

# SERVING IN POLAND MISSION TRIP TEAM MANUAL

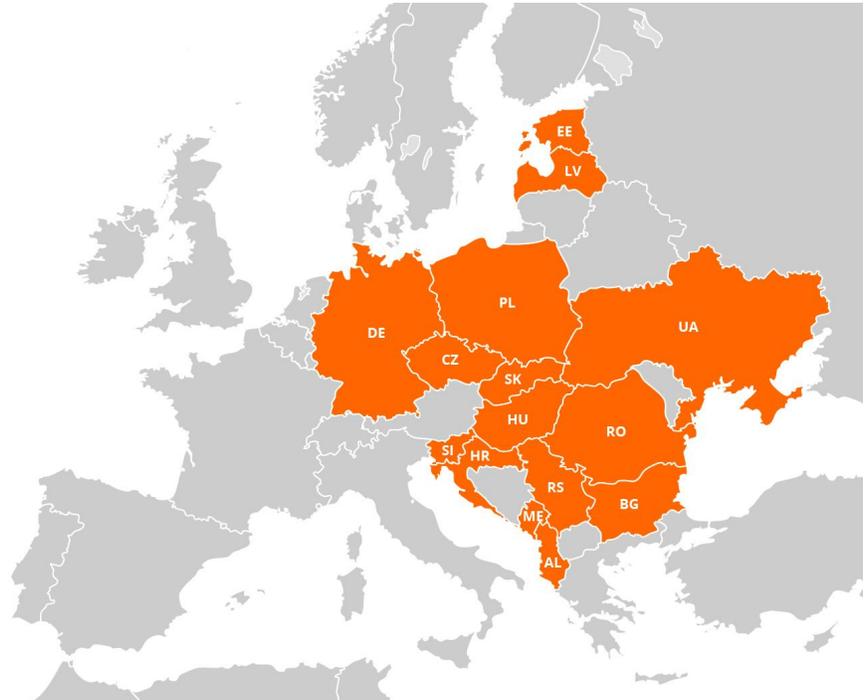
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**josiah**venture

fala przestrzeń  
rozwoju  
młodych

 english camp

# JOSIAH VENTURE



## **Our Vision**

A movement of God among the youth of Central and Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society.

## **Our Mission**

To equip young leaders to fulfill Christ's commission through the local church.

## **Core Values**

- Bold faith
- Dynamic community
- God-honoring excellence
- Deep integrity
- Indigenous empowerment

 "King Josiah" - click [here](#)

## Brief history

**Since the very beginning of Josiah Venture's ministry, being able to practice conversational English as a language learner has proven time and time again to be a huge draw for young people in Central and Eastern Europe.** *Speak English*, our own innovative curriculum used during summer camps, in English classrooms, and clubs throughout the year, offers students the chance to not only learn how to communicate more articulately in English, but in the process, grow closer to God and form relationships with the Christian community around them.

In 1994, 80 Czech young people attended the first ever Josiah Venture camp and it was clear then that English and camp ministries were effective ways to evangelize youth in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Now, over 20 years later, JV has partnered with local churches, interns, and short-term teams to put on more than a thousand camps, and each summer reaches thousands of non-believing young people with the gospel message. God is moving among the youth of this region and we're grateful He's using our curriculum and language as a part of His plan.**

## Today

The Josiah Venture team has grown from three couples in 1993 (one of them was Dan & Laura Hash who are still serving in Poland to this day) to over 350 staff members today. Our staff, over half of which are nationals, are located in 16 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, along with support teams in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. **Thousands of young leaders are trained each year by our staff, and through those young leaders hundreds of new believers are entering the local church as a result of evangelistic and discipleship efforts.**

## Highways

Every Josiah Venture missionary utilizes one or more of the five main "highways" to reach the next generation with the good news of the gospel.



### Camps

Weeklong summer camps, organized around English, music and sports, are designed to help local churches reach lost young people in their communities and transform lives. For almost 30 years JV has partnered with local churches, interns, and short-term teams to put on **more than a thousand camps**, and each summer reaches thousands of non-believing young people with the gospel message.

## Schools

Exit Tour takes teams of youth speakers and musicians into local schools to spend a day doing their prevention program from a Christian perspective. At the end of the week, an evangelistic concert clearly shares the gospel and challenges young people to respond. We also work with Christian teachers across the nation to equip them to be a witness in their schools.

**EXIT**



## Edge Sports

A church league for the unchurched, Edge Sports leagues provide character building, physical training and spiritual development for young people, many from unbelieving homes.

## Music

Fusion choirs use music and creative arts to develop young people and shepherd them toward faith in God. Weekly Fusion practices, coupled with Bible study and regular concerts, build community and transform lives.

**FUSION**  
POLSKA

## Media

Since young people spend over 50 hours a week on social media, the tools of video, blogs and online content are vital for reaching this next generation.

*Follow Us @josiahventure*



# POLAND



## Brief History

Poland, a former Eastern Bloc country, has had a tragic history. It has known wars, holocausts, and even 123 years where the people had no land to call their own. During this time, the Catholic Church provided unity and identity for the people. At one time, 97% of Poles claimed membership in the Catholic Church and a powerful allegiance to their own Polish pope, Pope John Paul II. Since the fall of Communism in 1989, Poland's economy has advanced rapidly, welcoming in Western business cooperatives. This has led to a new level of commercialization, as well as a new set of values.

## Amazing short videos showing a little from Polish history

- 👤 “Animated History of Poland” - click [here](#)
- 👤 “Unconquered: Trying Times” (1918-1939) - click [here](#)
- 👤 “The Unconquered” (WW2) - click [here](#)

## Spiritual Demographics

The population of Poland is approximately 38 million. This number, however, is constantly fluctuating. Poland joined the European Union in 2004, and since then, 2-3 million Poles frequently travel abroad to work. Attendance in the Catholic Church since 1989 has been decreasing, by as much as 25%. Poland's evangelical population has grown slightly, but is still very small. **All of Poland's 40,000 professing evangelical believers**

**(approximately 1 out of 1,000) would fit into a large sports stadium.** Denominations like the Baptist Union, the Pentecostal Church, and the Evangelical Free Church are viewed by most Poles as cults.

### Ministry Outlook

Today's young Poles live in a world their parents never imagined. At any high school or university, it is clear that the God and traditions of their parents have little relevance to the daily realities faced by Polish youth. **In order to reach these unsaved young people with a relevant gospel and grow them in their faith, we run evangelistic English, music and sports camps, sports leagues, weekend retreats, and EXIT Tour prevention programs in schools. We also train and mentor the main leaders of youth groups and their staff at events such as youth leader conferences and ministry team trainings.** To better facilitate these activities, we

purchased and run a 17.5-acre facility in southern Poland called [h2o](#), which serves as a training, camp, and conference center.



### Spiritual climate

**Poland is a very religious country with 92.2% registered Catholics in 2011 (but only 81% inhabitants describe themselves as believers, and 3% as non believers). The Protestant church makes up only 0.3% of the nearly 40 million people.** The Catholic church is deeply connected to the culture where it is said that to be Polish is to be Catholic. There are many who are beginning to leave the church because they feel it lacks relevance, although there is a new charismatic movement within the Catholic Church and many are coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, atheism is also on the rise as well.

### National Organizations

When a national ministry becomes mature, a non-profit organization is founded in the country to support and sustain the work. From that point on, all Josiah Venture ministry done in this country functions under the umbrella of the national organization, which is registered according to the laws and requirements of that region. It serves as a partner within Josiah Venture. **Partner organizations are accountable to the vision and values of JV and are required to operate effectively according to the JV standards of organizational effectiveness. As partners, they have access to the resources of the entire team, including staff, training materials, and financial systems. In addition, they covenant with the other organizations within Josiah Venture to mutual accountability and support.**



**The national organization in Poland is called “Fala”.**

“Fala” is the Polish word for “wave”. It all started with a common desire. A calling to work with youth connected people from all over the world. These people planned meetings, events, and did discipleship informally

throughout the 1990s. From year to year, these activities occurred in more and more cities and volunteers continued to come to support and invest in Polish young people. The next step was to establish an association so that they could engage more effectively in work with young people in our country. In this way, Fala was officially established in Katowice on September 13, 2003.

**JV Missionaries in Poland with their families** - click [here](#)

Apart from highways mentioned before Fala has two other programs for youth - “El Dorado” and “29:11”.

#### **El Dorado**

Five times a year middle school and high school students meet with their peers to talk about the challenges of their lives during a conference lasting several days.



młodzi dla młodych



#### **Projekt 29:11**

This program was created to help young people experience healing on an emotional, mental and spiritual level. They want to help young people rebuild their identity and repair what has been damaged in their lives by various circumstances.

## JOIN SUMMER MINISTRY IN POLAND!

 "Join the Movement of God" - click [here](#)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Organization/Host Name:** Josiah Venture - Poland

**Main Contact in-country Person:** Natalia Starkowska (Camps Director)

**E-mail:** [nstarkowska@josiahventure.com](mailto:nstarkowska@josiahventure.com)

**Phone Number:** (PL) (+48) 606 503 538

**Organization's URL or Website:** [www.josiahventure.com](http://www.josiahventure.com)

**Location of Ministry Site:** Poland

**Marketing Description:** Partnering with local churches in Poland to put on life-changing camps for youth.

**Ministry Type:** For almost 30 years Josiah Venture has partnered with local churches throughout Central and Eastern Europe to put on life-changing camps for youth. **The purpose of these camps is to provide fun and effective language learning for campers, expose them to the Gospel, and connect them to a local church where they can be discipled and grow in their faith. We see God moving in this exciting ministry to produce fruit and transform the next generation of disciples for Christ and short-term teams play a significant role in God's work at these camps.** During your trip, you will serve on a team and be responsible for multiple aspects of camp, including: teaching English, leading games, hosting nightly parties, and building key relationships with campers. Josiah Venture will provide training for teams prior to and during their trip. You will also have the opportunity to stay in some local homes to meet families and experience a little bit of Polish culture and hospitality.

**Categorization of experience:** serving with an English, music, or sports youth summer camp

**Start date for the team:** June/July - dates will be confirmed by JV Poland individually for your team

**Ideal Trip Length:** 12-14 days (but we are open to college groups who have to complete an internship by serving for a longer period of time, e.g. 14 days)

**Preferred airport for ON-FIELD arrival:** the airport will be specified later (it will be close to your campsite)

**Team Size:** 6-12 (preferred size for the Polish teams to comfortably host your short term team, but we are open to more people if the opportunity arises)

**Ratio of leaders to students:** 1 leader for 3 (or 4) students

**Gender ratio:** none (we prefer mix of both genders)

**Gender breakdown:** none (we prefer mix of both genders)

**Required ministry skills:** depending on the type of the camp (more information below)

**Ministry skills explanation:** **This is a high energy and highly relational ministry so a love for teenagers is needed.** We are also a camps ministry, so it is helpful to have a few musicians, a few people who enjoy sports, a few people who are able to lead games or icebreakers, and a few people who are able to teach from the Bible. Youth ministry students are often a good fit for our ministry.

The majority of our camps are based on conversational English, but we have an increasing number of music and sports camps as well. Our season of ministry varies somewhat year by year but generally, the season runs from mid-June until early August.

**We encourage you to take a look at this [video](#) ( **Short Term Team Experience**).**

As a JV team we currently work and have staff in sixteen Central and Eastern European countries (and growing) and help local, national, churches do evangelistic camps. In a typical year, we will be involved in about 100 camps in those countries and need short term teams for every one of them. **These camps are an integral part of our year around equipping ministry in each country and are always based in a local church.**

Here are other videos that are great to show students and families to give a good feel for what the camps are like...high energy, highly relational, and tons of fun!

 [JV Camps Ministry - video](#)

 [JV Summer Camps - video](#)

## COSTS

**Per person ON-FIELD cost in USD:** is between 850-950 USD, 1100-1200 CAD, 800-1000 EUR. On-field cost depends on the stay option, trip length, but it always covers all in-country costs for the roughly around two weeks you are on the ground (excluding airfare). Total ON-FIELD cost includes:

Orientation for Short-term teams	
	In-country training organized by Josiah Venture missionaries (Including camp t-shirt)
Camp costs	
	All cost incurred while not at training or debriefing
Debriefing	
	In-country debriefing, celebration & re-entry training
In-country transportation	
	All in-country transportation
Camp supplies/merchandise	
	Each person at camp will receive a camp book, sticker, nametag, and button/badge
Camp Advertising materials	
	Flyers and posters to be used by Polish team to advertise camp
English Camp Ministry Support	
	Scholarships for Poles to attend discipleship training, national staff support
Cultural experience in museum or other place (before/after camp)	
	Extra day lodging, food, travel, and entrance to the place
Josiah Venture Administrative Fee (10%)	

**Other mandatory ON-FIELD costs that are not included in your total cost:** only “COVID” costs are not included.

**Number of days included in ON-FIELD cost:** 12-14 days (orientation, camp, debriefing)

**Deposit:** 1000 (USD, CAD, EUR) per team (deposit is required; deposit is non-refundable advance).

**Deposit due:** April 10th

**Final payment due:** June 1st

**Cancellation policy for refunds:** total refund (if possible to confirm hotel cancelation; deposit is non-refundable advance)

**Deadline for cancellation:** March 1st

**Statement of Faith:** please read [here](#)

**Travel visa:** please read more below about ETIAS

We will also ask you to sign the **Liability Waiver** which will be delivered by JV Poland in March.

### **TRAVELING INTO THE EU - INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS TO FILL OUT**

**More information about ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System):**

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/etias/> - includes a list of countries that will need to apply

**Americans Traveling to Europe – EU Visa and Entry Requirements for US Citizens:**

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/us-citizens/>

**Fill in the Passenger Locator Form:**

<https://www.gov.pl/web/gov/fill-in-the-passenger-locator-form>

**Coronavirus: information and recommendations - Outside the European Union, Schengen Area:**

<https://www.gov.pl/web/coronavirus/outside-the-european-union-schengen-area>

### **ACTUAL COVID RESTRICTIONS:**

- Wearing masks and testing is not required (only in hospitals)
- Regular hand disinfection - recommended

**If you would like to know more please check those links:**

U.S. Embassy & Consulate: click [here](#)

Canada Embassy: click [here](#)

### **IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS/VIDEOS**

MTT Leader's Manual - click [here](#)

MTT Member Manual - click [here](#)

STT Application - click [here](#)

Liability Waiver - delivered by JV Poland in April

 STT Training Videos with Discussion Questions (in the comments) - Click [here](#)

## IMPORTANT DATES

In order to grow and increase the effectiveness of the camp ministry in Poland, we have created deadlines for certain important tasks. Please take a moment, even now, to mark these on your calendar. These dates are firm but please contact us if for some reason you will not be able to make a deadline.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** – Online Intention Form Completed (fill it out [here](#))

By completing this form you are officially letting us know that it is your intention to bring a team the following summer. It is not binding but it gives us a picture of which/how many teams are planning on coming. Please fill this out as soon as possible but no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**By the end of January** - Team members are decided

**March 1<sup>th</sup>** – Online Registration Deadline (fill it out [here](#))

In order to attend camp, each team member must complete the online registration form no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>. This means that your team must be finalized before March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Flight purchase approved and completed

Once each team member has completed the Online Registration, it is time to start looking for flights. ***No flights should be purchased until a JV missionary approves them.*** Please triple check the dates before you purchase your tickets and make sure you have a good insurance policy for your team.

**April 10<sup>th</sup>** -1000 (USD, CAD, EUR) per team deposit due to JV if needed. That will be confirmed by the Polish Camp Director - directly with the STT Team Leader.

An invoice for the 1000 (USD, CAD, EUR) per team deposit will be sent to the team leader once the Online Registration is completed. The deposit must be mailed to Josiah Venture no later than May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**40 days before your trip time** – Outstanding Balance due to JV

The cost of the trip is around 800 USD, 1000 CAD, 800 EUR per person. 1000 (USD, CAD, EUR) per team will be collected as a deposit. The outstanding balance per person should

be reflected on one check and mailed to JV, no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. You will receive an invoice with payment details in the spring.

## ITINERARY

Itinerary for your team will be delivered at least 1 month before your trip starts.

Here you can find **EXAMPLE of In-Country Itinerary & Logistics**

Date	Details	Lodging	Additional info
July 05 / Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departure from home / USA or Canada</li> </ul>		
July 06-08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive in Gdańsk airport (GDA), Poland</li> <li>• Travel to hotel in Gdańsk</li> <li>• Short-Term Team Orientation</li> <li>• Sunday service</li> <li>• Working with the Polish youth group on final preparations for camp</li> </ul>	PL (camp facility)	
July 10-15	Camp #1 - GDAŃSK		
July 16-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel for debrief</li> <li>• In-country debriefing led by JV staff.</li> <li>• Sightseeing</li> </ul>		
July 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel to airport for flight</li> <li>• Departure Poland</li> </ul>		

## EXEMPLARY PLAN FOR DAY CAMP

Time	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.		
7:00	Camps prep.	STT Team Meeting								
8:00		Team Breakfast								
9:00		Prep for Day	Team Meeting							
10:00		Church Service	Prep for Day	Day Trip			Prep for Day			
11:00			Campers Arrive				Campers Arrive			
11:15			Morning Program				Morning Program			
11:30		Campers Arrive	English Class				EC		EC	
12:15			Morning Program				Break		Lunch	
12:30		Registration /English Testing	EC	EC		EC				
12:45		Lunch			Day Trip			Final Program		
1:00		Lunch						Lunch		
1:45		Sports Banners, cheers, get to know your team	Workshops		Workshops		Camp is Over			
2:30			15 Min Break		15 Min Break					
3:15		Sports / Water day		Sports						
3:30		30 Min Snack			30 Min Snack					
3:45		Evening Program			Evening Program					
5:00		Christmas Theme Night	Foam Night	Theme Night	Labyrinth		Campers Talent Show			
5:15		Campers Leave								
7:00		Staff Dinner								
8:45										
9:00										

## MEET ENGLISH CAMP TEAM IN POLAND



**Ala & Natalia**

### **Natalia Starkowska** - English Camp Director

Natalia heard the gospel for the first time in 2006 and was captured by it. She immediately started volunteering and growing in her local church in Nowy Tomysl, Poland. Since then, she has been watching God's movement in Poland firsthand and dreaming about joining full-time. That opportunity came in May 2016 when she started serving with FALA full-time.

She has a strong desire to empower youth to be disciples who make disciples. From keeping things organized via spreadsheet files to one-on-one discipling meetings, mentoring young women, and developing next-generation leaders, Natalia is training others in ministry team development and discipleship.

### **Ala Ryńska** - Logistics, Administration & STT Assistant

Her journey with Josiah Venture started in 2018 when her local church partnered with JV to do its first English Camp. During camp, she heard about the summer-long internship JV offered. A year later, she served as a summer intern in Poland. After that summer, she decided to extend her internship for another year, serving on the English Camp Team.

After being involved in different ministries over the years, Ala believed that God was calling her to be involved in evangelism and disciple making full-time. With her God-given abilities, she wants to serve God's movement and disciple the next generation of believers in Poland.

She is also involved in her local church in Gdansk, Poland. She teaches Sunday School, plays piano at university student meetings, and discipled a small group of teenage girls.



### **Monika Mrotek & Julia Chwastek**

English Camp Extended Summer Interns 2022/23

Meet two of our Extended Summer Interns. Both of them serve with us on the English Camp Program. Monika is helping with communication among the Polish Churches, supporting us with administration and social media. Julia is helping recruit summer interns and coordinating logistics for them.

### **A FEW WORDS FROM US**

Dear Mission Trip Team Leader,

After being involved with our camps ministry in Poland for many years, I can say this from the bottom of my heart: this movement of God in Poland is waiting for you and will surely be a grand adventure!

I grew up in a Catholic family in Poland, where my Grandma was the only one who had a relationship with God. God always existed for me, but I felt as if I could not have a personal relationship with Him. I was introduced to Josiah Venture ministry in 2005. That year, a group of American Interns came to my brother's school and invited him to attend an English Camp hosted by a local evangelical church. A few months later, my brother convinced me to take part in a winter camp with the church's youth group. It was at that moment that I heard the gospel for the first time.

Now, 17 years later, as Poland's English Camp director, I have the honor of inviting you to join us in this

mission. Join us, in the movement of God in Poland and take part in this summer camps ministry with your team.

Going to an English Camp was a faith starting point for me personally. It's one of the greatest tools to provide opportunities to grow in relationship with God and with each other in the context of learning English. Although Poland is very religious, and most Poles consider themselves Catholic, the evangelical church is quite small - only 0.3% of the population. English Camps are a vital tool in bringing the gospel to youth in a relevant and relaxed environment.

Our team is committed not only to planning summer camps, but also to equipping young leaders to fulfill Christ's Commission; we are about discipleship in local churches. God is showing us big needs in Poland that need to be filled and we are thrilled to be a part of meeting those needs. With those goals in mind, we are asking you to boldly plan a mission trip with us next summer.

I am here to help and serve you as you prepare your team to join God's movement in Poland. If you have any questions or if there is any way that I can support you in preparing your team, please do not hesitate to contact me. We will do our best to provide any and all resources you will need to plan and execute a life-changing experience for your students that will build the Kingdom on both sides of the ocean. Looking forward to partnering together!

May God bless and cause His face to shine upon you,  
with hugs from Poland,

Starkowska Natalia  
Josiah Venture