

# The Hope Plunge



**Visits** to other God-centered schools are important in shaping the identity of a school, whether your school is coming to fruition or already in existence. Visiting is an exercise in gaining models to imitate, innovate, and contextualize from. One driving factor in starting the Spreading Hope Network was the high volume of requests Hope

Academy was receiving from people wanting to learn from our model and story. The Plunge is a response to the high demand of leaders who are looking to write a similar story to the one God has inspired Russ Gregg to write in Minneapolis. In 1999, God inspired Russ to quit his job and start a school for his inner-city neighbors. In the Fall of 2000, Hope Academy opened its doors to 35 students (K-2) in the education wing of a church. Today, the school serves almost 700 students (K-12) and is a leader in the urban, Christian education movement.

## The Experience

**To immerse** attendees in the elements of what makes Hope successful, we paint a picture of what it has meant for Hope Academy to “*start small, dream big, and grow slow.*” This could include experiencing our origins at Hope’s first location, inspiring conversation over a view of the city, and stories of key growth contributors in our history.



The 1.5-day agenda is infused with experiences and resources so that leaders walk away with clarity, courage, and community. We go in-depth on *our five distinctives* and usually spotlight a significant school event that focuses on one of the distinctives. As an example, Plunges are often held at the same time as our bi-annual Partner Day event so we can showcase a main element of all that we do to make Hope Academy affordable for all.



Affordable  
For All



Excellence &  
Accountability



Christ-  
Centered



Classical  
Model



Parental  
Involvement

Plunges are also an opportunity to *bring all your questions* – from school governance to cultural competency to spiritual formation, admissions, operations, fundraising, and more! There's a lot to soak-in at our Plunges, so we recommend synthesizing key takeaways and action points. We do provide a Spreading Hope notebook for leaders to capture all their thoughts. Also, each guest is given a *School Leader Guide*, which captures in writing a full scope of the Hope Academy model as well as the steps we recommend to start a new urban, Christian, classical school in your area.

## The Details

**Guests in** the past have traditionally arrived the evening before the first day of a Plunge and either leave the evening of the second day or the day after. We always publish the timeframe of the Plunge well in advance to allow for your plans. If you would like our input on *travel arrangements*, then please reach out to [info@spreading-hope.org](mailto:info@spreading-hope.org). The drive duration between MSP international airport and either Hope Academy or downtown hotels is between 20 minutes with low traffic and 45 minutes in high traffic.

Speaking of hotels, we have a few hotels we recommend:

- [Holiday Inn Express and Suites – Downtown Minneapolis](#)
- [Hilton Garden Inn – Downtown Minneapolis](#)
- [DoubleTree Suites by Hilton](#)

Aside from hotels for *lodging*, guests can investigate [AirBnB](#) or [Vrbo](#) options.

As far as *food and drink* goes, we provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks during the published event times. This is included in the *\$120 registration cost* (non-refundable).

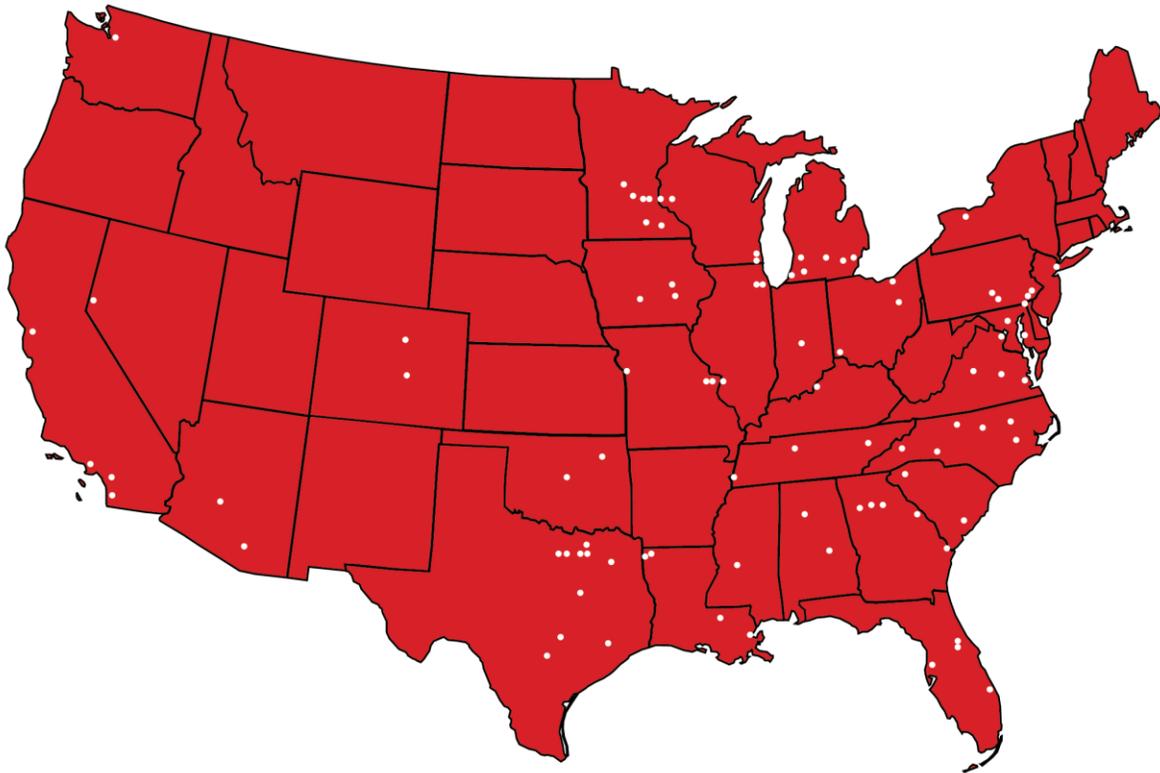
Cost concerns? Scholarship inquiries can be directed to [info@spreading-hope.org](mailto:info@spreading-hope.org).

In general, each Plunge has capacity for between *12-15 guests*.

The remaining capacity of each upcoming event can be seen on our website.

## National Impact of the Plunge

**The model** of Hope Academy is getting significant national attention. Leaders from 92 American cities (white dots) have come to visit Minneapolis so they can bring the model to their context or implement aspects at their existing schools. As of 2024, we have had over 140 guests immerse themselves in our model at a Plunge. We are eager to welcome more leaders into this movement of growing access to God-centered education in the city.



Register at [spreadinghopenetwork.com/the-hope-plunge](https://spreadinghopenetwork.com/the-hope-plunge)

*Questions? Email [info@spreading-hope.org](mailto:info@spreading-hope.org)*

