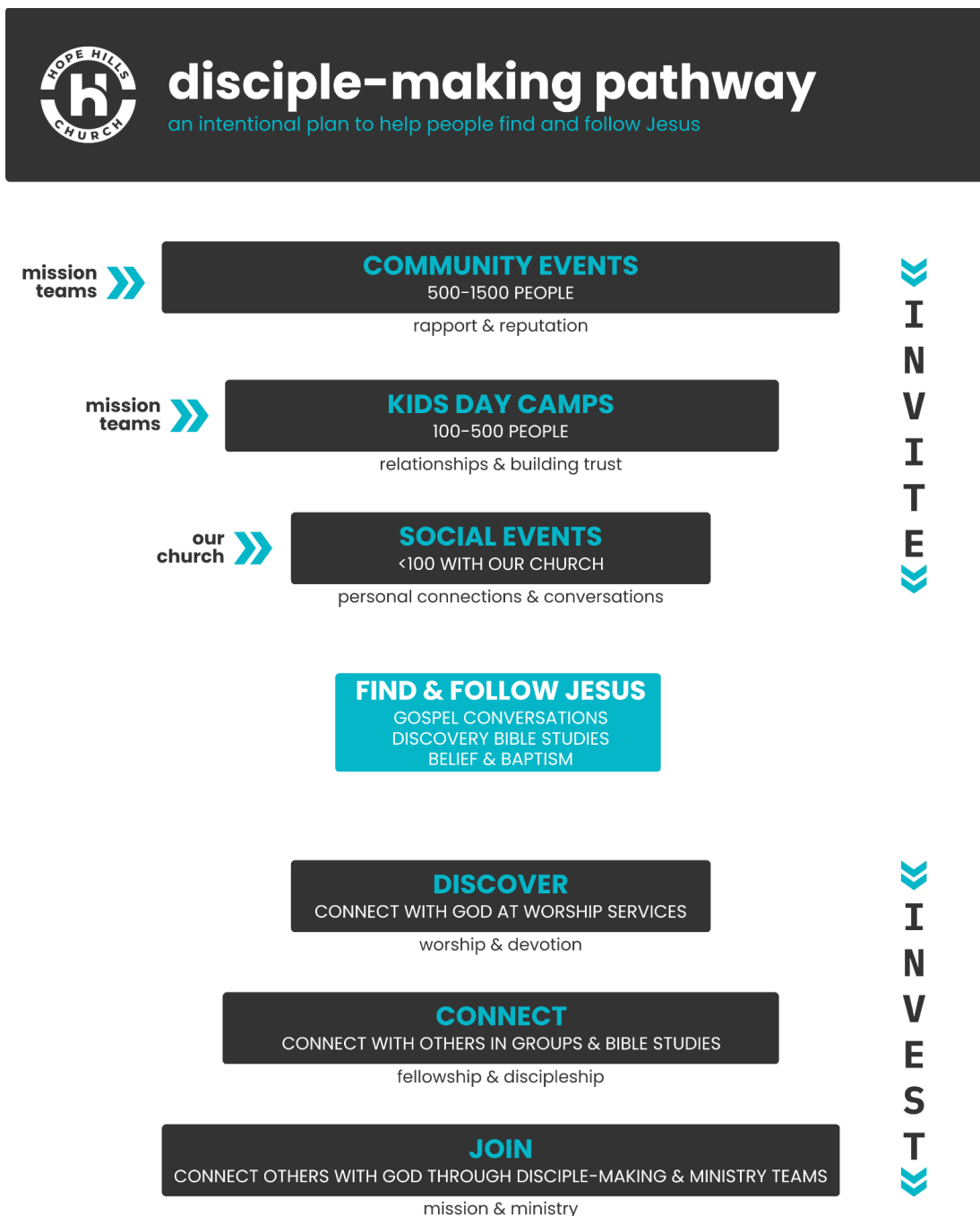
This document provides some guidance to help you and your church pray and prepare for a Week on Mission in Calgary with Hope Hills Church. You can learn more about our church and sign up for our prayer newsletter at hopehills.church/partner. We appreciate you completing our [Mission Team Member Info](#) form before coming so we can learn a little more about you and help prepare for your trip with us. Feel free to contact me directly with any questions!

Dustin Conner

Lead Pastor, Hope Hills Church in Calgary
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Why We Love to Partner with Mission Teams

Since most of our neighbours have little knowledge of the Christian faith, we have an intentional pathway to help people find and follow Jesus. Our disciple-making pathway starts with someone who doesn't know Jesus but is getting to know us at an event and works them through a simple, relational path with the goal of repentance, faith and discipleship. Our pathway looks like an hourglass with the top 3 parts being our **Outreach Funnel** and the bottom 3 parts being our **Discipleship Pathway**. We want to invite people into relationships with us so we can help them find and follow Jesus and then equip them to invest in church life and disciple-making. Mission Teams have been essential in helping us build rapport and relationships with the top two parts of our pathway. Our church has reached lost people and grown through our amazing mission teams!



KidsFest Day Camp Details

Our KidsFest Day Camps help us reach around 100-150 kids and their families each summer! We break each camp down by ages (2-4 & 6-12 year olds) so we can customize the stations, Bible lessons and overall experience for each age group. Kids are put in groups with Group Leaders that they stay with the whole week. For the camp, we set up activity stations led by a Station Leader. The groups rotate through all of the stations during each day at camp and the stations change each day. For the Age 2-4 kids, parents are asked to stay on-site and help with younger kids needing more assistance. For kids ages 6-12, parents have the option to drop off or stay. We end every camp with an End of Camp Pizza Party for all participants and their families so we can connect more with each family and provide next steps for those interested in learning more about the gospel and/or this future church plant.

Camp Role Descriptions

We design all of our camps to fit a variety of volunteer's skills, passions and interests. Whether we're hosting a kite festival, running an age 2-5 soccer camp or hosting a week of KidsFest, there is a place for everyone to serve! Each Team Member will be given details about their camp role before arriving. ***Here are the roles we typically have for KidsFest Day Camps:***

GROUP LEADERS

Group Leaders stay with a group of kids of the same age range to guide them through each station, help kids do the activities as instructed by the Station Leaders and assist kids in their group with any needs (potty breaks, injuries, etc.). We have 2 leaders for each group so one can stay with the group while the other attends to a specific need of a child. Group Leaders are the primary relationship builders with the kids and ensure kids have a great experience at camp!

STATION LEADERS

Station Leaders stay at their station while groups of kids rotate to them. Station Leaders give instructions for the activity at their station and help kids take part in the activity. We place 2 leaders at each station to help make demonstrating and running the activity smoother. Crafts get more leaders since it involves effort per child. Types of stations include: arts and crafts, sports (especially soccer), relay races, group games and Bible Story.

FLOATERS

Floaters ensure each station/team is fully resourced during the event. Floaters may help with checking kids in, setting up the snack station, getting items from the trailer or stepping in and helping at a station needing extra support.

GOSPEL CONVERSATIONALISTS

We always want a few strategic volunteers whose role is simply to start gospel conversations with the adults coming with their kids. We ask our church members to come serve this role but always invite Mission team members to be a part of starting these conversations that could keep going through text message or social media after they leave Calgary. We have Mission Team Conversationalists connect those they are talking with to one of our church leaders or members so we can continue the relationship as well.

Agenda: July 12-19, 2025

Times listed = arrival times	Sun July 13	Mon July 14	Tues July 15	Wed July 16	Thurs July 17	Fri July 19
Morning	Worship at Hope Hills 30 Evanscove Cir NW 10:00a-12:00p	Day Camp 139 Howse Dr. NE 8:00a-1:00p	Day Camp 139 Howse Dr. NE 8:00a-1:00p	Day Camp 139 Howse Dr. NE 8:00a-1:00p	Day Camp 139 Howse Dr. NE 8:00a-1:00p	Day in Mountains Pack a Bag Lunch Dinner out in Banff
Midday	Lunch & Orientation After Service at KDT 12:00-2:00pm	OPEN » R&R » Team Fun » Downtown Outings list 📌 1:00-5:00pm	OPEN » R&R » Team Fun » Downtown Outings list 📌 1:00-5:00pm	OPEN » R&R » Team Fun » Downtown Outings list 📌 1:00-5:00pm	Afternoon Mission Project TBD 1:00-5:00pm	
Evening	Team Shopping View Map	PUSH Gospel Conversation & Prayer Training 5:00-8:00pm	PUSH Gospel Conversation & Prayer Walking 5:00-8:00pm	PUSH Gospel Conversation & Prayer Walking 5:00-8:00pm	After Party! » Celebrate » Debrief » Next Steps 6:00-8:00pm	

Sunday Worship @ Hope Hills Church: Service starts at 10:30am but please arrive at 10:00am. We will recognize your team during the service.

Orientation/Shopping: We'll have a team meeting on Sunday during lunch to go over camp specifics and run through setup. After this, go do your team shopping for groceries and supplies or hit [downtown](#) for some fun!

Meals: We will provide a cooler for you to use during the week. For dinner, you can eat out or cook a meal where you're staying. Use this [Food & Shopping Guide](#) for choices near our area of Calgary.

- Buy **breakfast** foods to prepare/eat where you're staying.
- Pack sack **lunches** and bring them on site during camp days.
- **Dinners** can be in or out for your group. Dinner with church families on Tuesday.

Afternoon/Evening Mission Projects: These are various projects to support either our church or another. Could include gospel conversations, prayer walking, door hangers, light construction or hosting a small community event. These are planned closer to the time of your trip based on current needs of our church and other churches we collaborate with.

After Party: We'll have an After Party on Thursday evening to celebrate what God has done during the week, debrief camps and events, pray for the families you ministered to, and discuss next steps for you and us post-trip.

Mountains: We have booked shuttles for all mission team members to visit Lake Louise and Moraine Lake. We'll pack bag lunches to eat there and will have some time in Banff for souvenirs and dinner.

Cost Overview & Trip Calculator

The average cost per person for a **week-long** mission trip to Calgary is typically between **\$1,600-2,000 USD**. A shorter 5 day trip will cost less. Use the calculator linked to below to find estimated cost for a shorter trip. Costs vary the most with airfare, lodging and transportation.

- Teams can save money by buying team groceries and cooking meals and eating out less.
- Each church/group should decide which of these amounts are given to the church prior to the trip to purchase together.

Team Leaders are responsible to share the amount that needs to be given to the church prior to the trip (e.g. to order plane tickets) and when that money should be submitted, how much to bring with you while in Calgary, and if any of the cost will be covered by your church's missions budget or fundraising. When fundraising, please feel free to share details such as the trip agenda or info about Calgary from this Week on Mission Guide with your potential partners.

Estimated Cost Per Person in USD

Expenses	8 Day Est. Cost	Notes
Airfare	\$ 500-900	Most variable cost.
Lodging	\$ 250	Price will vary between SAIT or Airbnb .
Vehicle Rental & Fuel	\$ 300	5, 7 or 12 passenger vehicles. This cost is an average rental cost for 8 days divided by 6 passengers. Includes fuel.
Travelers Insurance	\$ 100	Not required but helpful for teams. Contact Missionary Travel Association for details.
Team Groceries	\$ 125	SAIT includes breakfast. Groups can save money by purchasing food together to prep in suite kitchen or Airbnb. Pack bag lunches for M-Th.
Personal Food	\$ 125	For 5-7 meals eaten out.
NEW Mission Contribution	\$ 75	Helps cover camp and event costs for our church plants.
Misc./Fun/Buffer	\$ 150	Day in mountains, fun outings, souvenirs and unexpected expenses.
Est. Total Per Person	\$ 1,600-2,000	

NEW! Mission Trip Cost Calculator

Use our new [mission trip cost calculator](#) to get a better estimate of the total cost per person. It's very simple to use! Input your information in the top highlighted cells and the table will calculate your estimated cost per person! You can make your own copy with the links below:

If you use Google Sheets: Click [here](#) » then "Make a Copy" button and it will make your own copy.

For Microsoft Excel or Numbers: Click [here](#) then "File" » "Download" » "Microsoft Excel."

What to Bring

Documents:

- No Visa needed but a valid Passport is required (should not expire within 6 months of trip)
 - Photocopy of Passport face page to keep in luggage – in case your passport is lost
- Driver's Licence (if applicable) and auto insurance card if driving the rental vehicle
- Each Team Member should bring a copy of our *Entry Letter* (have in hand at Customs)
- Personal medical insurance card. Travelers insurance is not required but recommended.
- Covid vaccine "passports" are no longer required to enter Canada.

Misc. Items:

- Bible of course! We will give you a journal for the week
- Toiletries (personal soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotions, etc). Walmart is close by as well!
- Prescription Medications – enough to last the length of your stay. Pack in your carry-on.
- Laptops, tablets and cameras are fine to bring! Your lodging will have locked doors.
- Check with your lodging about bedding, pillows, and towels for everyone in your group.

Summer Clothing:

- *75°-90°F during the day, can get down to 40°-60° at night.*
- Bring at least a sweatshirt, hoodie or fleece. Mornings can start a little chilly in the summer!
- Pack clothes appropriate for activities you're helping with. Church dress is casual.

Miscellaneous Notes

Money

Best to just use your credit card. If you want souvenir cash, we can arrange that individually. You should notify your bank or credit card provider that you will be traveling to Canada so you do not get denied at time of payment for something.

Mobile Phones & WiFi

Check with your mobile phone provider before leaving the US. Most companies will offer a month plan to "add on" Canada for a minimal charge. You should have Wi-Fi access where you're staying.

Travelers Insurance

We recommend all mission team members acquire travelers insurance through a group such as the [Missionary Travel Association](#) to protect you from an unexpected medical emergency. This is not required to come to Canada or to serve with Hope Hills Church, but it is smart to have in case of an emergency. View their website to see if this is the right fit for you.

Traveling with Minors

Minors under age 18 must have a notarized letter signed by BOTH parents/guardians giving authority for the child to travel into Canada. If you have team members under the age of 18, please refer to Canada's regulations for [Minor Children Travelling to Canada](#) and be sure the Team Leader or other adult given responsibility for the minor has the required documentation with them.

Border Crossing Guide

DO NOT have a printed copy of this “Border Crossing Guide” on your person when traveling to Calgary. Review prior to coming.

When you cross the border in the airport and speak with the customs guard, please answer their questions simply and honestly.

- **Do check “Personal” on the customs form** when arriving. When they ask the nature of your visit to Calgary, tell them you are volunteering with a church in the Calgary area and doing some touring as well. If they ask why you did not check “Business,” simply explain you are not making money and are helping friends at a Calgary church run a free community event or camp.
- When speaking with the border guard, **use words like “volunteering” and “touring”** and avoid using the word “work” since they may associate that with receiving remuneration.
- Answer “No” if they ask if you’ll be paid for your time in Calgary.
- **The *Entry Letter* is not required** to present to the border guard but you can present it if you are nervous or get asked questions you aren't prepared to answer. The Entry Letter is something we send you to print and have on your person in case you need to give the border guard more information about your trip. We will send this letter to your Team Leader to distribute to all Team Members.
- Please familiarize yourself with the *Entry Letter* and note you are coming to volunteer with Hope Hills Church in Calgary (hopehills.church).
- Please add my contact information in your phone or write my number down somewhere in your carry-on bag just in case something comes up at the border and they or you need to call. Dustin Conner, Pastor at Hope Hills Church (403) 690-5253.

If you have any questions regarding traveling to and entering Canada, please do not hesitate to contact us. We’d be happy to answer any questions and provide you with additional information. Contact Dustin Conner at dustin@hopehills.church or 1-403-690-5253.

Your Team Leader is in contact with us to plan logistics and they will pass along additional information as needed to help you prepare for your trip to Calgary.

Promoting Your Mission Trip

We have put together several resources to help you promote your trip to your church:

#1 Partner website (hopehills.church/partner)

View and download more information about our family, city and ministry. Church members can also sign up for our prayer list and learn more about other ways to partner with our ministry. This will be updated with 2025's information soon!

#2 Announcement slide backgrounds

We'll create and send you announcement slide backgrounds to show on screen during services to promote the trip. We typically have these ready in early January. Read the script below while giving the announcements or email the image and script to your church members.

- They are sorted by date of your trip so be sure you download and use the right one!
- Download a background and add your own text to promote the trip. Slides for:
 - Interest meetings
 - Fundraising events
 - Due dates to sign up by and submit forms or money
 - Team commissioning and prayer date

#3 Announcement or Email Script

Our church is partnering with the Conner family and Hope Hills Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada this summer! Calgary has about 1.5 million people and the best estimates are that 95% do not know Jesus or have a church they call home. The Conners are helping plant new churches in communities with very few evangelical churches nearby. We'll be taking a mission team July 12-19 to help them run outreach-focused kids day camps to reach new people with the gospel. They have roles for anyone—games, crafts, Bible storytelling, sports and gospel conversation starters—so we invite you to consider coming and being a part of what God is doing in Calgary with Hope Hills Church and other churches there! You can visit their partner's website at hopehills.church/partner to learn more about Calgary and the Conner family. If you're interested in going, please _____.

#4 This Week on Mission Guide

Download, print and share this document as needed. Feel free to copy/paste anything off of it to edit on your own documents. You can also print off or email the **first 7 pages** of this document to hand out to interested individuals so they can get an idea of:

- Why they should go on this mission trip
- What they'll be doing when they are here
- How much it will cost for them to come
- What they would need to have and bring

#5 Us!

I'd be happy to do a video call at your interest meeting or record a video to show on Sunday! Just contact me with the info on this document and we'll schedule it! Call, text or email anytime with any questions while you're promoting and planning!

Dustin Conner | dustin@hopehills.church | 1-403-690-5253

Lodging Options & Links

Large Team (12+ people) — [SAIT](#): For large teams (15+) recommend lodging at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology's (SAIT) *Residence & Conference Centre*. A 2-Bedroom Suite for 2-4 people is \$125/night CAD + tax (9%).

Amenities:

- SAIT is within view of downtown and just 20 minutes away from our community.
- We can provide air mattresses if you'd like to add more to a suite.
- Two private bedrooms with double-sized extra-long mattresses (couples can stay together)
- Private bathroom
- Kitchenette with a stove top, full fridge/freezer combo, and a microwave
- Wi-Fi internet
- Free parking for one vehicle per suite
- Complimentary Continental Breakfast at the dining center

Please note that kitchen items such as cutlery and plates, as well as air conditioning, are not included with SAIT suites. To begin booking, visit their [website](#) and click the **Book Now** button to fill out their form. Their contact info is listed on this page as well if you have questions.

Small or Medium Team (under 12 people) — [Airbnb](#) or [Vrbo](#): Small to mid-sized mission teams have lately found Airbnb or Vrbo to be a great option for their group.

- You get your own house, kitchen and rooms.
- You can stay in or near our community. When searching these sites, use "T3R0L9" for a postal code or "Northwest Calgary" in the search bar. Our home is in **Nolan Hill** (381 Nolanfield Wy NW) so you can search for a place near us.

Ground Transportation

Car Rentals: We advise you to arrange a vehicle rental from any dealer at the Calgary Airport (YYC) several weeks before your trip. A 5 passenger car is cheaper right now than a 7 passenger minivan. We can assist with transporting extra luggage if needed. **Please note that since you'll be coming from the U.S., all car rental companies at the airport require that the person (age 25+) who will be a primary driver use a credit card (not debit) with their name on it. So you cannot use a "church card" to secure the vehicle.** We also recommend that you pay for the company's insurance unless you arrange otherwise with the drivers' personal insurance company.

Meals

Food: If you stay at SAIT, breakfast is included each morning of your stay and each unit/room has a full kitchen. So your team can easily store and prepare your own meals. We recommend purchasing bag lunch materials at the beginning of the week to save cost and either do dinners out or cook your own meals at SAIT. You can reserve a "kitchen kit" when completing the SAIT Residence Accommodation Reservation Request form. We have coolers your team can use for drinks and bag lunches to bring on-site.

Team Leader Checklist

- ☐ Promoted at church (slides, announcements, emails, interest meetings)
- ☐ Team assembled and has been sent the first 7 pages of this Week on Mission Guide
- ☐ Team Meetings scheduled and communicated
- ☐ Flights booked
- ☐ Lodging booked and confirmed with SALT, Airbnb or Vrbo
- ☐ Vehicles rented from YYC Airport
- ☐ Travelers insurance secured (optional)
- ☐ **Traveling with Minors** form returned by parents of team members under 18 years of age
- ☐ Hope Hills Church's [Team Member Info Form](#) sent to all Team Members
- ☐ **Camp Roles Sheet** reviewed and sent back to Dustin Conner at Hope Hills Church (we'll send this within 4 weeks of your trip)
- ☐ **Entry Letters** printed and given to team members before departing (we'll send this within 4 weeks of your trip)

Fun Downtown Outings

The city of Calgary offers many great options for your team to enjoy during their evenings off. Here are a few we suggest.

Rafting the Bow River downtown

- <https://www.lazydayraftrentals.com/> (suggested)
- <https://www.paddlestation.ca/>

Calgary Climbing Centre <http://calgaryclimbing.com/>

Skyline luge <https://www.skylineluge.com/en/calgary/>

Winsport: Bobsleigh, putt putt, scenic chair lift, zipline, free fall at old Calgary Olympic Park

<https://www.winsport.ca/activities/summer.cfm>

Calgary Tower (while you're downtown) <https://www.calgarytower.com/>

Riverwalk Plaza in downtown <https://www.evexperience.com/> great place to get a coffee or treat inside Simmons Building and take a nice stroll down by the river.

Food & Shopping Guide

We've created a Google Map of recommended restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores and fun activities—most near where most teams stay and where you'll be ministering during the week. The map link will be shared with the Team Leader and Drivers (and anyone else who'd like it). Access the Google map [here](#).

Rocky Mountains Day Options

This is why we say you need \$150.00 for Miscellaneous and Fun :)

Suggested » Lake Louise and Moraine Lake Shuttles: These are the two most photographed places in Canada and Google them for pictures to see why. People come from all over the world to see these two places in Banff Provincial Park. These are now only accessible through shuttle services. We'd schedule a shuttle (if available) for your team and you'd get to spend the day experiencing these two iconic scenes (both have easy-moderate hikes) and then have dinner and shopping in the town of Banff.

- [Parks Canada Shuttle](#) service (you or I can book it for the Mountains Day on the agenda above)
- You can also reserve shuttle services straight from Calgary for about \$60/person.

If the Lake Louise and Moraine Lake shuttle does not work out, here are 3 amazing alternatives that are just as fun and beautiful in the Rockies near Calgary

#1 Lake Minnewanka & Banff: Head straight to Lake Minnewanka for leisure hiking around the lake, kayaking, picnic on the beach (you can pack one) or even the [Lake Minnewanka boat cruise](#) (for between \$65-80/person which I've never done but it has to be amazing!) then go to the town of Banff to see the waterfall, do some shopping and eat dinner there. Little more touristy but fun.

In Banff, we'll disperse and go on our own in groups we rode together in. There are a lot of restaurants along the streets. I like The Elk & Oarsman! Here are a few spots in or near Banff that are worth seeing and you'll have to drive to all of them so do this after lunch and shopping:

- [Bow Falls](#)
- [Mount Norquay Lookout](#)
- [Banff Gondola](#) (\$110.00/person)

#2 Canmore Rafting and Grassi Lake hike: We don't worry about the Lake Louise and Moraine shuttle and we create a fun Canmore/Banff rafting and sightseeing day. Canmore is the ski town right before you get to Banff. Beautiful hikes and great restaurants there.

- Rafting: in Canmore through the town and it goes a bit out of town. \$35/person for 1 hour.
- Hiking: Grassi Lakes which is very easy for all ages but an amazing view at the top of several small lakes and Canmore's valley.
- Cost: \$35.00 per person plus dinner. Can pack a lunch to eat after rafting.

#3 Pick a Hike and be Spontaneous: We do a local, easy hike I'm familiar with in Kananaskis, Canmore or Banff in the morning then dinner in Banff or Canmore depending on which hike you choose. This is the "we'll need to be a little more flexible" option and play a little bit by ear. Hike can be easy for anyone or challenging for the brave!

- Cost: just dinner. More if group decides on a spontaneous adventure like Bow River rafting through the mountains, the Lake [Louise Gondola](#) (\$62/person), the [Banff Gondola](#) (\$66/person) or anything else fun you find on Google in Banff!

Take a look at these and we'll help you plan your day in the Rockies!