



THE PILGRIMAGE OF DISCOVERY—CONSTANTINOPLE

The Pilgrimage of Discovery is a religious-educational journey that includes an audience with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and visits to historic sites around Constantinople. It is the opportunity of a lifetime for up to five young adult leaders, male and female, of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago to have a transformative and immersive experience in the Queen of Cities and to grow in their Orthodox Christian faith. The Pilgrimage of Discovery is funded by the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle and is being piloted by the Metropolis of Chicago Archons in preparation for a national program in the future.

In addition to visiting historic sites around Constantinople, the selected young adults will be scheduled to meet with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew where they will have the opportunity to engage in open dialogue. The young adults may also have the chance to participate in an environmental service program while on the journey with His All-Holiness, who is known as the Green Patriarch because of his efforts as the first major religious leader to have initiated environmental protection events in the 1980s.

A professional videography crew will accompany the selected young adults throughout the Pilgrimage of Discovery to record their experiences for use in creating a documentary film. This film will be released nationwide and used in future years to promote the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

Following the Pilgrimage, the young adults will be asked to share their experiences in a series of speaking engagements over the next two years at various parishes and locations in the Chicagoland area in order to expand awareness about the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

Travel expenses will be paid for up to five young adults that are selected, including round trip flights from Chicago O'Hare to Istanbul, all transportation while in Turkey, and entrance fees to programmed sites. The Pilgrimage of Discovery will be seven

days/six nights and will include all lodging (double occupancy), breakfasts, dinners, and most lunches. Incidentals, personal expenses, and any additional meals will be the responsibility of the participants. The Pilgrimage of Discovery will take place July 31, 2023 – August 7, 2023.

Although subject to change, the Pilgrimage of Discovery itinerary will include:

- visiting Hagia Sophia (recently converted to a mosque) to witness the epitome of Byzantine architecture and mosaics;
- visiting Zoodochos Pigi Church at Balukli to receive holy water from the life-giving spring and to see where former Patriarchs are buried;
- visiting Hagios Demetrios Church in Kuruçesme where the faithful walk through a tight, dark cave in the church to receive holy water from the life-giving spring;
- strolling through old, Greek 'Pera' to see structures that show evidence of thriving Greek culture in Constantinople prior to the 21st century;
- journeying on a private charter boat trip through the Bosphorus and into the Sea of Marmara to the Princes' Island, Heybeliada, to visit Halki Seminary, founded in 1871 by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to train Greek Orthodox priests and later closed by the Turkish government in 1971;
- traveling on a private charter boat trip through the Bosphorus and into the Sea of Marmara to the Princes' Island, Büyükada, to visit the Patriarchal Orphanage which served Greek Orthodox children in the 20th century until it was shuttered by the Turkish government during the Cyprus tensions in the 1960s;
- visiting the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Phanar, attending worship services at St. George Church at the Phanar, and having an audience with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew;
- exploring the city freely after dinners;
- and so much more!

PILGRIMAGE OF DISCOVERY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant must be age 23 to 28 by August 1, 2023.
2. Applicant must have received their undergraduate degree by August 1, 2023.
3. Applicant must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and a legal resident or citizen of the United States.
4. Applicant has demonstrated devotion and service to Christ and the Greek Orthodox Church.
5. Applicant has demonstrated leadership qualities in ecclesial, academic, professional, and/or community life.
6. Applicant has never been convicted of a crime.
7. Applicant must not be the immediate family member of any Archon of the Order of St. Andrew or of anyone serving on the Pilgrimage of Discovery Planning Committee.
8. Siblings are eligible to apply. Only one applicant may be chosen per household.
9. Completion of Application. The applicant must complete the entire application required by the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee. This includes the timely submission of all information requested in the application, as well as the timely submission of recommendation letters by both referees.
10. If selected, the applicant must be willing to conduct herself/himself in a responsible, respectful manner consistent with an Orthodox Christian way of life.
11. If selected, the applicant must be willing and able to adhere to all travel, health, and safety requirements and restrictions mandated by local, state, federal, and international governmental authorities relevant to the applicant's successful participation in the Pilgrimage of Discovery, including but not limited to provision of a valid passport, second form of legal identification, any necessary visas, and international health insurance at the applicant's own expense.
12. If selected, the applicant must be willing and able to travel at the applicant's own expense for arrival at Chicago O'Hare International Airport for timely departure to Istanbul, Turkey as part of the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

13. If selected, the applicant must be willing and able to execute a legal document provided to the applicant releasing the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, the Pilgrimage of Discovery committees, and any associated employees or agents from all liability for any injuries or property damage suffered by the applicant in connection with the Pilgrimage of Discovery.
14. If selected, the applicant must be willing and able to attend three to four mandatory preparatory meetings in advance of the Pilgrimage of Discovery to get to know the other participants, to learn what the applicant should expect on their journey, and to prepare for their experiences.
15. If selected, the applicant must be willing and able to commit to traveling and sharing experiences at various parishes and events from time to time in the Chicagoland area with Archons of the Order of St. Andrew for a period of up to two years after the Pilgrimage of Discovery.
16. If selected, the applicant must be willing and able to be photographed, filmed, and recorded during the Pilgrimage of Discovery for the purpose of creating a documentary and promotional materials.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee is responsible for selecting up to five young adult recipients from all eligible applicants. In its sole discretion, the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee may select less or more than five young adult recipients. Two young adults will also be selected as alternates to replace any of the five young adult recipients that may become unable to participate in the Pilgrimage of Discovery. The Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee will base its selection of recipients on the following:

1. Eligibility:

Each recipient will meet all eligibility requirements described above.

2. Criteria for Selection

The Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee will consider the following criteria of the applicants in selecting recipients:

- a. Activities in the Orthodox Church before beginning college, years involved, and any positions held.
- b. Activities in the Orthodox Church since beginning college, years involved, and any positions held.
- c. Leadership positions held outside of the Orthodox Church in college, graduate school, and/or community.
- d. Assessments made by the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee from all written materials submitted in the application process that demonstrate the applicant's experiences, spiritual gifts, talents, leadership, motivation to travel, and potential to support and promote the Pilgrimage of Discovery as well as the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.
- e. Assessments made by the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee from the letter of recommendation submitted by the applicant's parish priest of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.
- f. Assessments made by the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee from the letter of recommendation submitted by the applicant's fellow Greek Orthodox Christian of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.
- g. Assessments of any additional information requested by the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee at its discretion during the selection process, including but not limited to interviews, additional questions, or additional verification of submitted materials.

Applications will be judged comprehensively. Although the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee will apply the above criteria in a reasonable and objective manner, the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee is not required to place the same weight upon each criterion for each applicant. The selection of recipients will be determined solely at the discretion of the Pilgrimage of Discovery Selection Committee.