

# College Youth Mission - EGYPT 2024

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern U.S.

[www.susoccm.org/mission](http://www.susoccm.org/mission)



## Mission Trip Overview



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

Our mission trip to Egypt is dedicated to serving in three distinct areas. In the Diocese of elMinya under the auspices of H.G. Bishop Macarius, we will participate in a diverse array of services tailored to the diocese. Additionally, we'll serve children at St. Mark's Village under the guidance of Father Daoud Lamie's Anba Abram Ministries. Moreover, we'll assist at Anafora, serving in the *Second Chance* program under the auspices of H.E. Metropolitan Thomas. During our service, we'll explore holy and historic sites, immersing ourselves in our Coptic roots and the rich culture of Egypt.

Upon arrival in Cairo, transportation by bus will take us to elMinya for the initial leg of our trip. During this phase, we will participate in various activities ranging from organizing a children's carnival to assisting at an orphanage, a nursing home, and providing care for individuals with disabilities including intellectual disabilities, visual and speech impairments. During our time in elMinya, we hope His Grace Bishop Macarius will be available to give us a spiritual talk. In addition, we will be visiting St. Mary's Monastery in El Taysr Mount and the Shrine of the 21 Martyrs of Libya. Subsequently, we'll transition to St. Mark's Village, where we will engage in a 3-day camp to serve children in Egypt. This service involves offering these children a chance to experience the joys of childhood once again, fostering new friendships during a pleasant retreat. At the village, we'll participate in fun-filled recreations such as playing soccer, creating crafts, singing songs, and engaging in virtue-based activities, providing an

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opportunity to connect with our siblings in Christ. Additionally, we'll join in prayer with them and the locals during various Divine Liturgies, Agpeya prayers, etc.

In the final leg of our trip, we will depart for Anafora (Figures 1,3) until the end of the trip in which we will participate in the schedule of the community, serve, learn some trade, and visit nearby monasteries in the Wilderness of Scetis and historic sites such as the Seven Churches of Old Cairo and St. Mark's Cathedral in Abbaseya. During our time in Anafora, we hope His Eminence Metropolitan Thomas will be available to give us a spiritual talk. We will immerse ourselves in the *Second Chance* ministry program assisting in children's education and participating in hand-crafted work projects based on everyone's interest, such as weaving mats, making candles, filling honey into jars from the beehive, learning how to paint the Iota Cross on papyrus and wood, and making bracelets and other accessories. All this handcrafted work is sold at the Anafora shop to support the community and its ministries. *Anafora has been in existence since 1999. Anafora strives to be a self-sustainable community, open to everyone to come for a retreat to be lifted to God. Before the world started caring about the environment, Anafora has been a leader in recycling and reusing. Anafora attracted and continues to attract many from around the globe to go volunteer using their skills and gifts. Many from different ethnicities, languages, and faith traditions come to Anafora and spend extended periods of time volunteering.*

Recreational activities are to be planned into the schedule as we finalize our itinerary and transportation arrangements.

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### Trip Information

Trip Location: Egypt (various locations)

Trip Dates: June 10-28, 2024 (*must arrive by June 10 to start our itinerary on June 11*). Plan to depart the U.S. on Sunday, June 9, 2024 after the attendance of the Divine Liturgy at your local parish. For your return, please book your return ticket to travel at night on Friday, June 28 (might be the eve of Saturday as in a 2:00 a.m. flight depending on the airline schedule).

Trip Cost: \$850.00

*Included in the cost:* Accommodation donations to host sites throughout our trip and travel within Egypt, meals, and transportation

*Not included in the cost:* Airfare, a \$25 Tourist Visa for non-Egyptian nationals, and spending money for snacks and miscellaneous meals

### Registration and Payment

Participation is open to university students—in undergrad and professional schools. There are **19 spots** for this trip. To secure a spot, interested participants must register [online](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/f8ae45a1-bc16-47c5-89c2-2afab1be202c) and pay the 50% deposit (\$425). Link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/f8ae45a1-bc16-47c5-89c2-2afab1be202c>

### Important Dates

February 4, 2024      Registration opens; a 50% deposit (\$425) is required

March 17, 2024      Remaining 50% balance due (\$425)

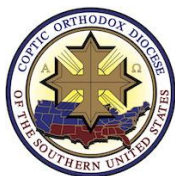
### Liability Policy

Upon registration, participants are required to read and sign that they understand and comply with the trip policies. <https://www.jotform.com/sign/240032898253053/invite/01hkaa1d204e40af190c5564ff>

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### Required Documents Submission

The below documents are required to participate in Mission. All must be submitted as instructed.

- Send a scanned copy of your passport (*must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip return date*) to [vp@susoccm.org](mailto:vp@susoccm.org).
- Recommendation Letter/Email from the Father Confessor/Parish Priest that the student is in good standing and is prepared spiritually and maturely to participate in the mission. The letter can be emailed directly from the Father Confessor to Fr. Jerome at [frjerome@susoccm.org](mailto:frjerome@susoccm.org).

### Travel Information

Most airlines (except for British Airways and Lufhansa) allow two (2) pieces of checked luggage and one (1) carry-on bag. (NOTE: *Basic Economy* fares do not include checked luggage allowance.) You will use one piece of the checked luggage allowance for your travel belongings and the second piece will be dedicated to donations. Pack wisely! There is a probability for a delay in arrival of luggage, hence pack an extra set of clothes in a carry-on should such occur.

If you are not a U.S. Passport holder or an Egyptian Passport holder, you must check the visa requirements for Egypt. (Each traveler is responsible for his/her visa.) Should you desire, you may buy your own travel insurance.

### Accommodations

All participants will be staying at retreat centers associated with the Coptic Orthodox Church.

### Vaccinations and Health Requirements

Registrants should be in good health and comfortable walking for long distances in tropical weather. No vaccinations are required for this trip. Refer to the CDC and [U.S. Department of State](http://www.state.gov) for most up to date information.

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### Dress Code

Everything that we do represents an image of who we are. Therefore, we are responsible to show Christ in us to those around us wherever we are. T-shirts with suggestive, crude, or derogatory language or tight blouses will draw negative attention; please do not bring them. Dresses must be modest. No leggings, tight-fitting jeans, tight skirts, tights, yoga pants, or anything of the like, unless covered by a long, non-sticking shirt. Ladies must wear modest skirts and respectable shirts that cover their shoulders, while men must wear long pants and respectable long-sleeve shirts; no shorts in churches. They will need to be worn when going out to visitations, liturgy, or any other service.

### Packing List

- Bring your Bible, Agpeya, and journal
- Deacons – bring your liturgical vestment (tonia)
- Girls – headscarf, ankle-long skirts
- Toiletries, bath towels, sunscreen, hand sanitizers, wet wipes, bug repellent for mosquitos and flies, any necessary medication
- Crocs and similar shoes are the best to have on this trip.
- Do not bring any valuables.

### Contact Information

Mission Trip Leader: Fr. Jerome Maximous – [frjerome@suscopts.org](mailto:frjerome@suscopts.org)

Mission Trip Coordinator: Daniel Ibrahim – [vp@susoccm.org](mailto:vp@susoccm.org)