



Getting your group ready for Elevations

Step 1: Send Group Lottery Application and Reservation Fee

Each group coordinator must complete a [Group Lottery Application](#) and submit it by **October 1st**. There will be a lottery drawing for each available week. As soon as we have completed selection we will contact you to confirm your status. If your group is chosen, we will then pencil you in and hold your reservation for up to two weeks while we wait on your \$1,312.50 Group Reservation Fee. **This Group Reservation Fee will be applied to your balance owed, but will not be refunded if you cancel your reservation.**

Send the **\$1,312.50 Group Reservation Fee** to:

Dry Bones Denver
1600 N Downing St
Ste 400
Denver CO 80218

All checks or money orders should be made payable to Dry Bones Denver, with the memo line clearly marked "Elevations Reservation Fee".

Step 2: Responsibilities Prior to March 15th

Prayerful Consideration

Due to the spiritual, physical, and mental intensity of this program it is vital that the group coordinator prayerfully consider which students would most benefit from this experience. Elevations is designed for spiritually mature students who are ready for a challenge. The first half of the week is spiritually demanding and some activities might be physically challenging.

Upon arriving in the city the group will be faced with a culture much different from their own. They will be interacting with individuals who often say and do shocking things. When choosing which students to bring on this trip, we encourage you to select participants who are less likely to become influenced negatively by the street culture. For these reasons, this program isn't for everyone. The week will be much more powerful if each participant is aware of, and prepared for, the program's intensity.

Participation in Elevations is limited to those entering the 9th grade through those exiting high school.

Selecting Adult Sponsors

Adult sponsors play a very important role in the program. The Elevations experience will be much deeper and richer if the adult sponsors are committed to praying for the group, participating in all activities during the week, and holding the students accountable to their commitments when they return home.

We suggest one adult sponsor for every five youth participants to accompany the teens. However, there should not be more than three adult sponsors (ages 20 and older) for every 10 teenagers. Restrictions are different for college and adult groups.

Group Size

In order to provide a more intimate and focused atmosphere, Elevations limits group size to 15 total participants (including adults). We encourage group coordinators to bring a group even if it seems too small. **However, we do require payment for a minimum of 10 participants.**

Communication with Participants and Their Parents

Early January is the ideal time to begin the pre-registration process. Each deadline is set to encourage early commitments and to ensure full distribution of information to all participants. The group coordinator is responsible for communicating to each participant all details of payment obligations and deadlines, medical screening, and the ramifications of missing deadlines or not properly filling out forms.

A link to the online Participant Registration/Medical Form will be provided when the dates of your week are confirmed. From the very beginning of your promotional efforts, distribute and discuss the Medical Information Form (inserted in the Registration Form). As mentioned above, due to the nature of its activities, Elevations is not for everyone. The medical information questionnaire is intended to protect individuals from placing themselves at risk. It is very important that each prospective participant be aware of all medical information, before he or she registers.

The Participant Guidebook should be given to each participant when he or she signs up. This guidebook is extremely helpful in preparing for the trip.

Participant Fee and Deadline Information

Elevations offers a **Discounted Participant Fee of \$525** per participant *if the balance is paid in full and postmarked by March 15th*. If the *Final Balance Deadline (March 15)* is missed, the fee reverts to the **Non-discounted Participant Fee of \$550**.

Payment for a minimum of 10 participants is required regardless of group size. Therefore, the minimum payment to bring a group is \$5,250. Your Group Reservation Fee of \$1,312.50 will be applied to your balance and the next payment of \$1312.50 is due January 15th. The final payment of the remaining balance of \$2,625 plus \$525 per additional participant over the 10 person minimum is due on March 15th.

Example:

	Payment Due Date	Amount Due	Balance
Initial Payment	Upon Reservation	\$1312.50	\$3,937.50
2nd Payment	January 15th	\$1212.50	\$2,625.00
Final Payment	March 15th	\$2,625 plus \$525 per additional participants above 10 people	Paid in full

A Participant Fee of \$525 per participant is due on March 15th. Please communicate to all participants that this Participant Fee is non-refundable, except as outlined below. The payment can be transferred to a replacement camper to cover their Participant Fee for the confirmed week of your trip. **Failure to remit payment by April 1 could result in the forfeiture of your Elevations week to the next group on our wait list.**

Payment for participants added after the deadline will revert to the Discounted Participant Fee, provided that the initial payment was received within the allotted time frame.

If there is a problem, special situation, or if you need to add a participant to your group after the deadline, please call or email Mark Wilson at (720)240-8585, mark@drybonesdenver.org. We will do everything possible to make your week of Elevations run as smoothly as possible.

Please collect and mail one check for Participant Final Balance payment. The church check, cashiers check, or money order for these payments should include a note indicating your church name, date of trip, and number of participants you are paying for. **Payment for participants added after the deadline will be due upon arrival.**

ALL PAYMENTS MADE ARE NON-REFUNDABLE for reservations abandoned with no advance notice. Reservations canceled with advanced notice will still require partial payment based on the schedule notice shown below:

2 Months Prior - 50% Cancellation Fee
1 Month Prior - 60% Cancellation Fee
3 Weeks Prior - 70% Cancellation Fee
1 Week Prior - 90% Cancellation Fee

Checks should be made payable to: **Dry Bones Denver** with the memo line clearly marked **Elevations Final Balance**.

Please mail the payment and information to:

Dry Bones Denver
1600 N Downing St
Ste 400
Denver CO 80218

A Request From Us

As the ministry of Dry Bones and Purple Door Coffee continue to grow and be active in the lives of houseless youth and young adults in the Denver metro area, we would like to ask that you partner with us. Purple Door Coffee, a social enterprise of Dry Bones Denver, is a year long work program geared for our friends wishing to exit life on the street. Purple Door has put together a fundraising package that we would love for your students to utilize in defraying the cost of their trip.

If your student chooses to participate, they will sell bags of coffee for \$20 each. \$10 will go toward their trip and \$10 will be sent to Purple Door to cover the cost of the coffee. You will create your own timeline and deadline based on the dates of your trip to Denver. Orders will need to be submitted to Purple Door Coffee 2 weeks prior to delivery to your location. Payments will be made to your organization and your organization will provide one lump sum payment to Purple Door Coffee @ \$10 per bag ordered. When we receive the order and payment we will process the order as a whole and then ship the entire order to the designated person. Each student will be responsible for distributing the bags of coffee to the appropriate recipient.

Printed sales forms and a brochure with detailed coffee descriptions will be provided when the dates of your trip are confirmed and the initial deposit is received.

Planning For the Beginning and End of Your Trip

Mark Wilson will confirm the dates of your group's trip, and handle communication from the beginning stages of your planning through the end of your time with us. Elevations is a six-day experience, beginning on Monday and concluding late Saturday afternoon. **Travel days are NOT included in these dates.**

Plan to arrive at the designated campsite between 1 and 2 p.m. on the first day of your trip (which will be a Monday). Details regarding the exact location of your campsite will be provided a minimum of two weeks prior to your arrival date, and will be within a two hour drive of the Denver Metro area. Elevations will provide all meals, beginning with lunch on the first day of your trip and ending with lunch on the final day of your trip, aside from dinner during your free time on Friday night which is your expense. All other meals are the responsibility of your individual group. Your trip will conclude around 5 p.m. the final evening of the trip (which will be a Saturday). When making travel arrangements, please keep in mind that **the program will not conclude until around 5 p.m.** on Saturday night. Unless you are planning on driving back late that night, it's the group coordinator's responsibility to find sleeping accommodations for Saturday night.

Step 3: Responsibilities from March 15th up to arrival

Submit Participant Registration/Medical Forms

Ensure that participants submit an online Participant Registration/Medical Form a minimum of two weeks prior to arrival. Communicate with parents and leaders to ensure that all participants who require a doctor's signature have obtained and submitted one, a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of your trip.

Note: Individuals who do not submit a signed and completed Participant Registration/Medical Form CANNOT be allowed to participate in Elevations.

Review & Remind

Discuss what each participant needs to bring, travel plans, and money needed for meals, etc.

Friday night, while you are in Denver, your group will have some free time from about 4 p.m. until your group decides to arrive back at your lodging. Dinner on Friday night is your expense. Many groups like to bring additional money to go out for a nice meal, shop for souvenirs, go to a Rockies baseball game, or do something fun. Please keep this in mind and advise your participants of this free time.

Step 4: Before You Arrive

Adding Spots

If you would like to add a participant after the Final Balance Deadline has passed, call Mark Wilson at (720)240-8585 to check on the availability of an extra spot.

Double Checking Registration/Medical Information Forms

Check in with all participants to ensure that they have submitted the online Participant Registration/Medical form. Participants who require a doctor's signature to participate in Elevations must submit the required paperwork (available on the Elevations webpage) a minimum of two weeks prior to your group's arrival. This is crucial! Elevations CANNOT allow any individual to participate without the proper information and signatures.

Preparation Curriculum

We have prepared a pre-trip curriculum that will challenge participants to start thinking about how contemplation and action are important in our faith lives. The group coordinator should distribute this material in plenty of time for each participant to engage it, and have time to process their thoughts. We encourage you to meet with your group once a week during the weeks leading up to your trip to process together.

Transportation

You will be providing transportation for your group to the wilderness and around the city. Plan for enough room to transport your group and their belongings.

Step 5: What to Expect When You Arrive

Please arrive at your designated campsite between 1 and 2 p.m. on Monday. Meals are provided from Monday lunch to Saturday lunch. We will give you free time on Friday evening from 4pm to 9pm (later if you need), and you are responsible for your meal during this time.

Day One, Two and Three:

At the start of the week your group will spend 3 nights away from the city, camping out in the Rocky Mountains. You will set up a campsite, do some day hikes and engage in outdoor fun. You'll observe and experience God's creation in some very distinct ways. Your group will share a deeply contemplative experience together in the mountains. We hope to introduce you all to some new ways of connecting with God – practices we hope that you'll want to take home with you. It will be a time of fun, seeing and learning some new things, and soaking in God's

creation. You'll laugh and talk a lot together but will also be guided in some times of silence, solitude and introspection. Your three days of contemplative mountain life will inspire action and lead you into the city.

Day Four: Into the Valley

Your group will pack up camp and leave the wilderness early on Thursday morning. After returning to Lakewood Church of Christ to unload, clean and turn in the camping equipment, lunch will be served. Experiences each day in the city will tie directly into those from the wilderness. The group will then head into downtown Denver to experience a "Turf Tour". The group will spend the day familiarizing themselves with the lives and surroundings of the kids they will be spending time with for the remainder of the week. The day will end with "Dry Bones Night". This is the anchor event that the Dry Bones ministry hosts every week. It is an opportunity for the Elevations participants to meet some of the street kids, play some games, and communicate value and worth as they make new friends.

Day Five: On the Streets

Your time in the city will be steeped in prayer. The activities of each day will be an adventure while discovering some of the realities for those who seek survival on the street. Therefore, flexibility is a must. The focus of this day is to provide various opportunities for the group to meet, serve, love and build relationships. The activities are relationship focused, rather than work focused. It is Dry Bones' desire to place your group in a variety of situations that encourage conversation. Our hope is that Christ's love is experienced by all. Your group will have free time when the day's activities wrap up, around 4 p.m.

Day Six: The Blessing and Sending

Your group will be involved in more relational activities downtown. Late afternoon will be spent in some final wrap-up activities. We will end our time together by challenging your group to go home and live their faith in a real and loving way. The group coordinator will be responsible for sleeping arrangements on day six.

Step 6: Back to Life

You have an option to host a member of the Dry Bones team for a follow-up weekend in the Fall. This weekend, named **Back to Life**, is a time to evaluate where God is moving, to celebrate what God has done, and to dream about what God will do through your group in the future. The name Back to Life implies two things. First and foremost, it reminds us that Christ has brought us all back to life. We have been made whole; renewed from dry bones to an abundant life in Him. Second, after the Elevations experience, we all have a choice of what we will do now that we are back to our real lives... What will we do now that we are Back to Life? Please contact Mark for more information on Back to Life.



Mark Wilson

mark@drybonesdenver.org

(720) 240-8585