



'26 PRACTICUM CATALOG

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH

SPRING BREAK ■ MAY ■ SUMMER

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PRACTICUM POLICIES FOR 2025/2026

Practicum is a required element of the FRCS junior/senior high curriculum. Parents and students should review the information in this packet. Please pay attention to the Practicum Policies and timeframes when deciding which Practicum is best for your son or daughter.

DECISION

Take time to carefully consider all the options. Practicum is designed for all students grades 7-12. Pray with your son or daughter and discuss which Practicum options are best suited for him or her at this time. As you pray and discuss, please consider the costs, student interest, activity level, and the medical needs, if any, of your student.

Practicum options are organized into three categories:

- **Academic:** extending classroom learning into real-world experiences
- **Advocacy:** serving others through discipleship and community care
- **AWE (Adventure, Wilderness, Exploration):** building resilience, character, and awe of God in creation

PRACTICUM INFORMATION NIGHT

A Practicum information night is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, from 6:30-7:30pm in the PAC. At this gathering, we'll discuss all Practicum experiences, answer questions, and help families make informed choices.

We *strongly recommend* that any family considering a Practicum **costing more than \$500** plan to attend this event. Your presence ensures that you and your student can make the clearest and most confident choices possible before submitting your form.

FORM DEADLINE

The Practicum "top choices" form is due **October 28, 2025**. Forms turned in after this date are considered late. Late forms are assigned *after* all others, in the order they were received. Students who do not turn in a form will be contacted and, in agreement with their parent, assigned to a Practicum group with available space.

PRACTICUM FEES

Costs and fees listed in the options packet are estimated to the best of our ability based on prices at the time the options were created. If adjustments must be made due to price changes when tickets are booked or other factors beyond our control, families will be notified promptly.

Non-refundable deposits are required for any Practicum option costing \$500 or more to secure a student's spot. These deposits allow leaders to make necessary reservations. Students and families must be current on tuition and fees before final assignments are made.

Payment schedules are sent by Practicum leaders once rosters are finalized. The basic overview of payment timing will be based on the **scheduled date of the Practicum**. For example:

- **Spring Break:** \$500 deposit required after placement confirmation in mid-November, with remaining balance due by early February.
- **May:** \$500 deposit required after placement confirmation in mid-November, with remaining balance due by early April.
- **Summer:** \$500 deposit required after placement confirmation in mid-November, with remaining balance due by early April.

All Practicum payments will be charged to each family's **FACTS account** on the specified payment dates. When a charge is posted, families will receive an invoice notification, and the amount will be **auto-drafted from the account 10 days after the charge date**.

If payments are not received by the specified deadlines, the student may be reassigned to a less expensive, local Practicum option to ensure the school does not incur unpaid expenses.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

International Practicums (e.g., Poland, India, Japan) have specific eligibility requirements due to the nature of the trip. Considerations include:

- Age and maturity
- Christian testimony
- Previous cross-cultural experience
- Behavior in school and extracurricular activities

Leaders and administration will review student interests to ensure readiness for these opportunities.

A valid passport is required for all international Practicums.

PRACTICUM ASSIGNMENTS

Practicum assignments are made by the Practicum Committee based on:

- Grade level priority (12 → 11 → 10 → 9 and 8 → 7)
- Spring sports athlete schedules
- Timeliness of submission

Families should rank Practicum options in order of preference. Final placement will be based on both preference and availability.

Minimum numbers apply: If a Practicum does not reach the minimum student requirement, it may be cancelled. Students from that group will be reassigned to their next available choice.

All practicums and their listed activities are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances, changes beyond our control, or acts of God.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Practicum is a graduation requirement and students are expected to fully participate.

Absences for medical or family emergencies must be communicated to the Practicum leader and school administration in advance when possible.

Students are expected to follow all school behavior expectations during Practicum, as described in the Family Handbook. Inappropriate behavior may result in dismissal from the trip and additional school consequences.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Parents must update medical and emergency forms prior to Practicum.

Medications will be handled according to school policy, and leaders will carry emergency contact information for all students.

Activity levels vary; families should choose a Practicum that matches the student's physical ability.

COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT

Practicum leaders will provide detailed itineraries, packing lists, and trip information in the months leading up to the experience.

Parents will receive payment reminders and updates as needed.

FINAL NOTES

Practicum is a distinctive element of FRCS, designed to grow students as Christian scholars, servants, and adventurers. Each experience—whether local, national, or international provides opportunities for discipleship, leadership, and encountering God in new ways. We encourage families to prayerfully engage this process with both excitement and responsibility.

JUNIOR HIGH OPTIONS

EXPERIENCE COLORADO DAY TRIPS

Focus: Academics, Advocacy, AWE

Location: Various Colorado cities and towns

Lead Faculty: Leah Pirozzi

Price: \$150

Activity Level: High; must be comfortable and confident hiking with lots of walking each day

Dates: May 15, May 18-21 (Friday, Monday-Thursday); no overnights



At a Glance

This practicum option gives students a chance to encounter the rich history, natural beauty, and community needs of our state. From the Rockies to downtown Denver, students will experience a variety of cultural and outdoor adventures, connecting what they learn to faith and service. Each day includes a debrief session where students reflect on stories they've discovered and the stories they are writing through their own experiences. By the end of the week, students will have a deeper appreciation for Colorado and the call to serve its people.

Experience Highlights

- Visit the Museum of Illusions - explore the science and art behind optical illusions
- Volunteer at Movement 5280 or help clean up Bear Creek to serve the community
- Discover hands-on science, innovation and sustainability at CSU Spur
- Climb the lookout trail during a Devil's Head hike
- Learn more about Colorado gold mining in Idaho Springs and eat classic Colorado pizza at Beau Jo's

Practical Details (what's included)

- Venue tickets and daily activities
- One meal per day (some sack lunches required)
- Transportation by volunteer drivers

Final Note

Transportation volunteers are needed. P3 hours will be awarded to parents who participate.

EXPERIENCE COLORADO OVERNIGHT: WILDERNESS SURVIVAL AND CAMPING 101

Focus: Academics, Advocacy, AWE

Location: Southern Colorado Mountains

Lead Faculty: Paul Lowe

Price: \$300

Activity Level: Intermediate; must be comfortable with tent camping, hiking at elevation, and teamwork in outdoor conditions

Dates: May 15 (Friday, gear prep and packing) May 18-21 (Monday-Thursday, 3-nights camping)



At a Glance

This overnight camping practicum invites students to step into the wilderness and grow in resilience, teamwork, and stewardship of God's creation. Students will practice survival skills and learn about the history and culture of the Southern Ute tribes, connecting cultural learning with practical outdoor training. Days are filled with hiking, camping, and devotionals that build both confidence and character. By the end of the trip, students will return with a greater appreciation for creation and their place in it.

Experience Highlights

- Practice wilderness survival and "Leave No Trace" camping
- Learn to pack, set up, and tear down camp
- Explore the history and culture of the Southern Ute
- Participate in daily hikes, devotionals, and group reflections

Practical Details (what's included)

- Food and tents
- Students should bring pad, cold-weather bag, and hiking boots
- Transportation by parent volunteers

Final Note

Students will need to provide their own outdoor gear for this practicum (sleeping pad, cold-weather sleeping bag, hiking boots/gear). Tents and food will be provided.

WASHINGTON D.C.

Focus: Academics

Location: The country's capital

Lead Faculty: Robyn Wise

Price: Approximately \$2,400

Activity Level: Moderate-High; extensive walking required! Students are encouraged to bring two pairs of comfortable walking shoes.

Dates: May 17-22 (Friday through Tuesday)



At a Glance

This capstone experience brings America's history and leadership to life for 8th graders.

Students will walk in the footsteps of presidents, soldiers, and reformers as they visit national memorials, museums, and historic battlefields. Along the way, they will reflect on themes of leadership, sacrifice, and freedom while bonding as a class community. The trip connects their study of U.S. history to lived experience, inviting them to see the story of our nation through the lens of faith, citizenship, and responsibility.

Experience Highlights

- National Memorials: Lincoln, WWII, Korean War
- Visit Arlington National Cemetery
- Visit the Smithsonian and Holocaust museums
- Visit the Museum of the Bible
- Tour the Gettysburg Battlefield

Practical Details (what's included)

- All travel (flights, chartered buses)
- Lodging: Accredited hotel (WorldStrides)
- All meals
- Venue tickets and activities

Final Note

This is an 8th grade trip that ties directly to the 8th Grade U.S. History & Government class.

SENIOR HIGH ACADEMIC OPTIONS

Learn, Experience, Connect

Academic Practicum options extend classroom learning into real-world, hands-on contexts. Students integrate faith, scholarship, and cultural experience to deepen their understanding of God's world.

ARTS OF COLORADO

Focus: Academics, AWE

Location: Denver Metro

Lead Faculty: JoEllen Nikkel

Price: \$300

Activity Level: Moderate

Dates: May 15 and 18-21; local, day experiences



At a Glance

Colorado's vibrant arts scene offers students the chance to encounter creativity in music, theatre, and the visual arts. This practicum includes concerts, performances, and museum visits, connecting students to both classical and contemporary expressions of beauty. Students will see how the arts reflect cultural values and how they can inspire worship and imagination. Each day provides opportunities to reflect on God as Creator and how His beauty is expressed through human creativity.

Experience Highlights

- Attend Littleton Symphony & Denver Philharmonic
- See the musical *Memphis*
- Visit DU's arts programs
- Tour the Denver Art Museum and Latin American Museum

Practical Details (what's included)

- One meal per day
- Travel: daily departure using FRCS vans

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS: AMERICA'S CRADLE OF LIBERTY

Focus: Academics

Location: Boston, Massachusetts

Lead Faculty: Philip Schulz

Price: \$1,200-\$1,500 (final price depends on airfare and number of students participating)

Activity Level: Moderate

Dates: May 15-21 (spring break)



At a Glance

Boston, one of America's most historic cities, becomes the classroom for this Practicum experience. Students will walk the Freedom Trail, visit universities, and experience firsthand the places where ideas of liberty, government, and faith were shaped. Each stop provides opportunities to reflect on the connection between faith and civic life, helping students see how Christian principles have influenced the nation's story. Beyond academics, the trip also includes cultural experiences that allow students to enjoy the character and charm of Boston today.

Experience Highlights

- Freedom Trail walking tour
- Visit Harvard University
- Explore the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
- Experience Boston culture

Practical Details (what's included)

- Flights
- Transportation
- All meals
- Lodging (either Gordon College or hotel)

DESIGN AND INNOVATION IN AUSTIN, TEXAS (SPRING BREAK)

Focus: Academics

Location: Austin, TX

Lead Faculty: Cara Matthies

Price: \$1,400-1,700 (final price depends on airfare and number of students participating)

Activity Level: Moderate; walking and full days

Dates: March 19-27 (Thursday-following Friday)



At a Glance

This practicum brings creativity and problem-solving to life as students explore design and innovation. Students will engage with professors, innovators, and entrepreneurs to see how faith and creativity intersect in real-world applications. Workshops, site visits, and a collaborative design challenge push students to think critically, work as a team, and apply their ideas. The week provides a unique blend of academic rigor and practical exploration that connects classroom learning to the wider world.

Experience Highlights

- Visits to design firms and Austin landmarks
- Collaborative mini-design challenge
- Reflection on faith and technology
- Explore the unique features and cultures of Austin TX (Barton Springs pool, South Congress Ave, Mount Bonell)

Practical Details (what's included)

- Airfare and ground shuttles
- Lodging: hotel/campus housing
- All meals included

STEM SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Focus: Academics

Location: Seattle, WA

Lead Faculty: Kim Hammons

Price: \$1,400-\$1,700

Activity Level: Moderate

Dates: May 15-21 (Friday through Thursday)



At a Glance

Seattle's unique geography and industries make it the perfect setting for STEM exploration. Students will study science from land, sea, and air, with experiences ranging from aquariums to aerospace museums. Each activity connects back to God's creativity and design, showing how science reveals the wonder of creation. Students will return with a deeper understanding of the sciences and an appreciation for how discovery can draw us closer to the Creator.

Experience Highlights

- Visit the Space Needle & Science Center
- Explore the Museum of Flight
- Take in the Puget Sound Aquarium
- Enjoy whale watching

Practical Details (what's included)

- Flights and ground transportation
- Lodging (hotel)
- All meals
- Entry to exhibits and activities

TOPIC OF OUR TIME: RESILIENCE

Focus: Academics
Location: Colorado
Lead Faculty: Jeremy Wall
Price: \$150
Activity Level: Varied
Dates: May 15, 18-21 (day outings, no overnights)



At a Glance

This practicum option explores how humans across cultures, communities, and contexts respond to adversity and grow stronger through it. Drawing from sociology, psychology, and Scripture, students will study the science and spirit of resilience. They'll see how communities adapt after crisis, how individuals rebuild after loss, and how faith and mindset influence perseverance.

Through outdoor challenges, cultural immersion, and conversations with leaders who have overcome hardship, students will examine what it means to flourish under pressure. Academic lessons will integrate readings, research, and reflections that connect to lived experiences, encouraging students to build their own “resilience toolkit.”

Experience Highlights

- **Outdoor Challenge:** Students will face physical adversity together through a multi-day outdoor experience (hiking, ropes course, or rock climbing), learning how teamwork and mindset affect endurance.
- **Cultural Immersion:** Visit communities that exemplify resilience—e.g., areas recovering from disaster, or ministries serving vulnerable populations.
- **Interviews with Resilient Leaders:** Hear firsthand stories from veterans, pastors, athletes, and entrepreneurs who model perseverance and purpose.

Practical Details (what's included)

- Honoraria
- Transportation
- Lunches
- Activities

INDIA: IMMERSION & EDUCATION (SUMMER; 12-DAYS)

Focus: Academics and Advocacy

Location: Various locations in India

Lead Faculty: Momentum Global

Price: \$3,300-\$3,700

Activity Level: High: students engage fully in physical, spiritual, and emotional activities. Pre-trip team meetings prepare students in leadership, teamwork, and cross-cultural readiness.

Dates: May 27-June 7



At a Glance

This practicum invites students to step into another culture and experience the heart of God's mission in the world. Partnering with Momentum Global, students will work alongside local leaders to serve marginalized communities through education, outreach, and summer camp ministry. Each day blends service with reflection, as students share Bible stories, worship together, and build cross-cultural friendships. More than a mission trip, this experience transforms perspectives, helping students grow in faith, humility, and love for the nations.

Experience Highlights

- Host a Summer Camp for underprivileged children
- Daily worship, devotionals, and reflection times
- Build meaningful cross-cultural relationships with families and local leaders
- Witness firsthand the impact of education, healthcare, and vocational training
- Experience Indian culture through food, traditions, and guided cultural tours

Practical Details (what's included)

- Round-trip international flights and private local transportation
- Visa processing and support and comprehensive travel insurance; Passport required
- Hotel accommodations and all meals and safe water
- Participation in service projects and guided cultural experiences

Final Notes

This practicum option stretches students spiritually and emotionally. Those who invest deeply will return with lasting friendships and a life-changing perspective on God's work in the world.

SENIOR HIGH ADVOCACY OPTIONS

Stewardship, Service, Discipleship

Advocacy Practicum options give students the chance to live out Jesus' command to love God and neighbor. Through hands-on service, students grow as disciples who bring hope and transformation to their communities and the world.

DISCIPLESHIP MOTORS

Focus: Advocacy

Location: Local (Mr. Cooper's shop and partner agencies)

Lead Faculty: David Cooper

Price: none

Activity Level: Moderate; hands-on service and technical learning

Dates: ~May 15 and 18-21



At a Glance

Discipleship Motors equips students with practical skills while cultivating a servant's heart. Under the guidance of Mr. Cooper, students will learn the basics of motor repair and maintenance, working on actual cars that will later be donated to families in need. Each day combines problem-solving, teamwork, and hands-on service, reminding students that even mechanical skills can become an avenue of discipleship. Students will leave with new knowledge and the experience of blessing others in meaningful and lasting ways.

Experience Highlights

- Learn basic car engine and motor repair
- Diagnose and fix real vehicles
- Complete projects for donation to families/agencies

Practical Details (what's included)

- Tools and safety gear provided
- Student should wear work clothes

Final Note

Service hours contribute directly to community discipleship.

POLAND: YOUTH MINISTRY OUTREACH & EUROPEAN HISTORY (SPRING BREAK)

Focus: Advocacy, Academics

Location: Poland

Lead Faculty: Christina Zudock

Price: \$2,350-2,750

Activity Level: Moderate to high:

International travel with extensive walking, outreach includes sports and active youth ministry games

Dates: March 19-27; Spring break



At a Glance

This practicum option combines service and scholarship, offering students the chance to engage in youth ministry while exploring the rich history and culture of Poland. In partnership with Josiah Venture, students will plan and participate in outreach activities with a Polish youth group, forming friendships and sharing their faith across cultures. Alongside service, students will visit significant historical sites, gaining insight into Europe's medieval past, the tragedies of WWII, and life under communism. The practicum invites students to grow spiritually while also broadening their worldview, experiencing how the global Church reflects the beauty and diversity of Christ's kingdom.

Experience Highlights

- Organize and lead a youth outreach in Wrocław, Poland
- Attend a Polish church service and visit missionary homes
- Explore Kraków: Wawel Castle, St. Mary's Basilica, and historic Old Town
- Tour Auschwitz, the German Nazi concentration camp
- Build cross-cultural relationships with Polish teens and missionaries

Practical Details (what's included)

- In-country accommodations, meals, transportation.
- Costs for youth outreach and ministry supplies.
- Entrance fees and tour guides for historical sites.
- Airfare (\$800–\$1,000 included in total estimate).

Final Note

Spiritual growth and discipleship are core to this trip, with daily devotionals and reflection included. Passport required.

THRIVECARE

Focus: Advocacy

Location: Local

Lead Faculty: Brian Gehr

Price: none

Activity Level: Moderate: outdoor service and light construction

Dates: May 15 and 18-21 (no overnights)



At a Glance

ThriveCare extends the spirit of our weekly service program into a full, immersive week. Students will take part in projects that meet practical needs—yardwork, home repairs, and building garden boxes—while forming connections with families in the FRCS community. Each day provides a balance of work, reflection, and fellowship, showing students that discipleship is lived out through simple but powerful acts of service. By the end of the week, students will see how ordinary tools and tasks can become extraordinary opportunities to love others.

Experience Highlights

- Yard work and home maintenance
- Build and maintain garden boxes
- Serve ThriveCare community members

Practical Details (what's included)

- Gloves and tools provided
- Travel: school vans/personal

Final Note

Encourages students to see discipleship as daily service.

SENIOR HIGH AWE OPTIONS

Adventure, Character, Community

AWE Practicum options immerse students in God’s creation through challenge, beauty, and awe. These experiences build resilience, community, and spiritual depth as students encounter the Creator in the wonder of His world.

AWE IN THE DESERT

Focus: AWE

Location: Moab, UT

Lead Faculty: Kevin O’Melia

Price: \$250

Activity Level: High: hiking, climbing, swimming, camping, exposure to heights

Dates: May 18-21



At a Glance

The red rock canyons of Moab provide the backdrop for one of FRCS’s most adventurous practicums. Students will hike, climb, paddle, and journal as they immerse themselves in the beauty and challenge of the Utah desert. Each activity—whether canyoneering, rock climbing, or sketching an arch at sunset—becomes a chance to grow in courage, creativity, and resilience. This practicum emphasizes awe and wonder as students push their limits, experience the vastness of God’s creation, and reflect together on His presence in wild places.

Experience Highlights

- Stand-up paddle boarding on the Colorado River
- Rock climbing and canyoneering
- Hiking Arches & Canyon Lands
- Journaling, sketching, and photography

Practical Details (what’s included)

- Lodging: Tent camping (3 nights)
- Travel: School vans
- Meals included

JAPAN SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING (SPRING BREAK)

Focus: AWE

Location: Japan

Lead Faculty: Jeremy Wall

Price: \$2,500-3,000

Activity Level: High: multiple days of skiing/snowboarding in winter conditions

Dates: March 19-27 (spring break)



At a Glance

Students will travel across the world to experience the thrill of skiing and snowboarding on some of the best slopes in Japan. Beyond adventure, this practicum immerses students in Japanese culture through food, hospitality, and history. Students will also engage in daily devotionals and group reflections, exploring themes of perseverance, awe, and God's beauty in creation. This trip combines athletic challenge, cultural learning, and spiritual growth in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Experience Highlights

- Skiing/snowboarding at Niseko
- Tokyo sightseeing and cultural tours
- Traditional Japanese food and community life
- Group devotions on perseverance and awe

Practical Details (what's included)

- Flights + ground transportation
- Lodging: Ski hotels or group housing
- Meals included
- Gear: Students bring/purchase ski/snowboard equipment (rentals available)
- Passport required

PADDLE-BOARDING, REFLECTION, AND AWE

Focus: AWE

Location: Various outdoor locations around Colorado

Lead Faculty: Coree Snyder

Price: \$90

Activity Level: Moderate; students must swim confidently

Dates: May 15 and 18-21 (no overnights)



At a Glance

This practicum option combines outdoor adventure with spiritual formation, inviting students to step onto the water and into God's presence. Students will learn the fundamentals of stand-up paddle-boarding, practice balance and courage, and discover the joy of stillness in creation. Guided Christian meditations will connect physical rhythm with spiritual rhythm, helping students see God's sustaining power in the calm and the challenge. By the end of the week, students will have gained both practical skills and deeper habits of reflection.

Experience Highlights

- Learn SUP safety, balance, and skills training
- Paddle on pristine lakes and river sections
- Experience guided reflections on God's creation

Practical Details (what's included)

- Gear: SUP, paddle, and PFD required (borrow/rent options available)
- Travel: School vans or parent drivers

Final Note

Designed as an introduction to both SUP and spiritual stillness.

WILDLIFE AND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Focus: AWE

Location: Various outdoor locations around Colorado

Lead Faculty: Collin Sutherland

Price: \$90

Activity Level: Moderate; walking and light hiking while carrying camera gear

Dates: May 15 and 18-21 (no overnights)



At a Glance

This practicum option invites students to slow down, observe carefully, and see God's creation through the lens of a camera. While exploring Colorado's diverse habitats, students will learn how to frame, light, and capture the wonder of wildlife, nature and landscapes. More than photography, this practicum develops attentiveness, patience, and the ability to find awe in the ordinary. Students will pair technical training with journaling and reflection, discovering how creativity can lead to worship.

Experience Highlights

- Wildlife, nature and landscape photography skills training
- Birding, small mammal, and ecosystem observation
- Journaling and creative reflection

Practical Details (what's included)

- Students bring cameras (DSLR, mirrorless, or phone acceptable)
- Transportation: School vans/personal

Final Note

No prior photography experience necessary.