

Dear True North Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in True North. In this letter I will attempt to give some broad-stroked description of Three Springs Ministries, as well as some general overview of the True North Discipleship & Internship.

Three Springs Ministries, now in our 25<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, is a camp and retreat ministry with 2 distinctly different facilities located just one mile apart, both located in southern Tioga County, PA. Three Springs Farm, the focus of which is primarily to junior high and senior high students has a capacity of 90 guests. Ministry takes place through week-long camps in the summer months, and weekend retreats during the school year. Three Springs Farm has many activity options which would typically be utilized in ministering to teens; horseback riding, swimming pool, climbing wall, challenge course, playing fields, etc. The Linck Hill Inn, with a capacity of 40, is a facility which focuses ministry toward the needs of adults and families. It is designed and constructed with adult-ministry in mind, and is therefore not equipped with all of the “activity options” of Three Springs Farm. Instead, the atmosphere is much more that of a large Bed and Breakfast, with private baths, lots of quiet spaces for reading and reflection, and overall comfort and elegance.

In addition to the ministry which is “facility centered,” Three Springs Ministries also hosts and arranges ministry well beyond southern Tioga County, Pennsylvania. Aided by a 47 passenger motor coach bus, Three Springs Ministries coordinates and facilitates missions trips all over the lower 48 states, giving students the opportunity to serve others in the name of Christ. Additionally, Three Springs coordinates and staffs various avenues of outdoor adventure ministry throughout the United States, ranging from caving in West Virginia, to backpacking in Colorado, to horseback pack trips in Montana. The 9-month discipleship experience known as True North, takes place within the overall “ministry context” of all that Three Springs Ministries does.

True North is designed to be a 9 month experience in “Spiritual Formation” and “Life Transition,” specifically designed for 18-21 year-old young adults.

It is our desire that at the end of the 9 month experience, students will leave with an increased love for God, a missional world view, an authentic and relevant understanding of the scriptures, and an embracing of the “life shaping” principles of responsibility, generosity, servanthood, and leadership...qualities which will assist them in whatever avenue of career or education they might pursue following their True North experience.

Participants will be shaped by not only formal instruction and teaching in a small group setting, but also through experiences, acts of service, and ministry participation in all that which Three Springs Ministries engages. Participants will be involved in weekly tasks associated with a ministry like Three Springs: hosting weekend retreats, directing activities, preparing food, and assisting with the ever-so-important roles that no one ever sees, like feeding horses, hauling firewood, and cleaning buildings. All of this will be taking place in the greater context of a “community of staff” who serve as mentors and role models.

There will be a very focused and distinctive emphasis on learning the importance of “developing a world view” that is Biblically and culturally relevant. We choose to use the term; “Missional.” This shaping process will take place not only here on these beautifully secluded grounds in northern Pennsylvania, as students participate in ministry to the 4,000 guests that Three Springs serves in the course of a year, but also in other parts of the world.

A 3-week trip to Southeast Asia will be a focal point of the fall semester. Leaving in late October and returning just prior to Thanksgiving, students will initially arrive in Thailand, and learn what faith looks like and sounds like to the ears of non-western people, from the Buddhist in Chang Mai, to the tribal people of the highlands. We will then proceed for several days into southern China... a culture distinctly different from Thailand, before culminating the trip with several days in Cambodia...again, VERY different from both China and Thailand. Assisting with this experience, Dave Percy, a long time friend and 13-year missionary in Thailand, is with New Tribes Missions. Dave has spent the past 5 years hosting and coordinating similar experiences in Thailand, for people from all over the world. This will be a “purely educational undertaking,” not designed to be your “normal missions trip” of building something, or presenting a Bible School program, etc. It is designed to shape the understanding and thinking of students... spiritual formation!

In addition to this experience in Southeast Asia, participants will also be exposed and participating in urban ministry in Philadelphia, likely taking place in late-winter or early spring. The cross cultural learning will culminate with a trip in early May to Window Rock Arizona, where students will seek to understand Native American culture, specifically Navajo culture, and how faith in Christ and a Biblical worldview applies to a different culture right here within our own Country’s borders.

The cost for the entire 9 month experience is \$6,500 half of which, (\$3250) is due upon arrival in late August, and half is due when the Spring semester begins just after the Christmas holiday. This “tuition fee” covers all travel and related expenses, books, housing, *some* meals, (see below), and other related costs of the 9-month experience. The fee does NOT cover meals and food mid week, when Three Springs retreats and camps are not in session. All participants must have their own health insurance coverage. Due to the rural setting of Three Springs, personal transportation is helpful, though not necessary.

Students will live independently on the grounds at Three Springs Farm. Separate men’s and women’s apartments are located on the third floor and fourth floor of the large “Mansion.”

Applications must be received, including letters of reference, no later than May 1. Space is limited, so early application will raise the odds of being accepted into the program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail.

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Once again, thank you for your interest in True North. I am confident that you will not be disappointed, should you apply and be accepted to this life-shaping and life-impacting opportunity.

Warmly,

*Jeff Rush* – Executive Director  
Three Springs Ministries