

**SENIOR HIGH SUMMER MISSION 2025**

*New Orleans*

**JUNE 21-28, 2025**

KALEO  MISSIONS



**Who:**

Senior High Students and Leaders (Includes current 8<sup>th</sup> Graders who will move up June 1)

**What:**

New Orleans Mission Trip – In support of Refuge Church NOLA

See [www.Refugechurchnola.com](http://www.Refugechurchnola.com)



**With Whom:**

Kaleo Missions

See [www.kaleomissions.org](http://www.kaleomissions.org)



**When:**

June 21-28, 2025

**Where:**

Inner-city New Orleans, LA

**Where will we stay:**

At a church (TBD but with beds and showers!) in NOLA. Justin Haynes, the pastor of Refuge Church will have more info on this during our Zoom call at the parents meeting.

**Cost:**

\$525 (Includes Mission in NOLA, Hotel on way down and back, Fuel, Food while in NOLA)

**Other Costs:**

Students/Leaders pay for own meals on the way down and back plus souvenirs etc. and one meal on night off in NOLA. (8-9 meals total)

**Important Dates:**

Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @6:45 pm – Parent/Student Informational Meeting & Zoom with Kaleo

Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Registration and First Payment due (\$200)

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Final Payment and all remaining paperwork due (\$325)

**Why:**

East White Oak Senior High Summer Trip Philosophy:

At East White Oak our desire is to expose our students to a wide variety of summer trips, each for a different purpose. This year's trip will be specifically a mission trip to the city of New Orleans. One of the reasons that we focus on the inner-cities of America is to show our students to many different ways that God is active in the city through his servants. We desire to expose our students to a wide variety of different ways that they might be able to serve the Lord as they grow older. Nearly ninety percent of our students will live within 90 minutes of an inner-city area after they leave EWO and we desire for them to have already had positive experiences serving with and to those who may be very different than we might find in our neighborhoods back home. It has been our experience that God will call some of our students to serve Him in the cities in which they reside as adults.

**Why New Orleans (NOLA)?**

In the words of several of our locals with a lot of experience in NOLA, "New Orleans is about the closest you get to living in a foreign country without leaving the USA." New Orleans is a very unreached city for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we'd like to be a part of working alongside those who have been called to plant a church there.

**Why are we going with Kaleo Missions?**

Some of you may remember that we've done inner-city missions with what was known as Center for Student Missions for many years in many different locations until they were acquired due to Covid by a new very liberal ministry. We last went with CSM for one last mission trip to Kansas City in 2021 and at that point we decided to pursue a new ministry partner on future trips. Through research, multiple interviews, doctrinal checks, and Elder Board approval, we have selected Kaleo Missions.

One of the things we love about Kaleo is that they don't only partner with para-church ministries in the city, but they focus on, and we will be based with, a church plant in the city. Our city hosts (that will be traveling the city with us) are folks from their church that live in the neighborhoods in which we will be ministering. They will be able to share their own testimonies, their experiences, and their heart for reaching their neighborhoods for Christ. We also know that there will be great follow-up with anyone that has a desire to trust Christ and/or check out the church.

**Why does Kaleo partner with church plants?**

Check out their website: [www.kaleomissions.org](http://www.kaleomissions.org) for much more, but here's an excerpt from Ronnie Davis, the directors of Kaleo Missions heart:

By Ronnie Davis, Director, Kaleo Missions

*"A vigorous and continuous approach to church planting is the only way to guarantee an increase in the number of believers, and is one of the best ways to renew the whole body of Christ." – Tim Keller*

Kaleo is focused on caring for the poor and marginalized people of the urban United States through mobilizing short-term mission teams to serve the city. And we never do this by

ourselves, but instead, Kaleo always partners with churches and ministries in each city where we serve. **One of the primary areas of partnership that Kaleo currently has in the city is with church-planters.** In fact, two of our city directors are pastors, currently planting churches in their communities!

As we talk to pastors and youth pastors around the country about how their teams will be serving on a mission trip, we occasionally get to explain what a church planter is, and why we choose to partner with them. For many people the image of an urban missions experience is serving in the downtown homeless shelter, the addiction recovery program, or the soup kitchen. Often, partnering with pastors who are starting churches in the city is not what first comes to mind.

We thought it would be helpful to talk a little about why church planting is important and why we love partnering with church plants on our Urban Immersion mission trips.

**Church planting is simply beginning a new corporate expression of the Gospel in a particular place. It happens when a group of believers are sent out from one church to start a new church.**

Kaleo partners with church planters because of:

- **The centrality of the Church in God’s redemptive plan:** As you read the New Testament, it is very clear that God intends his people to form into churches in local areas where they can live out the Gospel in a particular place at a particular time. John 13:35 says, “By this everyone will know you are my disciples if you love one another.” The local church provides an opportunity for Christians to publicly testify to the Gospel by the way they live out their love for one another. But it is more than that, the local church is also where Christians “stir up one another to love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24). From the beginning, it was never good for people to be alone. We need each other. We need the constant fellowship of believers to exhort us to a life of love and holiness.
- **Educational opportunities:** Mission trips have the longest-lasting impact when they are not only about serving but also about learning. A focus on learning allows the participants to really think and pray through the implications of the Gospel in their own lives and communities. The deep connections that church planters have with their communities and with the people they are serving provide amazing opportunities for teams to learn and grow while they are serving.
- **Meet actual/authentic needs in the community:** Church planters know their communities better than virtually anyone else. Also, being small and just beginning, they often partner with others serving their community. As a result, they know their communities and they know other people and ministries serving in their communities as well. This provides an opportunity for Kaleo to serve with multiple people in the urban context in authentic ways.
- **Alignment with short-term missions:** There are certain needs that short-term mission teams might not be best equipped to meet, but there are other needs that mission teams are very well equipped for. For example, mission teams are great at providing lots of hands and feet to accomplish things quickly. Additionally, teams are often very good at being a catalyst for new things. Those two things are often

some of the greatest needs of church-planters. Kaleo teams get the opportunity to come alongside church planters and help them engage with their communities in ways that have an impact long after the teams have left.

We invite you to bring your group to serve with us and see first-hand how God is using church planters to transform their communities for the sake of the Gospel.

**Sample Schedule (from [www.kaleomissions.org](http://www.kaleomissions.org)): (Actual schedule will vary)**

**7:30 – 8:45 – *Breakfast/Devotionals:***

We provide breakfast for your team and give you the opportunity to either do devotionals as a group or for your students to do devotionals individually.

**9:00 – 12:00 – *Special Needs Ministry:***

Serve alongside a mental health community in the city. Our teams have the opportunity to spend time with residents doing art, social gatherings, working in the garden etc.

**12:15 – 12:45 – *Make a Lunch Take a Lunch with Homeless Friends on the Square***

**12:45 – 1:45 – *Bible Club preparation time***

**2:00 – 5:00 – *Bible Club with a partner church in 9th ward.***

Your group would have the opportunity to lead all aspects of the club including arts/crafts, Bible time, games, and a literacy/reading time.

**6:00 – 6:30 – *Dinner at Kaleo Housing Site***

**6:30 – 7:15 – *Evening Debrief***

***\*Please note this is a sample schedule and does not reflect specific times and ministry activities for your team.***

**Vision for Short Term Missions Teams from Kaleo/Refuge Church:**

Kaleo Missions /Refuge Church values showing and sharing the Gospel. We do that through a variety of ways with short term missions. As you engage our community, our aim is to plant seeds of the Gospel and water seeds of the Gospel through our relational/conversational approach. We aim to meet real needs shared with us by the community. We aim to build rapport with the community through our attitude and actions.

**Summary of serving in the community from Refuge Church:**

You will engage our community with the Gospel through conversational evangelism. This will be done by immersing yourselves in daily life activities in our community such as: coffee shops and laundromats. While doing this you will engage people through conversation and acts of kindness ie: paying for a load of laundry etc.

You will engage our community through meeting practical needs that the community has shared with us such as: storm drain cleaning and community meals/park outreach.

### **Possible Other Ministry Opportunities While in NOLA**

(These should all be understood as tentative. Actual ministries may vary.)

#### **Coffee shop ministry**

Spend time at the coffee shops getting to know people and sharing the Gospel with them through conversations.

#### **Laundromat ministry**

Spend time at local laundromats offering to pay for a load of laundry, helping people with their laundry and having conversations with them.

#### **Storm Drain Ministry**

Sounds odd, but is an invaluable service to the neighborhoods in the “wards” (Neighborhoods). Some parts of NOLA sit below sea level which means that any rain that is not able to go into the storm drains may start substantial flooding. We will be given the appropriate equipment and trained to do this safely as a service to the local community. Often the neighbors are so appreciative that they will invite our crews to sit and chat on the porch etc.. Gospel Opportunities!

#### **Community Meal/Park Outreach**

##### **Community Meal**

Have a meal with the community in a public space in order to get to know and have conversations with people. We will have music at this event.

##### **Park outreach**

Start pickup games with kids at a local park with the intention of having conversations. Facilitate art projects with the kids having gospel conversations as you go.

#### **Street ministry**

Ministering to the homeless in a variety of ways such as: having lunch with them at a park, serving at a local feeding kitchen, and supplying care bags.

### **East White Oak Parents and Students:**

Pray about your involvement on the New Orleans Mission this year and register online at:

<https://eastwhiteoak.church/youth-events/>