

Youth Crusade Budgeting: A Guide for Effective Financial Planning

This brief guide provides tips and recommendations to help leaders and participants manage finances responsibly before going on a youth crusade initiative.

The Importance of Early Budget Planning

For smooth execution, it is essential that team leaders present a well-structured budget well in advance of the mission. This allows team members to fundraise early and ensure they have sufficient financial resources before departure. Transparency regarding the allocation of funds also encourages trust within the team. Clear explanations of budget categories will help everyone understand for what the money is being used.

Suggested Budgeting Categories and Costs

Below are key budget areas, along with approximate cost estimates and recommended approaches:

1. **Transportation (Car Rental):** \$65–110 USD per day
(Cost is shared between two people per car. Divide cost per car by two.)
2. **Translators:** \$10–15 USD per day
(Typically, two team members share the cost of one translator. Rates depend on local salaries.)
3. **Hotel:** \$25–40 USD per day
4. **Food:** \$10–20 USD per day
5. **Books:** Obtain quotes from 1–2 printing companies and divide the total cost by the number of participants.
6. **Speakers:** \$180–250 USD per speaker
(Cost is divided among the team members of the whole group.)
7. **Visas:** \$50 USD for tourist visas, or \$200–250 USD for business visas (but depends on the country you visit)
8. **Flights:** Cost varies depending on booking time and departure location.

Once the costs for each category are determined, the total expenses should be calculated and multiplied by the number of days of the mission trip. We recommend an additional 20% buffer for unforeseen expenses.

Example Budget for a 14-Day Trip:

- Hotel, Car Rental, Translator, and Food: \$122.50 per day
(Hotel: \$40, Car: \$55, Translator: \$7.50, Food: \$20, if no speakers and books are available for use - then count these costs divided by the whole group number as well)
 $\$122.50/\text{day} \times 14 \text{ days} = \$1,715$
- Miscellaneous (20% buffer for unforeseen expenses):
 $\$1,715 \times 0.20 = \343

Total recommended fundraising target:

$\$1,715 \text{ (base)} + \$343 \text{ (buffer)} = \mathbf{\$2,058}$

Additionally, participants should account for visa, flight, speaker, and book printing costs, which will be extra.

Costs can vary in different countries. You can do cost research via internet, contact locals for prices, ask other evangelists who have been there before to get a realistic oversight.

Fundraising Strategy

It is advisable for team members to raise the highest amount within the recommended range to ensure that sufficient funds are available. Fundraising goals should be set with a buffer to avoid financial shortages during the mission trip. It is helpful to rather have fundraised too much according to the highest range instead of too little and experience a surprising shortage during the trip.

We recommend that each team member handles their payments individually, rather than sending money to the leader, to maintain financial clarity. In some cases (such as prepayment for car rentals), payments may need to be coordinated through the organizer, but otherwise, individual payment is preferable.

Final Recommendation:

We recommend that all team members have their full amount of funds raised latest one week before traveling out. This ensures that no participant is financially dependent on the group once on the mission field, thus avoiding any potential financial strain.

The accurate budgeting falls under the responsibility of the leader of the group. **If you as the leader are considerably able to budget under the suggested amounts, you are welcomed to do so.**

Unused Funds

If participants will need less money than they originally fundraised for the trip according to the given budgeting, they are encouraged to save the surplus for future youth crusades they can already commit for or donate it for CfaN book printing for next teams doing youth crusades.