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## SKILL GROUPS INFORMATION

Ministry skill groups play a significant role in our ability to minister overseas. Whether we are doing street ministry or working in the context of a local church, we are able to use these skill groups to provide a program that will draw attention to our message of salvation through Jesus Christ!

### WHY DO WE DO MINISTRY SKILL GROUPS?

- Following our skill group performances, team members will have opportunities to share their faith in Christ by using “Connecting With God” to engage in conversations with people who are gathered to watch the performance. Each summer, God provides countless “divine appointments” for students on our teams, and we see many people come to a genuine faith in Christ and have their lives changed for eternity!
- We work hard on our skill groups so that they can be done with excellence. Even though we are not seeking to simply entertain, we believe that excellence is important as we pursue the ministry opportunities that God gives us. Skill group performances are relevant to the cultures we are visiting and the environment of our ministry. Because of this, some of our teams may vary in the way they choose skill group material, train for, and make use of the skill groups.

### WHAT DOES EACH SKILL GROUP DO?

Each of our trips offer different combinations of Skill Groups

**DRAMA:** Because of the nature of our ministry performances, our drama presentations are set to musical scores and typically do not have words as part of the presentation. Our dramas are powerful visual presentations of the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection! God often uses drama teams in amazing ways to prepare the hearts of the people who see it for an explanation of how to receive Jesus!

**PUPPETS:** Our puppet teams participate in the ministry performances through choreography with puppets to songs that entertain and provide lots of fun for the audience. Kids want to stop and watch, which often means their parents are also a captive audience.

**DANCE:** The dance team is fast, upbeat, and fun. It is helpful for those on the team to have some sense of rhythm and dance ability. The dance team will learn two to three choreographed dances that will be used to generate excitement and draw a crowd to ministry performances.

**SOCCER:** Our Costa Rica Trip uses soccer as a Skill Group option. They use soccer to invite people into relationships with the ultimate goal of sharing the gospel. Our commitment to teamwork and Christ-honoring sportsmanship speaks volumes to those who don’t know Jesus.

**BOY/GIRL BAND:** By taking music relevant to today’s YouTube culture, and turning it into a fun, and sometimes cheesy lip-syncing concert, we generate a buzz that makes people want to stop and watch what we’re doing.

## **WHAT DOES THE TRAINING CONSIST OF?**

Once your team comes together at Training Camp, each of the skill groups will be given time daily for instruction and training in order to develop and practice your ministry skills.

## **WHAT ABOUT TALENTS, ABILITIES, AND EXPERIENCE?**

Depending on the skill group you are interested in, your question might sound something like this:

- I've only done drama once when I told dad how I wrecked his car. Can I still do drama team?
- I've never REALLY danced anywhere outside of my room. Can I be on the dance team?
- Which end of the puppet does my hand go in?

Talent, abilities, and experience in a particular area of ministry are always helpful. However, we want you to learn ministry skills that will help you to build God's Kingdom during the summer, as well as when you return home. Our ministry skill groups are planned for and taught in a way that allows you to participate in something you are interested in, even if you do not have prior knowledge or experience. Some students choose to be involved in a ministry that is completely out of their comfort level in order to stretch themselves and see God use them in new ways. Others choose to be part of what they already know, and see how God will use that for ministry. The important thing is that each student participates in the ministry that God gives us during the summer and gets to see how the various skills are used by God to touch people's lives!

## **CAN I BRING MY GUITAR THIS SUMMER?**

Each airline limits the amount of luggage that we are allowed to take with us. It is very important if you wish to bring a guitar or other instrument that you contact your Trip Leader and ask first. If your Trip Leader allows it, and you decide to bring your instrument, please understand that it will need to be checked in at the airport with the other luggage. Therefore, you must have a hard case and be prepared to pay any extra baggage fees. Neither the airlines nor Royal Servants can take responsibility for any damage that occurs to an instrument during the summer.