



# McCurdy Ministries

## VIM Team Member Handbook

Revised March 2025

**We are excited you are interested in volunteering at McCurdy Ministries! This handbook was created to help you plan an excellent trip to New Mexico. As you read or complete each form or training, please use this list to check off the required items to ensure you have completed everything needed for your trip. The following items are included:**

- \_\_\_ General information
- \_\_\_ Things we need our volunteers to know
- \_\_\_ Guidelines for VIM Teams
- \_\_\_ Local points of interest
- \_\_\_ Background Check process
- \_\_\_ McCurdy Safe Sanctuaries Training Instructions
- \_\_\_ VIM Skills Survey (online)

### Required Forms:

- \_\_\_ VIM Team Member Application (online)
- \_\_\_ Medical and Liability Release Form (online)
- \_\_\_ Parental Consent Form (for youth only – page 7)

**Online registration forms are located on the McCurdy website VOLUNTEER tab: [www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org).**

## History

United Brethren Deaconess Mellie Perkins founded McCurdy School in 1912 with four Hispanic students in Velarde, just north of Española. Over the next century, McCurdy educated thousands of outstanding students, including many who became doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, scientists, counselors, and engineers. McCurdy has been at its current location in Santa Cruz since 1915. Through the years, additional properties and buildings were added to the campus. Maintaining our buildings and our ministries provides opportunities for Work Teams to make significant contributions to our mission. The help of our volunteers lifts our hearts, helps carry our load, and makes a difference for our children, youth, adults, and families as well as saves us thousands of dollars in maintenance and program costs each year.

In August of 2012, we launched the McCurdy Charter School (MCS), a public school which currently has 560+ students and is directly responsible to the New Mexico Public Education Department. Then in 2017, McCurdy helped the charter school build their own campus on our western boundary and at the same time we became **McCurdy Ministries Community Center (now McCurdy Ministries)**.

The programs and ministries we provide include:

- Pre-K (free program)
- After School Care (low-cost program)
- Project Cariño (mental health counseling)
- Camp Stars (6-week VBS/STEM summer camp)
- Family Resource Center
- LEER Children’s Literacy Initiative
- The Light House (clothing bank)
- Volunteer programs

We changed our name to McCurdy Ministries because we are expanding our ministries and programs to help children, youth, adults, and families in the Española Valley and opened the McCurdy Family Resource Center in the fall of 2024. We also have expanded our Volunteers in Mission Program to include mission trips, long term volunteers, and retreat ministries all year long.

Our ministry is rapidly changing and expanding so it is an exciting time for our volunteers to plan a VIM trip to McCurdy! Our programs are based on our Christian faith and our desire to be the hands of Christ to Española

Valley children and their families. McCurdy Ministries' mission is to **“create hope and empower the lives of children, youth, adults, and families through education, life skills, and faith-based programs.”**

## **United Methodist Churches in Española**

Valley View UMC and Santa Cruz UMC are the two United Methodist Churches in Española, and they love to welcome volunteers to their Sunday morning worship services.

## **New Mexico natural, historical, cultural, and scientific opportunities**

One of the wonderful aspects of McCurdy Ministries' setting is the opportunity to interact with nature as well as the Spanish, Native American, and Anglo cultures, history, art, and science. The Española Valley is surrounded on the east by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and on the west by the Jemez Mountains. Flowing through the valley is the Rio Grande River. The mountains and rivers provide wonderful opportunities for hiking, rafting, and enjoyment of God's creation. If you plan to take your group on a hike, please ensure that you have experienced leaders, maps, water, ponchos, food, and first aid supplies for everyone's safety. There are a number of river rafting companies based out of Taos (45-minute drive) that can ensure a fun yet safe experience on the river for your group. Santa Fe (30-minute drive) and Taos are both wonderful sites with historical, cultural, art, and dining opportunities for your group. Los Alamos (30-minute drive) is one of the scientific centers of our nation. On your afternoons and evenings off, our VIM Teams are urged to visit nearby historic and cultural sites to learn about our area. We encourage you to go to the New Mexico tourism site at [www.newmexico.org](http://www.newmexico.org) to learn more about the exciting places you can visit.

## **Mission and work**

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Teams are made up of adults and youth who stay at McCurdy for a week doing maintenance, repairs, improvements, administrative work, program support, and community service. Sometimes VIM Teams participate in off-campus projects at one of the local United Methodist churches. The requirements to be a volunteer are a willingness to serve and the skills and capacity to perform the necessary labor. If possible, we ask our VIM Teams to provide funds to help purchase materials for the projects on which they work. These projects may include construction, painting, cleaning, mowing, landscaping, and office or program work. Projects vary from year to year. Large groups often complete a project, while smaller groups do part of a project. ALL of our volunteers maintain and improve our programs and campus to help us better serve the people of the Española Valley.

## **Educational opportunities**

Volunteers will learn about our mission, history, and the people we have served since 1912. We share McCurdy Ministries' contribution to the religious, educational, and cultural life of northern New Mexico. While staying in the retreat center, eating, and working on our campus, our volunteers also will learn about our programming and the needs of the students, families, and community.

## **Your schedule**

The time you spend at McCurdy Ministries will be divided among work projects, fellowshiping with your team and our staff, learning about our mission, and visiting places of cultural and historic interest. Most work is done in the morning and early afternoon. The normal VIM Team Schedule is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, and Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 AM to noon. (Unless you are here during a holiday and then the holiday will be your free day, and your team will work the other days through 3:30.) This gives our volunteers ample time to visit local areas in Northern New Mexico. At 8:00 AM (following breakfast), participants gather in the living room of the Pilling Robinson Retreat Center to receive assignments for the day and to meet the McCurdy staff assigned to help our volunteers complete their projects. The day ends with the return of tools and materials to the maintenance shop at 3:00 PM. By this time, paintbrushes and any

dirty tools should be cleaned and supplies, especially paint cans, are to be closed and stored properly. Cleanup should be completed by 3:30 PM. Skilled workers may wish to use their own tools, and of course, this is encouraged. If you are in a position to donate tools and paint supplies, that would be wonderful! Once you complete the Team's Skills Survey online (at least two weeks before your arrival), we can be more specific about your work assignment so you can plan what tools to bring with you.

## Your preparation

We ask our volunteers to mentally, physically, and emotionally prepare for their time at McCurdy Ministries. You will:

- Do hard physical work and activity if you are able.
- Meet people with a different cultural outlook who may speak a different language than you do.
- Live under our house rules which may not be the rules at home.
- Work at high altitude in low humidity.
- Need to bring water bottles and sunscreen. Dehydration and sunburns happen quickly at our altitude.

## Drinking water concerns

The water on the McCurdy Ministries campus has uranium content higher than normal. It is safe to use, **but not safe to drink** and should not be used for cooking or making coffee. We recommend that VIM Teams purchase bottled water to drink while living and working on the campus. A 5-gallon bottled water dispenser is available in the Pilling-Robinson Retreat Center near the small kitchen. We ask VIM teams to consider refilling the water container, if used, prior to departing at the end of their mission week to help with the costs of the water..

## Guidelines for VIM Teams

**The VIM Leader and all the adults on the team are responsible for the welfare of the team. McCurdy staff will be your hosts** while you are on our campus. Our staff will give leadership to work projects, orient your group, and lead a tour of the campus. Please follow their guidance regarding team conduct. The maintenance staff is responsible for projects, tools, and materials. Please follow their directions. If you do not understand their directions, please talk with the Maintenance Director immediately.

## Campus rules and regulations

***ALL adults and youth are expected to observe the following campus rules and regulations.***

1. **Every adult volunteer age 19 and over and every youth age 15-18** needs to complete a **Safe Gatherings Training or your Conferences approved equivalent**. Your Team Leader needs to send your McCurdy Verification of Safe Gatherings Training form or the equivalent background check form and training to **Eufemia Romero at least two weeks before your arrival on campus**. The link for this training can be found at **www.mccurdy.org** on the **VOLUNTEER** tab at the top of the webpage or check with your team leader for your approved training site. This training is good for two years from date of certificate.
2. We encourage your team to have daily devotionals, group worship, prayer time, journaling time, and/or reflection time while on our campus.
3. The adult to youth ratio for a Volunteers in Mission Team is one adult to every four youth. The Team Leader and adults are responsible for the youth at all times whether youth are at a meal, working, in the retreat center, or visiting a tourist attraction.
4. Quiet hours at the retreat center are from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM.
5. Please use the front doors of retreat center only. Other entrances are emergency exits. This is a security measure to protect you and your belongings.
6. Be on time for all meals, meetings, and activities.
7. In case of illness or injury, no matter how slight, report immediately to the nearest team leader.

8. Wear head covering during the day to protect from sunstroke. DRINK A LOT OF WATER and wear sunscreen!
9. Wear comfortable and protective closed-toed shoes on work projects. For your safety, you will not be allowed to work in flip-flops, sandals, or bare feet.

## Check in and check out procedures

1. The Pilling Robinson Retreat Center is located on the left-hand side of McCurdy Road, about ¼ mile from State Road 76. There is an 'entrance only' sign and a red gate. The gate will be open for you so that you can park in front of the retreat center which is on the right.
2. Groups are responsible for any damage to the facilities. If you note any damage, report it at once to our volunteer manager or maintenance director.
3. The first day, one or two team members may be asked to do the laundry from the previous week's teams. Laundry facilities are in the north and south wings of the retreat center. If volunteers desire to do laundry while at McCurdy, there is a 50-cent charge to wash and 50-cent charge to dry for each load for personal laundry.
4. **At check-out time**, place used linens, including pillow protector, sheets, pillowcase, towels, mattress pads, bathmat, bath rug and quilt/bedspread in the containers/baskets at the entryway of the north and east wings. Restack clean linens from the linen closet and cover with the quilt/bedspread. Place clean bathmat and bath rug on the side of the cleaned tub. Sweep and mop bedroom and bathroom, clean toilet, and tub. Empty trash. Leave doors unlocked. Make sure lights and fans are off, windows shut, and toilet is not running. Leave keys on the counter between the closet doors.
5. You can receive mail while your group is at McCurdy. Mail arrives at the business office Monday through Friday. The mailing address at McCurdy is: your name, group name or name of your church, c/o McCurdy Ministries, 362A S McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.
6. The retreat center's phone number is (505) 753-7221, ext. 232.

## What to bring

- **Personal:** Bring your personal toiletries (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, drinking cups, cosmetics, medications, sunscreen, etc.) Bedding and towels are provided.
- **Clothing:** Bring work clothes that will stand up to paint, mud, dust, and abrasion. Jackets, slacks/jeans, and long sleeve shirts may be needed for the cool evenings. You also should bring a hat and sunglasses. Shorts are permitted but not short shorts or cropped shirts.
- **Shoes:** Bring comfortable, closed toe, protective shoes for your time on campus. While sandals may be great for tourist activities, closed-toe shoes are required on campus.
- **Health Issues:** All volunteers are required to fill out the Medical and Liability Release Form which is located on the VOLUNTEER tab of the McCurdy website: [www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org).
- **Equipment:** We recommend you bring your own work gloves, a water bottle, flashlight, Bible, pencil/pen and paper, camera, musical instruments, games, and binoculars (for sightseeing).
- **Pool Information:** There is one outdoor swimming pool in Española. (Cutoffs are not allowed). Pool fees are your personal responsibility. There are no swimming facilities on the McCurdy property.

## Dress code

We ask that you comply with the McCurdy Ministries dress code while on our campus. This dress code applies to adults as well as youth. Pants must be worn at the waistline. Shorts must not be shorter than mid-thigh. Mesh shirts, cutoff tops, tank tops, spaghetti strap tops, and exposed sports bras/tube tops are not allowed. No skin should show in the midriff or back. Please do not wear clothing that displays words or symbols about drugs, alcohol, tobacco, violence, racism, death, or satanic symbols. Women are asked to use modesty when it comes to the neckline of tops. Also, camouflage clothing is not allowed.

## Emergency phone numbers

- Española Hospital, main number 505-753-7111
- Aspen Urgent/Walk-in-Care 505-747-6939
- Pharmacies: Wal-Mart 505-747-0427 6
- Walgreen's Drug Stores 505-753-7005
- CVS Pharmacy 505-367-3594
- Española Police 911

## Local points of interest

***Please note all entrance fees are the responsibility of the participants. Time estimates are for round trips.***

- **Pueblos:** San Juan, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Picuris, Taos, and Nambé (half to full day) When Native American ceremonies are held, we encourage visiting groups to take the afternoon off to observe the dances. Pictures are usually not allowed ~ you must have permission from the pueblo, or your camera will be confiscated.
- **Chimayo:** Hispanic weaving and Santuario de Chimayo (2 to 3 hours)
- **Bandelier National Monument:** cliff dwellings and hiking trails (half day)
- **Los Alamos:** the atomic city, Bradbury Science Museum (3 hours)
- **Santa Fe:** oldest continuously occupied capital in the new world, numerous museums, shops, galleries, and restaurants (half day)
- **Taos:** Taos has galleries, shops, museums, and restaurants and is a Spanish colonial town. Taos Pueblo is a few miles north of town (half day)
- **Truchas-Trampas-Penasco:** high road to Taos, Hispanic mountain villages and scenery (half day)
- **Ghost Ranch:** museum, hiking trail, labyrinth, Abiquiu and Echo Amphitheater (half day)
- **Pecos wilderness:** high mountain hikes (one day)
- **Jemez Pueblo and Springs:** high country trip (one day)
- **Los Luceros Ranch:** officially designated as a New Mexico Historic Site, the picturesque 148-acre ranch is located north of Alcalde on the east bank of the Río Grande (2 to 3 hours)
- **Puya Cliff Dwellings:** 8 miles from McCurdy with beautifully preserved ruins.
- **La Loma Vista Cemetery:** Located in front of Alcalde United Methodist Church, many former McCurdy teachers, staff and superintendents are interred at this site.

**Restaurants:** There are a wide variety of fast food and dine in restaurants in Española, as well as several that serve good Northern New Mexico cuisine.

## **McCurdy Ministries Volunteer Covenant Agreement**

***To be filled out by each team participant and kept in the Team Leader's possession throughout the trip.***

The following commitment is crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and positive expression of our work together. As a participating member of a McCurdy Ministries VIM Team, I agree to:

1. Support my team leader and their decisions.
2. Respect the host's religious views, realizing that different people have different expressions of faith.
3. Accept the ministry that is going on in the area where I am serving as well as the local approach to the mission, though it may differ from my own approach.
4. Strive for harmony among team members, McCurdy staff, and the people we serve, keeping in mind local conditions and customs. To do this, I will treat others better than I would like to be treated. I will be sensitive to the local societal customs and laws, use common sense and good judgment in all things, be considerate, tolerant, open minded, and patient with other people, customs, beliefs, and needs.
5. Abstain from using alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, profanity, wearing inappropriate clothing, and engaging in other objectionable behavior, from the time of my departure until my return home.
6. Refrain from negativism and complaining. Travel and ministry outside my church may present unexpected and even undesired circumstances. However, my support and creativity will improve the situation.
7. Refrain from gossip. If it is not true, good, and positive, I will not say it.
8. Be flexible. Due to unforeseen circumstances or emergencies the work you are assigned to do may change.

I understand that team members must be cheerful, cooperative, flexible, and patient. I agree to cooperate with the team leader(s) and McCurdy Ministries' staff concerning our life together, including daily assignments, food, lodging, transportation, and any other activities involving the team as a whole. I agree to stay with the team from the beginning to end of the trip (except as excused by the team leader), and to abstain from the use of alcohol and tobacco while on the mission trip.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**When completed please give this signed form to your Team Leader for his/her records.**

# Parental/Guardian Release of Liability and Consent Form

**Print this form, complete the information, have your signature notarized, and give it to your Team Leader.**

The consent must have signatures of parent(s) or guardian(s) (even if divorced or separated). If one parent accompanies the youth, the other parent must sign this form. If one parent is deceased, attach a copy of the death certificate. If there is only one guardian, then one signature will suffice.

We/I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of (minor child's name) \_\_\_\_\_ give our child, a minor residing at (full home address) \_\_\_\_\_, permission to accompany a

**Volunteer in Mission Team to McCurdy Ministries in Española, NM**, and participate as a member of the group. We acknowledge that we are allowing our child to participate entirely upon our own initiative, risk, and responsibility. We have been advised and understand that the group may be exposed to some risks. Those risks may involve accidents while working or travelling and illness from geographic features such as high altitude, which may have a deleterious effect on persons with heart conditions or respiratory diseases. The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of risks that may arise but is illustrative of some types of risks that may be faced. This release covers all rights and actions of every kind, nature, and description, which the undersigned ever had, now has or but for this release, may have. This release binds the undersigned and his/her heirs, representatives, and assignees.

We further expressly authorize and consent to any x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment, and/or hospital care under the general or special supervision, and on the advice of, a licensed physician, surgeon, anesthesiologist, dentist, or other qualified medical personnel acting under their supervision, for our child, should the same become necessary because of illness or injury.

I specifically authorize a physician or other appropriate medical professional to treat my child's (name particular ailment) \_\_\_\_\_ by performing (list particular procedure) \_\_\_\_\_ and by prescribing (list medication name and dosage) \_\_\_\_\_ and providing such prescription to my child for treatment.

Now therefore, in consideration of the permission extended to our child to participate in the VIM Team trip, we do hereby for ourselves, our child, and our heirs, executors, and administrators, remise, release, and forever discharge the team leader(s) (leader name) \_\_\_\_\_, McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico (Trade name McCurdy Ministries) and its employees and board of trustees, as well as all other participants and sponsors of said trip, acting officially or otherwise, from all claims, demands, actions or causes of action of any kind, including the death of our child or any injury to our child or loss or damage to property which may occur from any cause during the trip, as well as all ground and flight travel incident to such trip.

It is our intention by this document to consent to our child's participation in the trip, to consent to allow the team leader(s) (leader name) \_\_\_\_\_ to act in loco parentis (in the place of a parent) for the duration of the mission trip, and to waive and forego all right of action by ourselves and our child against the parties herein before named.

_____	_____
Parent/guardian	Parent/guardian
_____	_____
(Full home address)	(Full home address)
.....	

**Notarization of Liability, Medical, and Information Release Form**

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ PARISH OR COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (year), before me personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ to me known to be the same person described in and who executed the within instrument, and who acknowledged the same to be the free act and deed thereof.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, \_\_\_\_\_ Parish or County \_\_\_\_\_  
State of \_\_\_\_\_ My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_



# Adult Individual Application

Adults volunteering in Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams need to fill out the forms below to register. This is to be filled out by each team participant. The Team Leader will receive a copy which should be kept in their possession throughout the trip. The Team Leader should also leave a copy of this form with their church in the event of an emergency.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

First and Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Service Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Team Service End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies and interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Missions experience and location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to participate? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your state of physical and emotional health (the project and trip will include rigorous activity). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything the team leader(s) should know regarding your health (allergies, diet, etc.)?

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# EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

**Primary contact in case of emergency:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to team member: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION YOU WISH TO ADD IF AN EMERGENCY ARISES:

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**Secondary contact in case of emergency:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to team member: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION YOU WISH TO ADD IF AN EMERGENCY ARISES:

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# McCurdy Ministries Medical and Liability Release Form

Each adult from your mission team must complete the Medical and Liability Release Form below.

## MEDICAL RELEASE

In the event that I am unable to make medical decisions for myself,

I, \_\_\_\_\_ authorize \_\_\_\_\_  
*(First, Middle, Last Name)* *(Team Leader Name)*

to consent to any necessary examination, anesthetic, medical diagnosis, surgery, treatment, and/or hospital care rendered to me under the general or special supervision and on the advice of any physician or surgeon licensed to practice medicine by the state in which they practice, during the duration of the trip identified in this form.

VIM Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Service Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Team Service End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Provider: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ Blood Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications (include name and dosage): \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you have Diabetes? No Yes

Do you experience seizures? No Yes

Describe any physical limitation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Additional Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

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## LIABILITY RELEASE

The undersigned releases and agrees to hold harmless McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico (trade name is McCurdy Ministries), and any related agency, conference, district, local church, member, employee, or agent, from any liability, injury, damages, loss, accidents, delay, or irregularity related to the undersigned individual's planned participation or involvement in the above-named McCurdy Ministries VIM Team Project. The undersigned has been advised and understands that the project may involve risks to participants. Those risks may involve accidents while working or travelling, and illness due to geographic features such as high altitude, which may have a deleterious effect on persons with heart conditions or respiratory diseases. The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of risks that may arise but is illustrative of some types of risks that may be faced. This release covers all rights and actions of every kind, nature, and description, which the undersigned ever had, now has or but for this release, may have. This release binds the undersigned and their heirs, representatives, and assignees.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_