

Calculate The Cost

How much will it cost per person to serve on a trip with CSM?

The amount CSM charges you includes meals, lodging, creating a mission trip for your group, financial support to ministry sites, project expenses and the services of a City Host to lead your trip. However, you may have additional costs for your trip. Check out the chart below to help you figure out the total cost per person for your trip:

Charges	Cost Per Item
(1) CSM Fee (\$61 x # nights staying x # of people on trip)	
(2) Gas (travel to, from, and during trip)	
(3) Meals on Travel Days (est. cost of meal x # of meals x # of people on trip)	
(4) Parking (see chart below)	
(5) Airfare (ticket x # of people)	
(6) Vehicle Rental(s)	
(7) Admission to a Post-Trip Attraction "Fun Day(s)" (Admission cost x # of people)	
(8) Meals for "Fun Day(s)" (cost of meal x # of meals x # of people)	
(9) Lodging for "Fun Day(s)" (cost of room x # of rooms)	
(10) NYC Site-specific costs	
Total Cost:	
Cost Per Person (Total cost divided by # of people):	

- (1) CSM charges \$61 per person per night. If you arrive on a Sunday evening and depart on a Saturday morning, that would be a 6-night trip. At \$61 per night, the cost per person would be \$366.
- (2) You'll need to pay for your own gas traveling to and from CSM, in addition to any gas you'll use during your trip. Remember that gas in other cities and parts of the country may cost much more than they do in your hometown. When estimating how much you'll spend on gas, factor in a higher cost per gallon.
- (3) You'll need to eat meals on the road. On the day you arrive, you'll have dinner with CSM. On the final day of your time of service with CSM, you will receive breakfast and lunch. If you are departing before lunch, you will receive lunch money. You will need to pay for all other meals on travel days.
- (4) Parking charges are not included in the CSM registration cost.
 - Chicago: \$3.00 per day per vehicle
 - Washington, DC: \$6.00 per day per vehicle
 - Denver: \$8 a day per vehicle (\$2 per day should be in quarters)
 - Houston: Usually no charges
 - Los Angeles: \$10 per vehicle per day (\$3.00 per day should be in quarters)
 - New York: Usually no parking charges, \$31 per person for week-long subway pass
 - Nashville: \$5 per vehicle per day
 - Philadelphia: 1 roll of quarters per vehicle should last for entire week
 - San Francisco: \$15 per vehicle per day plus one roll of quarters per vehicle for the week
 - Toronto: \$12 CAD per vehicle per day (get US \$ exchanged at border crossing before arrival)
- (5) Do you need to fly to the site? If so, how much do you estimate that costing per person? Some airlines may offer discounts for booking flights as a group. Other airlines, like Southwest, will book your group at the current going price. If you later see that the rates for that flight are cheaper on their website, you can call them back and they'll give you the discounted rate. Do not count on this policy. Check to see if this is an option before booking flights. Booking well in advance (4 or more months ahead of time) will guarantee that everyone in your group will get seats on the same flight. However, the flights might cost more. Waiting till closer to your trip (a month or two ahead) may get you cheaper tickets, but booking 10-40 people on the same flight could be very difficult. We suggest you book earlier rather than later. Using a travel agent might get you a discount, even when booking early.

- (6) You will need to provide your own transportation during your trip. Will you be able to use church-owned vans or will you need to rent them? **NOTE: Buses and mini-buses can be extremely difficult to maneuver and park in the city. Please DO NOT plan on bringing a church bus or minibus on your CSM trip unless you've cleared it with city staff.** If you need to rent vehicles, 15 passenger vans work best. You will need to contact car rental companies to find and reserve your own vehicles. Many companies no longer rent 15 passenger vans, so you'll need to call around (check with city staff for a list of rental agencies). If you find one, you may want to reserve it right away, because these vehicles get reserved quickly for use, especially in the summer months.
- (7) If you decide to do a fun activity with your group after you're done with your time with CSM, or a "night off" is scheduled, you will need to determine an approximate cost. Places like Disneyland, Universal Studios, 6 Flags, and other tourist attractions have admission fees and parking fees. You may also be able to get a discounted group rate for such attractions. Go to the attraction's website for more info on costs and group sales.
- (8) You'll need to estimate the cost of meals for your extra fun day. Remember that food at theme parks is pricey.
- (9) If your "fun day" activities add another night to your trip, you may need to find your own lodging. Hotels often offer discounts if you book multiple rooms in one reservation. If your church has a denominational affiliation, you may be able to find a youth group from your denomination in the area that is willing to house you or let you sleep in their church facilities. It may be possible to stay an extra night at the CSM housing site and pay for housing only. This will cost \$18 per person per night (which includes continental breakfast). Check with the CSM Home Office to see if the "housing only" option is available to you.
- (10) If you are traveling to NY please keep these costs in mind:
- There will be an additional charge of \$31 per person per week for subway passes.
 - Please contact the CSM NYC City Director for information about ground transportation from the airport.

Add up columns 1-10 to determine the total approximate cost of your trip. Divide that number by the total number of people coming on your trip in order to determine the approximate cost per person. This may not end up being the amount you charge per person. Do you have any funds in the youth ministry budget to help subsidize the cost of the trip? If so, you may be able to reduce the amount you charge students.

Here are some more questions you'll want to answer regarding finances: Are there scholarships available for students who cannot afford the cost? Are there people in the church willing to sponsor students who want to go but can't afford it? Also, will you be doing fundraisers to help students pay for the trip? If so, this will take a lot more planning but may allow for more students to go.