

So... Just What are “Church-service Missionaries”?

Current as of 3/24/2021, Changes can and will occur hereafter.

Church-service missionaries are members who serve the Church and the Lord for a designated period of time at a specified service location. CSMs usually live at home. This assignment is often in addition to their other ward or stake callings. Typically, they serve at least 8 hours per week for 6 to 24 months.

What are the qualifications to serve?

All Church-service missionaries must be worthy to hold a temple recommend and should have no minor children living at home. They must be physically, mentally, and emotionally able to fulfill the specific call and its related duties. Prospective missionaries must also provide their own transportation and financial support. Church-service missionaries are responsible for their own medical and dental needs, including eye-care and prescription drug expenses.

How do members initiate a mission call?

Instructions are provided and opportunities identified on the [Explore Opportunities](#) page.

What is the missionary calling process?

Description provided on the [Recommendation Process](#) page.

What is the term of a Church-service missionary?

The length of service may be determined by the needs of the position and the availability of the Church-service missionary. A missionary is generally called to serve from 6 to 24 months. Near the end of the assigned period, the term of service may be extended if the missionary wants to extend and the service is still needed. Each extension may vary in length up to 24 months.

What about other Church callings?

Church-service missionaries are encouraged to serve in ward or stake callings at the discretion of their local leaders, as long as their additional duties do not interfere with Church-service missionary assignments.

How do I get started?

[Review the service opportunities](#) on this website or any other source available.

Feel free to visit, ask questions about, and evaluate one or more service opportunities through the listed contact name and phone number. This allows you and the operation manager to

determine if the assignment is a good fit. Prayerfully consider the assignment to determine if it is consistent with your time, ability, and health.

Carefully complete the [online recommendation form](#).

As you consider a Church-service mission, prayerfully select an available position that complements your talents, abilities, and schedule.

[Explore Church-Service Mission Opportunities](#)

Possible Church-service Missions include:

- Helping Members Live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Distribution Center retail stores
- Church headquarters hosting
- Meetinghouse maintenance, inspection, and repair
- Church media support
- Seminaries and institutes student recruitment and enrollment
- Technical support
- Gathering Israel through Missionary Efforts
- Mission offices: administrative assistant, referral management, materials, office support
- Church media support
- Caring for the Poor and Needy
- Addiction recovery
- Bishop's storehouses
- Canneries
- Deseret Industries
- Employment resource centers
- Inner-city mission
- Enabling the Salvation of the Dead
- Family history research
- Family history data specialist
- FamilySearch indexing
- FamilySearch support

Service Missionaries

The following information relates to those in service missionary assignments. Service missionaries generally live at home, work 8–40 hours per week, and serve in their local area for 6–24 months. Some assignments may be filled by long-term volunteers (LTVs), who work fewer than 8 hours per week.

Preparation

You can prepare for your assignment physically and spiritually by getting regular physical exercise and studying the scriptures, general conference talks, and other Church materials, such as the Preach My Gospel manual.

If you have a desire to serve in an office assignment, you can develop or improve your skills with the Microsoft Office suite of software (Word, Excel, Outlook, and Internet Explorer in particular).

Expectations

General

As a service missionary, you can provide service to the Lord and His Church. You will receive a call from your stake president to be a service missionary and will be assigned to serve in specific operations of the Church.

However, you do not have to wait for a call; you can also volunteer to be considered for a service missionary position that interests you (see "Recommendation Process" below).

As a service missionary, you will serve under the direction of your stake president.

Only certain callings are considered for service missionary opportunities. Callings within your own stake to assist with activation efforts, or to help strengthen or minister to members in wards, are made by local leaders. These callings are not processed as service missionary calls, even if you are called to serve outside your home ward.

Worthiness and Callings

To be a service missionary, you must be a member of the Church who is worthy to hold a temple recommend. You do not have to be temple endowed in order to serve.

Service missionaries may also serve in a ward, stake, or temple calling if the calling does not interfere with their service missionary assignment.

Location

Service missionaries typically live at home while serving. Any exception to living at home must be approved by the Service Missionary office.

Long-term Volunteers

Some kinds of assignments may be filled by long-term volunteers (LTVs). Long-term volunteers differ from service missionaries in the following ways:

- Serve fewer than 8 hours a week for a specified 6-24 month service period.
- Do not require temple recommends unless it is necessary for the specific assignment.
- Need not be members of the Church.
- Require a bishop's recommendation and are typically invited by the bishop to serve.
- Do not wear name badges.
- Are not set apart.

Dependent Children

If you have dependent children living at home, you may be considered for service as a service missionary if the mission responsibilities would not keep you from fulfilling your responsibilities to care for your children.

Schedule

Service missionaries serve a minimum of eight hours per week. An assignment that requires fewer than eight hours a week is generally classified as a long-term volunteer assignment. Your schedule will depend on your specific assignment. If you need to change your schedule, please work with your assignment supervisor.

Skills

For many assignments, the only skills required are a desire to serve God and His children. Other assignments require specific skills. Please review the assignment listing carefully to determine whether you are able to fill the needs of the assignment. Also, after you request an assignment, department representatives may contact you to determine whether that assignment is a good fit for you.

Requirements

Age

Men must be at least 18 years of age to serve as a service missionary, and women must be 19 years of age. However, most men and women who serve are age 40 and over. There is no maximum age as long as you are able to meet the physical requirements of the assignment. In most cases, if you are under the age of 26, you may also be called as a service missionary. For opportunities, please see the Service Missionary page.

Marital Status

Service missionary opportunities are available for couples, single sisters, and single brothers. If you are married, you do not have to serve with your spouse. Service missionary opportunities are ideal for married people whose spouses are still working or are otherwise unable to serve.

Employment

You do not have to be retired to serve as a service missionary. Many service missionaries are also employed.

Health

You must be physically, mentally, and emotionally able to fulfill the specific assignment and its related duties. Assignments are available for a wide variety of physical capabilities.

Terms of Service / Length of Service

Your length of service may be determined by your availability and the needs of the assignment. Service missionaries are generally called to serve for 6-24 months.

Extending Service

Near the end of your assignment, you may request to extend your mission. Extensions may be approved for up to 24 months at a time as long as the following criteria apply:

- Your stake president approves the extension and verifies your temple worthiness.
- You want to continue serving and are able to continue meeting the job requirements.
- The operation still has the need, and the manager wants you to continue in the assignment.

Recommendation Process / Process Overview

When you apply for a service missionary position on the website, your bishop and stake president are notified. They may meet with you to review the assignment. Department representatives for that assignment may also contact you to determine if this assignment is a good fit for you. If no changes are recommended, your stake president will formally extend to you the call. Your bishop will set you apart, and you will receive instructions from the assignment supervisor.

Availability Dates

Unless otherwise noted, most service missionary assignments are available for you to begin serving immediately. You must be formally called and set apart prior to beginning service.

Serving Multiple Missions

If you would like to serve again as a missionary or service missionary at the conclusion of your current mission, there is not a required waiting period between missionary experiences. You may begin the process at any time, even while you are serving as a service missionary.

Serving in Multiple Assignments

If you would like to serve in more than one service missionary assignment at a time, you may do so as long as the requirements of the assignments do not conflict with each other.

Finances

You are responsible for your own living expenses, transportation, insurance, and medical and dental expenses. If you live in the United States or Canada and are injured during your service, you may be eligible for some secondary accident cost coverage under the Church Activity Medical Assistance program.

Dress and Grooming

Clothing

You should wear clothing appropriate for the assignment in which you serve, as determined by the operation manager. Clothing should be clean, neat, modest, and in good taste. Ask your operations manager about specific questions regarding dress and grooming.

There are no clothing policies for service missionaries and long-term volunteers while they are away from their assignment.

You are not required to wear your name badge while you are away from your assignment. However, you are encouraged to wear your name badge while attending Church meetings.

Beards and Moustaches

You are expected to abide by personal hygiene and grooming standards of the department in which you serve. Ask your operations manager for specifics.