

SOUL 2010 Staff Application Packet

We are looking forward to the upcoming summer with great expectation as we begin preparing for all that God is going to do in and through everyone involved with SOUL 2010! Many changes are in store for this year as we add a second site to our planning. We hope that you will join us in prayerful discernment over whether God may be calling YOU to serve as a staff member for this new and growing ministry.

The SOUL program provides monthly meetings, churches, and other groups or individuals an opportunity to stretch outside the comfort zone of their communities and serve others in the name of Jesus Christ! Our summer staff have a unique opportunity to grow in their experience as leaders in ministry, while providing the local community with opportunities for their youth and children to participate in fun, faith-based summer activities that will open doors for spiritual growth and transformation. A more detailed explanation of the program is included as a brochure with this packet.

As a staff member, you would work both with the local community in Alabama and Mexico along with the visiting groups from NCYM or other Yearly Meetings. Staff coordinate the plans for the weekly project (VBS, Sports Camp, work projects), lead in morning devotions and evening worship, plan group bonding experiences, train the visiting youth, and serve the local community. Staff members live onsite in Alabama and Matamoros, Mexico for 5 to 6 weeks out of the summer.

An essential aspect to the SOUL ministry is its orientation towards the ministry of missions work. As a part of the missions experience, staff are also responsible for raising a portion of their financial support for their summer ministry. This not only provides much needed finances for the program, but also builds ownership in the staff and raises public awareness about the ministries of the Friends Center and Mexico mission.

The following statement has been adopted as the purpose statement for SOUL:

The SOUL ministry program was created to provide opportunities for service and ministry in the name of Jesus for summer staff and groups from monthly meetings in North Carolina Yearly Meeting, enabling them to strengthen their relationships with God, neighbors in need and with each other through serving together. We seek to partner with and empower local communities as we work together in the power of the Holy Spirit to build God's Kingdom.

Application Checklist:

- Review all dates required for employment (including possible staff interview and orientation dates).
- Review other requirements for serving on staff (love for working with children and youth, fund raising, living in Alabama/Mexico, getting a passport, etc.).
- Educate yourself about the work of the MOWA Choctaw Friends Center and Iglesia Evangelica Amigos de Matamoros (for more info online, visit www.ncym-fum.org/soulstaff2010.html).
- Give your references a copy of the reference form along with a stamped, addressed envelope to be filled out, or have them fill it out online. One should go to your pastor and the other to any non-family member who has agreed to serve as a reference. Don't forget to put your name on the form!
- Complete the application online or mail to **NCYM Program Ministries Department, 4811 Hilltop Road, Greensboro, NC 27407** by December 1, 2009.

Questions? Contact Darrin Allen (336) 292-6957 or dallen@ncym-fum.org.

Requirements for Serving as a SOUL Staff Member

- 1) Commit to being present at ALL of the following dates for orientation and training activities, including staff interviews (if deemed necessary):
 - **December 18 – 19, 2009:** staff interviews or orientation at the YM Office
 - **December 29 – 30, 2009:** back-up orientation date (tentative) at YM Office
 - **March 12 – 15, 2010:** initial staff training at Mid Year Gathering or MOWA
 - **May 26 – 29, 2010:** training and preparation (location TBA)
 - **June 4 – 30, 2010:** preparation and programming at MOWA
 - **July 5 – August 2, 2010:** preparation, programming, and clean up at MOWA and Matamoros, MX
- 2) Live on site at the MOWA Choctaw Friends Center in McIntosh, Alabama for six weeks and in Matamoros, Mexico for two weeks out of the summer.
- 3) Plan and carry out program activities in your area of giftedness and responsibility.
- 4) Equip and empower visiting group members to carry out the ministry on their given week.
- 5) Get a United States Passport. (This is a requirement for crossing the border to and from Mexico.)
- 6) Raise at least \$500 of financial support for your mission work as a SOUL Staff Member.

Site Information

NCYM Mission in Matamoros, Mexico:

North Carolina Yearly Meeting has been affecting the lives of individuals and entire communities in Mexico for nearly 50 years. The ministry began in 1960 with a single site in Monterrey, Mexico and soon after, in 1970, grew into a second site in Matamoros. The current pastor in Matamoros, Jorge Reyes, has been serving since 1983 and presently leads two worship sites, a church in the village of Esperanza Reforma and one at his own home in the city.

While NCYM has already established a church, a worship room in Pastor Reye's house, a playground, and a thriving congregation, there is still much work to be done in this community. Currently, there are work projects being done to enhance both the spiritual and physical aspects of the village. A brand new fellowship hall has recently been built for the church which provides not only a place for the youth to meet but also an area for visiting work teams to be housed. In addition to improving the church, efforts have been made to enhance the surrounding community by improving the living areas of members of the village.

For years, the Young Friends Activities Committee has collaborated with the Missions Committee and sponsored a group to present VBS for the children of the village in Matamoros. Our teams have assisted in teaching VBS for approximately 100 community children, complete with puppets, crafts, skits, games, and songs. Last year, several older youth and adults from the village became upfront helpers. This year we plan to extend this opportunity to many more by featuring our SOUL ministry in Matamoros.

MOWA Choctaw Community:

The MOWA Choctaw Indians of south Alabama are a segment of the Choctaw Indians who refused to migrate from their homeland during the infamous removal known as the "Trail of Tears."

Very little is known of the MOWA Choctaw Indians between the 1830's and 1890's; few records were kept. There were few non-Indians living in the Indian settlement until the late 19th century. After the enactment of the Trail of Tears, the President issued a decree declaring that the Indians, who in the past owned land, could homestead forty acres on the condition they no longer speak their own language, practice their religion, or call themselves a tribe. Afraid of being forced from their homes, the Indians settled in the most isolated places.

In the early 19th century, the average Indian family was very large. There was little work to be found. It was a struggle to remain alive. The Indians were uneducated, therefore, they had to work with their hands. They logged and cut ties for railroads, but the major occupation for Indians was cutting pulpwood. In the last decades of the 19th century, the isolation of the MOWA Choctaw Indians began to come to an end. There were four main factors that brought about change to the Indian communities.

First, education of native Americans was a gigantic step forward for the MOWA Choctaw Indians. Second, the right to vote played a dramatic role in the Indians' striving to become a people of their own. Third, after the Civil Rights Act, community leaders began to urge local leading industries to hire Indian employees. Fourth, tribal organization has helped the MOWA Choctaw Indians move forward. After a century and a half of literal isolation, the MOWA Choctaw Indians came forth seeking, and getting, official recognition by the state of Alabama. They adopted the name "MOWA Choctaw Indians" to identify the Indians in Mobile and Washington Counties who are descended from several Indian Tribes: Choctaw, Creek, Cherokee, Mescalero, and Apache.

Today, there are nearly 6,000 members of the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians, over 2,500 of whom live in the vicinity of McIntosh, Alabama. All the members are descendants of the original Choctaw Nation, who are bound together by a complex network of multigenerational kinship.

The MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians was duly incorporated in 1979 with its tribal office located in McIntosh and purchased 160 acres of land in south Washington County in 1983. There are five officers and fourteen members of the tribe's commission, who voluntarily assist the operations of tribal affairs.

Even though the MOWA Choctaw Indians had such a long battle to regain their identity, the hard work of the leaders has made the fight a worthwhile effort. The Indians now have a good self-concept and can be proud of their heritage as Native Americans.

For more information about the ministry of the Friends Center in the community, please visit our website: www.ncym-fum.org/MOWA.

SOUL Staff Roles and Basic Responsibilities

The list below describes some of the roles and responsibilities that we expect to be filled by staff members, depending upon their gifts. These roles are not intended to limit what you can or cannot do as a staff member, but to give direction and clarity to the responsibilities of our staff team. There are many unlisted tasks and obligations which will be the responsibility of all staff team members.

Sports Camp Leader

- Sports Camp theme
- Schedules (rotations, locations, etc.)
- Sports drills/plans
- Daily prep times and assignments
- Sports Camp registration
- Donation requests

VBS Leader

- VBS theme
- Schedules (rotations, locations, etc.)
- Daily prep times and assignments
- Opening and closing VBS group time
- Closing VBS program
- VBS registration
- Donation requests

Worship Leader

- Worship theme & messages
- Morning and evening speakers
- Worship schedules
- Emcee for worship
- Music and skits
- Small groups
- Sports camp devotions
- VBS group devotions (if needed)
- Worship practice schedules

Activities Coordinator

- Welcoming night ice-breakers
- Group building games
- Housing group games/activities
- Water day games and schedule
- Evening worship games

Equipment/Tech Manager

- Sports camp equipment inventory & setup
- VBS supply inventory and setup
- Work projects supplies/tools inventory and setup
- Tech plans & setup for each program week
- Worship computer manager
- Multimedia (pictures/video)

Design Coordinator

- Sports Camp promo and t-shirts
- VBS promo and t-shirts
- Decorations (each week)
- Signs and informational postings
- Encouragement Notes (Bama blessings)

Head Administrator

- Notebooks (master and each week)
- Visiting group registration
- Cleaning supply inventory
- Kitchen lists and schedules
- Overall schedules for each week
- Thank you letters
- Announcements to group