



stormco journal

adventure in service

[Leader's Edition]
Name:

id:what's your



Name:

Date of Trip:

Community:

Team Leader:

Other Team Leaders:

** IDEA: Do an icebreaker that will get team members to talk about themselves*

** IDEA: Ask each team member: What kind of a sandwich (or bug or appliance or...) would you be and why?*

** IDEA: Pair up and find out 3 unique things about the other person to share with the team.*

What trips have you been on before? Tell your story to your team.

story?

Personalise this page by writing down something unique about each person on your team.

the storm co story

Storm Company began in Queensland, Australia, when a high school chaplain recognized that Christian students wanted to do something rather than just be told about Christianity. They were hungry to put their faith into practice. The team set out for Moree, NSW without a plan, except to help out any way they could.

The life-changing experience of the first team in 1992 inspired others to follow. Teams adopted the name 'Storm Co' in 1993 and began visiting other outback communities.

Within a few years there were Storm Co teams in every Australian state. The "Storm Co Guidebook" was written in 2000 to record the foundations that allowed Storm Co to work in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, North America, Africa as well as the South Pacific.

Storm Co is supported by an inter-departmental committee at the South Pacific Division office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

That Storm Co trips continue to increase in number around the world is a tribute to the Spirit of Jesus Christ represented in those who humbly choose to give of themselves in an adventure of service to others.

the purpose

Storm Co is a service adventure initiative.

Storm Co teams visit communities with the intent to serve others without a pre-determined agenda or expectation of anything in return. Their goal is to present Christian faith in action by building long term relationships and being a refreshing influence to the entire community.


This purpose statement contains five fundamental foundations of Storm Co:

- Understand a community by **listening** to its unique story and serve accordingly
- Seek to **engage** the entire community over a period of time
- **Serve** without expectation as a reflection of unconditional love
- Join daily as a team in **prayer** to build and focus team unity
- Determine to **return** and continue to build long term relationships

How does this purpose statement reflect the way you understand Christianity?

What will this mean for the way you work in your community?

What does Storm Co mean to you?



Storm Co teams enter a community with the explicit purpose of building a relationship with that community through service. A team will go first to listen, and then to serve. Before the trip, team leaders will spend time with community members to understand best how they can serve.

There can be no 'hidden agenda' on a Storm Co team. One cannot prescribe a universal program or a service project that will meet the needs of all people. Each trip to each community is different; as is each group of individuals.

A Storm Co team is committed to seek and understand the unique history, culture, and needs of a community. They then match the skills and resources of the team in order to serve. Storm Co teams resist imposing their own 'program' on a community without listening to learn of the need for that place and time.

A wise man has said that we have two ears and just one mouth for good reason. To actively listen is the foundation for a growing relationship.

foundation

Listen [No Agenda]

What did your team do so you can remember this foundation?

** The Foundations are really important. Try to come up with a unique way for your team for process and understand each one. There are some ideas here - use them to spark your own creativity.*

** IDEA: Tell your team what you learned during your pre-trip investigation of your community*

** IDEA: Try playing a listening game. Ie... divide into pairs and give them 60sec for one to listen and the other to talk one a subject (pets? School? Shoes? Best friends? ... anything). Then the listener tries to recall 10 things the other person said.*

Storm Co teams will serve the entire community. This means they will have a goal to engage and encourage the positive values of all social, age, political or religious groups in the community. A Storm Co team will continually seek to cross barriers or 'walls' that may exist.

During the first visits to a community, teams will naturally connect with some group in the community. It may be an age group (children), an organisation (school or city council) or a church group; but regardless of the 'beginnings' of the relationship, the goal of the team is to pursue a relationship with all community groups.

A significant feature of a Storm Co team is to visit each local church group and encourage them in their work – regardless of Christian denomination. In the past, Storm Co teams have provided role models for children and youth of the community. By supporting and participating in the activities of the local church groups, team members show support for the work of the local church and encourage local youth to become involved.

foundation

Engage [No Walls]

What did your team do so you can remember this foundation?

**IDEA: Break into five groups and have teams each make up a drama for a foundation. The other groups have to guess which foundation it is.*

**IDEA: Play a kid's game like 'cat and mouse' or 'stuck in the mud'. Debrief by asking what they could apply from that game to 'no walls'.*

Serve [No Expectations] foundation

**IDEA: Make up a game where the goal is to benefit others rather than yourself, ie... give each person a chocolate to give away to another team member as they tell them an honest compliment. Debrief about what this means in regard to 'no expectations'.*

**IDEA: Break into five groups and ask each to make up a 30sec TV commercial focussing on one foundation.*

What did your team do so you can remember this foundation?

At the heart of the Storm Co foundations is the commitment to community service. When a team serves the community, they show that they are serious about their purpose of building relationships. Their goal is to serve without expectation of anything in return.

Christianity in western society tends to operate with an expectation of some form of an outcome for service. We often want something: members, subscriptions, offerings, attendance, etc... as a result for our work; and as such, religious motives are sometimes viewed with suspicion.

A Storm Co team will respect the culture and beliefs of a community without attempting to coerce others in any way. They will not seek to 'convert' or to gain repayment in any way for their service.

This foundation is a radical application of the example of Jesus Christ who loved unconditionally. By seeking to serve rather than 'change' or 'convert' a community, the term 'service to others really matters' becomes an attitude that not only benefits a community but changes the heart of a team.

Storm Co teams are unashamedly Christian and based on a foundation of prayer. Although they will model what they believe, they will respect each individual's freedom to believe as they choose.

For a Storm Co team, the devotion/worship/prayer time is the source of strength for each trip. This is the time for building up and focussing the team on its purpose of being the 'hands and feet' of Jesus in the community. This time of dedication, commitment, team building and encouragement provides the base for all that happens on a Storm Co trip. When the foundation of a team is 'established' through prayer, the attitude of the team can be to listen and follow the promptings of God in their work.

Storm Co teams can expect spiritual attack. Hardships, danger and conflict are common. Immersing a group in the entire community exposes the team to both the good and bad - including spiritual forces described in Ephesians 6:12. When teams face trouble by joining together in a connection to their God, there is no need for fear.

Pray [No Fear]

foundation

What did your team do so you can remember this foundation?

**IDEA: Play a game that relies on courage or cooperation. You might try 'capture the flag', red rover, human knot, etc... Debrief about how the game could relate to this foundation.*

**IDEA: Play a 'Taboo' type game where groups have one foundation (or other words found in this journal) and a list of 'off limits' words. One person has to get the rest of the group to guess the right word or phrase.*

Return [No Limits]

**IDEA: Play a game that repeats a theme - like relay races or 'what's the time Mr Wolf'. Debrief by asking the team to describe how that game relates to 'no limits'.*

**IDEA: Have a brainstorm session with five pieces of butcher's paper and crayons. Divide into five groups and have each draw pictures, write words or elaborate on each foundation. For fun, rotate the groups so that they can all add to each paper.*

What did your team do so you can remember this foundation?

foundation

Storm Co teams purpose to maintain a relationship with the community. Their goal is to return and be an ongoing positive influence.

A Storm Co trip is not a 'once only' event.

The long term success of Storm Co comes when a community learns that a team is interested enough in building a relationship that they will return. A

Storm Co team will not put a 'limit' on the potential of what they can contribute to that community.

The future is unpredictable, and it would be wrong for a team to build expectations they may not be able to fulfill. However it is important for each team to not only build bridges to as many areas of the community as possible; but also to seek to maintain those bridges in the future.

Storm Co teams will return and build upon what they start. They will not be satisfied with 'running the same program' at each visit, but will seek to learn about, appreciate and respond to the community as the relationship grows.

My team [rules]

In order for a Storm Co team to remain safe, united and accomplish the work given in a community there must be some firm boundaries. This page is to encourage teams to decide together what rules are needed in order to function safely.

** Please take time to work through your team expectations (and consequences) here. This is the single most important safety precaution you can do with your team. Ask each team member to write down the rules you decide on as a group.*

** IDEA: Divide into groups and have each one come up with a potential danger scenario for your trip. Ask them to make up a team rule to help prevent this and keep the team safe.*

myCommitment

**IDEA: Get team members to write their own personal commitment as well. What might they want to commit to (as a more personal goal than the one printed here) for this particular trip? Encourage them to add a personally relevant Bible verse to remember for the trip.*

I am
committed
to serving

as a member of this Storm Co team. I understand the five foundations of Storm Co and what they stand for. I will maintain team expectations and support my team to the best of my ability.

signed:

date:



Your journal should be complete to here before you start your trip.



Us:

** Make sure team members know that this is their book
- colour it, scribble in it, personalise it!*

[memories]

** These pages are for photos, autographs, journaling, note taking... anything to capture memories from Storm Co.*

[memories]

God&Me:

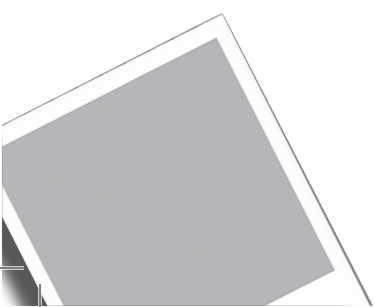
What does God mean to you?

God has made each of us unique; and our relationships with Him are no different. Storm Co teams are called to reflect the example of Jesus by sharing your journey and learning about those for the rest of your team.

** Encourage team members to prepare their own testimony to share with the team - and write it here.*
** IDEA: You may want to do this early in team training so they can later reflect on how God has worked in them during their Storm Co experience.*

Storm Co teams are called to reflect the example of Jesus by following the leading of God as they serve others. The starting point of a relationship with God is honesty in declaring where you stand now; and humility in being open to where God might take you in the future.

UP\$



[journal]

Write your prayers, memories, stories, achievements and inspirations during your Storm Co trip here.

WASH

** If team members have trouble journaling, suggest they jot down worship highlights during the trip - things people said that made an impact, or something they saw that showed them a picture of God.*



info/the name:

The word STORM is an acronym: **“Service To Others Really Matters”**. True, selfless, unconditional service is the foundational expression of love. To follow the Jesus example of service is to give one’s life for the benefit of others as Jesus did by giving His life on the cross for mankind.

Philippians 2:3-4 * Jeremiah 6:16 * Psalms 51:16-17

** IDEA: You may want to focus on the portions of scripture included in this year's journal for some of your devotion time. They were chosen for their relationship to what Storm Co is about.*

** IDEA: In small groups, have team members discuss through tough time and how they have gotten through them. Use it as a time to encourage each other.*



info/clouds:

The clouds above the logo represent the rain that comes with a storm. Because there was a drought in central Queensland at the time, the name 'Storm' was chosen as a symbol of relief to a parched land. Rain cleans, refreshes and brings new life to the community it falls upon. A storm comes to all who stand under its cloud; it does not stay within preconceived boundaries; it does not exclude any person or thing; it brings rain which causes life to grow. It is the intention of the Storm Co team to be like a refreshing storm.

*Matthew 20:26 * Proverbs 18:12*

[journal]

Write your prayers, memories, stories, achievements and inspirations during your Storm Co trip here.

** IDEA: Each person gets a name from a hat. They must come up with a challenge for that person to take on for the whole week. Share it with the group and at the end of the trip have team members reflect on whether or not they accomplished their challenge!*



info/cross:

The 't' is in the shape of a cross to represent the intention of a team to follow the example of Jesus Christ. Storm Co teams endeavour to become the real life 'hands and feet' of Jesus by reflecting His love to others.

*Micah 6:8 * 2 Chronicles 7:14-15*

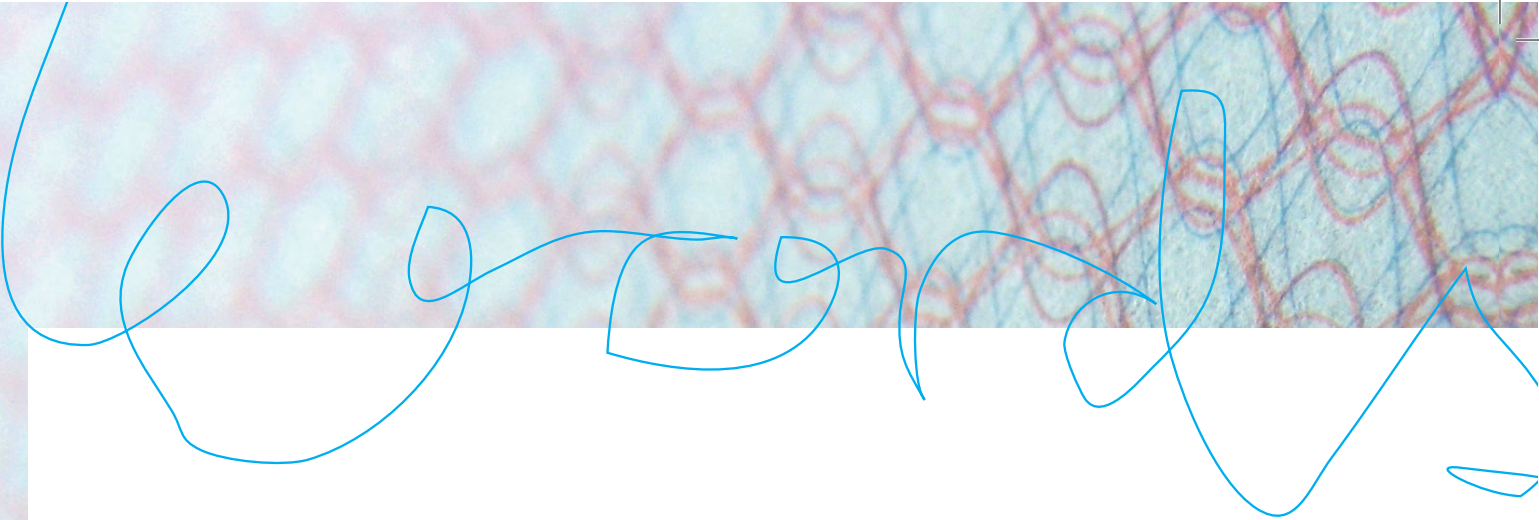
** IDEA: Ask everyone to write down their favourite Bible verse. Then put them in a hat and have each team member choose one and commit to memorise it.*



info/motto:

Storm Co trips are based on adventure. By definition, 'adventure' hints at entering the unknown, taking risks and attempting what has not been done before. Storm Co is not intended to be an 'all year long' program, but rather a short term adventure that inspires a lifestyle of service.

The adventure aspect of a Storm Co trip encourages the telling and de-briefing of team experiences. These stories enable the team to learn from the community and build ever stronger relationships with the community and each other.



** Towards the end of the trip, use this page for team members to write a message of affirmation to the person who owns this journal. This is something they may be able to look back on in years to come and appreciate their Storm Co memories.*

[words]

Affirmation from My Team



[contacts]

Use this page to remember the people you met. Even if you don't keep in touch with them before your next visit, you can still remember them in your prayers.

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember about you....

** IDEA: At the end of your trip or afterwards in your team debrief time; spend some time going over each of the contacts you made in your community. Pray for them individually and discuss ways that you might be able to continue to support those individuals or that community.*

people I want to remember...

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember
about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember
about you....

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What I'll remember
about you....

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about you....

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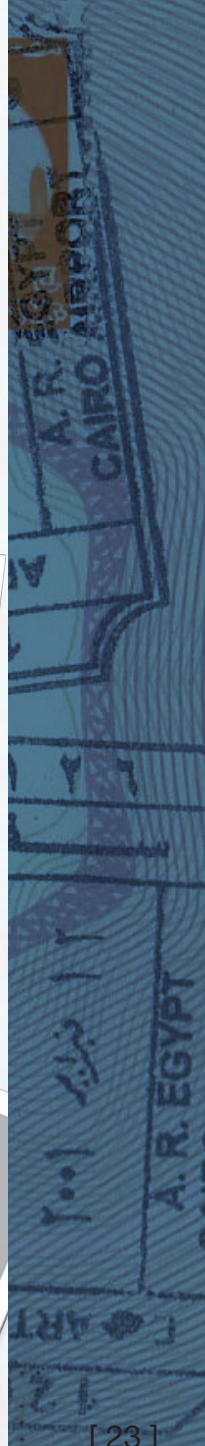
What I'll remember
about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember
about you....

Name:
Age:
Contact:

What I'll remember
about you....



THE HEALTH FOOD COMPANY



Sanitarium supports STORM Co

Sanitarium's ongoing support of STORM Co comes from our philosophy of making a real and lasting difference in our community by genuinely caring for, supporting and serving others.

We love hearing stories of how you have made a difference to others during STORM Co, and the impact STORM Co has had on your personal journey. We hope you enjoy the experience and the friendships you make as part of a STORM Co team! Thank you for spending time serving a community, and may God bless your endeavours.

Management and Staff
Sanitarium Health Food Company



Storm Co is an initiative of the South Pacific Division
of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

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