



  
**BRIDGEBUILDERS**  
A PROGRAM OF SUNSHNE GOSPEL MINISTRIES

BridgeBuilders is a program of

# SUNSHINE GOSPEL MINISTRIES

The Mission of Sunshine Gospel Ministries is to seek the renewal of Chicago through ministries of discipleship, mercy, and justice. We seek to engage and empower youth, families, and guests of our community to thrive.



# BRIDGEBUILDERS

Nearly 25 years later, BridgeBuilders' experiential service-learning program continues to invite participants from all over the country to engage in conversations and experiences surrounding faith, race, and justice. Connecting people from different backgrounds, it promotes a shared understanding of the challenges faced by inner-city communities.



[Click to hear what BB Manager David Lee has to say about BridgeBuilding](#)

# WHAT DOES A WEEK WITH BRIDGEBUILDERS LOOK LIKE?

Though our programming is flexible, a standard week will include serving with our service partners, lessons with BridgeBuilders staff, and worshiping in a local church. Additionally, our program includes several hands-on experiential learning opportunities that have been fine-tuned over the years to best serve our guests and our community. The entire week is designed to cultivate an appreciation for the neighborhood of Woodlawn and the city of Chicago by highlighting their history, beauty, and vibrance -- while realistically noticing and considering their brokenness.

The rhythm of the week is to listen, learn, serve, and return to your own home, taking with you the tools to healthily engage the vulnerable and embrace wholistic Biblical justice.



# LISTEN



This lesson focuses on the Biblical concept and the visible effects of losing it.

Who are the poor? In this lesson, we seek to expand our definition of and response to poverty with a Biblical mindset rooted in Micah 6:8.

This lesson explores the complexity of riots in the United States, focusing on various cases of police brutality and racial profiling.

This lesson defines terms surrounding discussions about race, as well as providing a space to process personal experiences.

# LEARN

The experiential-learning aspect of BridgeBuilders is crucial to our program. Each experience is designed to help guests understand the history of our neighborhood, giving clear historical context to the present realities of poverty and systemic injustice.

Over the years, we have fine-tuned each learning experience with the dual goals of dignifying the community and educating participants. We ask groups to pay close attention during these experiences, noticing details and patterns we may not always look for at home.

## OUR EXPERIENCES INCLUDE

- Trip to the DuSable Museum of African American History
  - Interactive Poverty Simulator
  - Woodlawn tour and the surrounding communities





# SERVE

BridgeBuilders allows groups to meaningfully connect with the neighborhood through various service projects with community partners. Our service mindset emphasizes that group members are guests, not missionaries. Outsiders who come to the community for one week are not and cannot be the saviors of a community that is not their own. Many organizations, initiatives, and individuals already foster the year-round flourishing of our neighborhood, and we joyfully invite you to glimpse and contribute to their work for the brief time you're here.

# RETURN

BridgeBuilders is designed to have a lifelong impact. The program's teaching and learning experiences apply directly to Woodlawn and Chicago, but give participants tools to take home that can be applied everywhere they go:

**“Coming into this community, you can't change it in a week, but you can be changed by it in a week.”**

- The ability to examine communities through the lenses of beauty and brokenness.
- Knowledge of what the Bible says about injustice, advocating for the oppressed, and seekingshalom for your community.
- Awareness of the power of being a guest while traveling to new places.
- How to see past stereotypes, appreciate cultural differences, and see others first and foremost as image-bearers.
- A holistic engagement of the gospel that illuminates the importance of seeking justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly.
- Practical knowledge of the history and current presence of racial injustice.

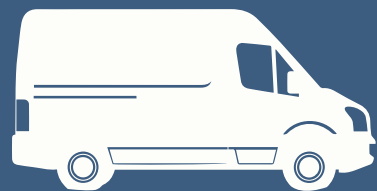
# LOGISTICS

## HOW LONG IS A BRIDGEBUILDERS TRIP?



Our standard program is a week long, with groups arriving and leaving during the week-end. We also offer weekend-only experiences, and are flexible regarding timing and trip length.

## WHEN WOULD OUR GROUP ATTEND?



Most groups attend during Spring and Summer breaks, but BridgeBuilders is a year-round program. So we are always open to a good visit from your team.



## HOW MUCH DOES A TRIP COST

Currently, our week-long trips are \$400 per person, and our individual day rate is \$80/day.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE COST?



Trip cost includes housing, three meals a day, amenities, and all the materials needed for our programming. Groups must organize their own transportation to Chicago. We have a parking lot and plenty of free parking.

# POVERTY SIMULATION

An experience that gives a well-rounded understanding of the complex choices families in poverty have to make.



[Click to learn about our Poverty Simulation](#)



[bb@sunshinegospel.org](mailto:bb@sunshinegospel.org) | (773) 904-9800 ext: 116  
[sunshinegospel.org](http://sunshinegospel.org) | @sunshinegospelchi