

MN

Immerse

2020 PARENT GUIDE



REALITYSPORTS.ORG/IMMERSE

WHAT IS *Immerse?*

The 2020 **Reality Sports | IMMERSE Summer Sports Ministry Internship** is an 8-week, four-phase internship, designed for men and women to experience gospel-centered sports ministry with the leaders and coaches of Reality Sports, a Pacific NW-based sports ministry founded in 2006. Our unique application of the gospel to an athlete's training and competition will provide you with a one-of-a-kind experience. From being equipped to "preach" intentional gospel messages during workouts, to being challenged to make disciple-makers through the context of sport, you will grow as a believer, as a coach, and as an athlete.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN IMMERSE INTERN

Sample *Immerse* Phase Daily Schedule

9:00am-12:00pm: Classroom Instruction at RS
12:00-1:00pm: Lunch
1:00-3:30pm: Classroom Instruction
4:00-5:30pm: Workout at RS*
5:30-7:00pm: Dinner & Free Time
7:00-9:00pm: Team Building Activity (Hike in Mt. Rainier National Park, BBQ, Mariner's game, Lake fun, etc.)

Sample *Equip* Phase Daily Schedule

9:00am-12:00pm: Multi-Sport Camp 1*
12:00-1:00pm: Lunch
1:00-2:00pm: Debrief
2:00-4:00pm: Free Time
4:00-5:30pm: Workout at RS*
6:00-8:00pm: Multi-Sport Camp 2** or Dinner & Free Time
8:00-9:00pm: Free Time

**College athletes will have the opportunity to work out as needed to maintain their specialized training regimen.*

***Some participants will do day-long camps that are specialized around a single sport; schedules may vary.*

Sample *Transform* Phase Daily Schedule

The Transform Phase will be a 1-week outdoor excursion led by a Reality Sports licensed outdoor guide in one of Washington's stunning mountain ranges.

Sample *Debrief* Phase Daily Schedule

9:00am-12:00pm: Classroom debrief at RS
12:00-2:00pm: Lunch
2:00-4:00pm: Team Building Activity
4:00-5:30pm: Workout at RS*
5:30-7:00pm: Dinner & Free Time

Saturdays will be a combination of free days with longer team building activities. Sundays will be spent worshipping and serving at a Reality Sports partner church in the community. Expected time for Sunday serving will be approximately from 8am-12pm.

The final Friday of the Sports Ministry Immersion Experience will conclude with a Lake Day bash & BBQ hosted by the Reality Sports staff.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parent,

My name is Josh Breffle. I am the Director of Coaching Development with Reality Sports. I oversee all of the leadership and discipleship development of our Program Directors and coaches, while also overseeing the recruitment and development of new Program Directors. I have the honor to also be the Director of our Reality Sports | IMMERSE Summer Sports Ministry Internship. On behalf of Reality Sports, I am so excited that your student is considering participation in IMMERSE for the summer 2020.

Reality Sports was formed over 13 years ago by two high school teachers and coaches that had reached the highest level of their respective sports but recognized the lack of developing athletes where they needed it most — spiritually. This recognition led to years of praying about starting a ministry that would use the context of sport to meet athletes where they already were (on the mats, courts and fields), to share the life-changing message of the gospel, and to intentionally walk with athletes and families to make disciple-makers.

God has allowed Reality Sports to touch thousands of families in the Pacific Northwest over that time, and we desire to see many more to come to know the hope, peace and salvation that a relationship with Jesus Christ brings. To do that, more sports missionaries are needed. Matthew 9:37 says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” We know that to be true in the culture of sport, and we are praying that God would send more workers. Immerse was created to help cast the vision for the next generation of sports missionary harvest workers. Our prayer is that as students are introduced to and equipped in the Reality Sports strategy of sports ministry, their passion and call to reach the lost and disciple believers through sport might come alive!

IMMERSE was created to give students a thorough, all-encompassing look at sports ministry. We have created an intense 8-week discipleship and sports ministry experience, equivalent to a full year of sports ministry training. If accepted, your student will live with a host family from one of our partner churches while they engage with other college students from across the country in a four-week “equipping” module, a two-week camp ministry module, a one-week backpacking excursion, and a week of debrief and follow-up. They will learn what it looks like to be a sports missionary through the 4Foundations of Reality Sports (Intentional Messages, Competing Upside Down, DiscipleRShip, Coaching Excellence). Each student will also have the opportunity to attend and serve alongside one of our church partners on Sundays.

There will not be a wasted moment or pointless activity at Immerse. From the classroom, to team building exercises, to lake day parties, to sports camps, every activity has been intentionally planned to help your student come to know Jesus more personally, through a community devoted to living on mission together to reach the sports culture. Each student will be equipped with the tools he or she needs to accomplish the mission and return to their context more equipped to live on mission for Jesus. He or she will leave Immerse more prepared to be a better athlete, coach, friend, disciple-maker, roommate, student, employee, and one day, even a better spouse and parent.

We truly believe that this is the greatest investment you can make in your student’s life. We are excited about the opportunity to spend the summer helping your student grow. We have pieced together this packet of information specifically for you, to answer your questions, to speak into your doubts and fears, and to help give you the information you need to make an informed, prayerful decision with your student about his or her summer.

We would be honored to be trusted with your student if they decide to make IMMERSE a part of their summer. If you have any further questions or concerns, we would love to connect with you.

Josh Breffle

Reality Sports | IMMERSE Program Director
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WHY

Puyallup?

At the center of IMMERSE is ensuring that the equipping each student receives is not just theoretical classroom work. We believe ministry and discipleship is best experienced and understood in practice, on the ground, while being done. By coming to Puyallup, WA for the summer, students have the opportunity to be trained at Reality Sports headquarters, while also having the opportunity to help run gospel-centered sports camps throughout this community.

At first glance, spending 8 weeks in the beautiful Pacific Northwest may not seem like much of a mission trip. The goal of a traditional mission trip is to meet a tangible need in hopes of creating a pathway to share the gospel. In the Pacific Northwest, and particularly the sports culture, the needs of most individuals are not necessarily related to poverty (ie: building a house, providing clothing, food or water, etc.). Rather, the needs mirror your student's experience on their college campus: the need to be known in unconditional relationships that are not based on what they have to offer. In American sports culture, this is often the key access point to being able to communicate the love of Jesus through the gospel.

The Pacific Northwest is one of the most unreached regions of our country when it comes to the gospel. This provides a phenomenal opportunity to reach people through the context of sport. Your student will be trained to utilize the context of sport to reach people that are far from Jesus, and invite them to know Him and follow Him.

Puyallup, WA is a prime location for students to spend the summer learning what it means to be a sports missionary, interacting with people who don't share their beliefs, developing and practicing leadership and ministry skills, working, and even having a lot of fun along the way.



TRAVEL & HOUSING

Travel

Travel arrangements to and from IMMERSE are not included in the cost of the internship. The mode of transportation is fully up to you and your student. If your son or daughter will be flying, transportation will be available for arrival and departure times.

Should students wish to raise additional support to cover travel expenses (gas, flight, etc.), they may feel free to do so. We are available to help with planning and travel decisions.

Housing

This summer, your son or daughter will experience living in community through IMMERSE. Reality Sports has a number of like-minded, gospel-centered churches that we partner with in ministry. A few of those churches have agreed to provide host families for each of our students this summer. Host families have been thoroughly vetted by both their church staff and Reality Sports. We can confidently tell you that your student will be living in a safe, godly home while participating in Immerse. Host families recognize that your student will be involved in a busy, intense summer of ministry, but they have also been instructed to include their IMMERSE student in the rhythm of their family as much as possible. As soon as your student has been assigned a host family, we will send both you and your student their contact information. If you have any questions about your student's host family, please feel free to contact me.



FINANCIAL INFO & IMPORTANT DATES

The cost of IMMERSE is thousands of dollars, but through generous benefactors that believe in the vision and mission of both Reality Sports and IMMERSE, the cost for a student to participate in the internship is \$500. Upon acceptance into the program, and at the time of signing the Letter of Commitment (after the post-application interview), each student will be responsible for paying a non-refundable \$500 deposit. Application deadlines and financial due dates are shown below.

Acceptance into the Immerse program is not guaranteed. During the application process, students will have an interview with the Immerse Director. After completing the application and interview process, students will receive notification of acceptance and will be required to sign a Letter of Commitment and submit the deposit.

Each student is strongly encouraged to raise support for the cost of IMMERSE. Ideally, we would love for you as a parent to not have to pay anything out of your pocket. As a staff team, we will provide resources and coaching to help your son or daughter raise support. Raising support allows others to partner with your student in an endeavor that will benefit and shape his or her future.

We have been blessed by the generosity of a local donor that recognizes not only the great opportunity that IMMERSE is, but that most college students need to work during the summer to help pay the bills. Due to the busy, intense schedule of IMMERSE, working a job during the project is not feasible. This donor has graciously provided us the opportunity to pay each student \$1,000 during IMMERSE. Students will be paid at the end of each month during the internship.

Application Deadline

March 27, 2020

Deposit Due

Upon signing Letter of Commitment

Paid-in-Full Deadline (Though a spot is not guaranteed until full payment is received)

May 29, 2020

Immerse Experience

Arrival: June 14, 2020

Departure: August 8, 2020

A background image showing a group of children playing tennis on an outdoor court. They are wearing various athletic clothes and holding tennis rackets. The image is slightly faded to allow text to be read over it.

SUPPORT RAISING

Although the deposit is due when each student signs their letter of commitment, we highly recommend that students apply early and begin the support raising process as soon as possible. Upon a favorable interview, your student will receive a packet of support raising tools to help them be able to raise the support of their \$500 deposit.

All funds must be paid in full by May 29, 2020, for a student to attend IMMERSE, though no spot will be guaranteed until the full \$500 deposit is paid. Any requests for financial deadline extension must be approved by the Director of IMMERSE.

WHAT IS SUPPORT RAISING?

The term “support raising” can have many connotations when you first see it. It implies that students will raise money to cover the cost of IMMERSE, but when we use the term, we are referring to so much more than financial support. Students are “raising” prayer support, emotional support, and spiritual support, alongside financial support.

WHY DO WE RAISE SUPPORT?

Support raising allows students to be “sent” by their families, friends, and churches. Asking for support (both prayer and financial) helps get people involved in the student’s experience. It gives the student encouragement along the way and offers them affirmation from the Body of Christ of God’s call for them this summer.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR SUPPORT RAISING

OLD TESTAMENT: Moses is one of the first support raisers we see in the Scriptures (Exodus 35:4-5, 21, 29). The Israelite priests can also be considered support raisers as they were to receive no monetary or material gain. They were not to work outside the Temple to earn a living since their “job” was to serve in the Temple. Rather, they were to receive their “rightful dues” from portions of the offerings given to God by God’s people (Numbers 18:8, 21, 23, 24).

NEW TESTAMENT: Jesus gave specific directions to His disciples that forced them to depend on others for their needs. Yet, He made it clear they were not to charge anyone for their services. In other words, with no fee system for services rendered, they relied on the hospitality of those they ministered to and among. In Matthew 10:8-10, He told His disciples, “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food.”

SUPPORT FOR TRAVEL

Students can raise money in excess of the \$500 to help cover travel costs to and from IMMERSE if they desire. This can be a great opportunity to get a broader “sending team” to help you fulfill your ministry goals for the summer, and share the impact with others who want to see the Lord work in your life.

FREQUENTLY
ASKED

Questions

WHY 8 WEEKS?

We feel 8 weeks is the perfect length of time for IMMERSE. It gives the students 4 full weeks of team building, equipping, teaching, and bonding before 2 weeks of serving the community through gospel-centered sports camps. At the conclusion of their time serving, they will have 5 days and 4 nights of processing what God is doing in and through them in the beautiful, scenic setting of the Pacific Northwest mountains. Finally, they will have a week of debriefing and processing what is next. We want to see students make gains in character growth, taking initiative, leadership skills, discipleRship, social aptitude, owning responsibilities, and intentionally using their context of sport to proclaim the gospel and make disciple-makers. We feel that 8 weeks is enough time for a student to truly experience growth in all of these areas.

IS IMMERSE A WAY FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO JUST RELAX IN THE PNW?

No way. IMMERSE is not designed for the student who wants to take it easy and be on vacation this summer. There will be plenty of times for the students to have fun, make friends, participate in social events, take a camping trip, make memories, etc....but Immerse is so much more. Our goal is to develop young leaders who see every situation they find themselves in (specifically in the context of sport this summer) as an opportunity to proclaim the gospel and make disciple-makers. With this in mind, the schedule is rich with learning, ministry, small group interaction, listening to speakers, giving presentations, etc.

I REALLY WANT MY SON/DAUGHTER TO GET A “REAL” INTERNSHIP DURING THE SUMMER

In many ways, we see IMMERSE as far more valuable than any other internship your student might get. At many internships, students do little more than file papers for a superior. While this may look good on a resume, this kind of work does not necessarily translate into valuable life-skills. We wholeheartedly believe Immerse is invaluable for building these life and ministry skills into young leaders.

I AM NOT COMFORTABLE WITH MY SON/DAUGHTER RAISING SUPPORT. WHY DO THEY HAVE TO DO THAT?

We understand your concern. Students are not required to raise support. Each student is free to pay for IMMERSE however they wish. We simply provide the opportunity for (rather than require) students to raise support. This is our strategy for several reasons:

- Many students would not be able to attend IMMERSE if they could not raise support.
- Many people have a heart for college students being equipped to use their experience in sport (and all of life) for the glory of Jesus. When someone supports a college student, it allows the donor to invest in what God is doing in the life of that student.
- It is Biblical for a person to receive support while doing the Lord's work. Consider the following Biblical examples: Levites — Numbers 18:24, Jesus — Luke 8:1-3, Paul — Acts 18:4,5

We will provide tools and coaching for your student to learn how to raise support. We do not want potential investors to feel guilty or coerced into giving. Our experience is that if your student is able to cast a vision for what God is going to do in and through them through IMMERSE, donors will jump at the opportunity. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Director of IMMERSE.



Immerse

NEXT STEPS

START PRAYING

Ask God if this is how He would have your student spend their summer

TALK TO YOUR STUDENT

Ask a lot of questions of your student, and pray together about this opportunity

APPLY

Encourage your student to apply for Immerse 2020! We only have space for 12 students this year, so those spots will fill up quickly. Go to www.realitysports.org/immerse to learn more and find the application.

TALK TO THE DIRECTOR

Email questions to jbreffle@realitysports.org and Josh will respond as soon as possible.