

# Mission Trip - Winchester KY

## July 7-13, 2024

### INFORMATION PACKET

High School Teens are invited to attend our **Mission Trip to Winchester KY on Sunday-Saturday, July 7-13, 2024.**

This coming summer, the Our Lady of Mercy youth ministry will be traveling to Winchester KY to do service work for those in need. We will be attending Group work camp. Group is a nationally known Non-denominational Christian organization that helps teenagers realize the importance of service in their lives. Check out their website here: <https://groupmissiontrips.com/mission-trips>

#### **ABOUT THE SITE WE ARE ATTENDING**

Winchester is a historic town where both bluegrass and Southern hospitality abound. They are also known for their Ale-8-One soft drink that dates to 1926, the only soft drink invented in Kentucky that is still around today. Group Workcamps has been in Winchester over 14 years. The hard work of those participants is remembered and, in fact, the reason we've been invited back.

You will discover that although Winchester is a few short miles off the highway, they are not out of reach or out of touch. In this historic town and the surrounding rural countryside of rolling hills, residents just need a little help and hope.

#### **HOW YOU'LL SERVE**

You'll be working throughout the city to do various home repairs projects for residents. At the Winchester KY Workcamp, your group will demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion in tangible ways, serving real people in need while working on projects like...

- Building wheelchair ramps and handrails
- Weatherizing homes and trailers
- Reconstructing sagging porches
- Significant painting projects
- Interior and exterior carpentry
- Other home repair projects that the homeowner cannot otherwise complete

#### **WHO CAN ATTEND**

All high school age teens are eligible to attend the mission trip. Must be at least 14 years old OR entering the 9th grade in the fall of the same year as your trip. Graduated Seniors (Spring 2024) may also attend. College students (ages 18-24) may also attend as leaders for our group—only a limited amount of college students will be accepted.

#### **COST AND FUNDRAISING FOR THE TRIP**

The cost for the trip is \$650 per teen (\$350 for college students) but fundraising can reduce that amount greatly. This amount includes not only the participant fee for the workcamp, but all of the other common costs like transportation, rooming, meals at the camp, the free day activity and other associated community costs. The various fundraisers we hold throughout the year, such as Pie Sale,

Poinsettia Sale, Mission Trip Weekend, Aurora Day of Service, Bake Sale and the Rummage Sale are for the purpose of lowering that cost for the teens.

The full cost (\$650.00) of the trip will be expected from each student. For each fundraiser worked, a TBD amount of money (Based on the profitability of the fundraiser) will be added to the individual's trip account. The overall goal is to provide enough opportunities for everyone to significantly reduce their out of pocket costs.

One of the most significant secondary benefits to participating in these fundraisers is the community building within the group that will be attending the mission trip together. Thus, we would love to have everyone participate in all of the fundraising activities. Unfortunately, we know that for various reasons, we have not been able to achieve that full participation. With the past system, a lack of participation meant that a smaller group of people were working very hard for the benefit of the entire group. As we all know, many hands make light work. This approach to fundraising is intended to encourage a greater degree of participation in the overall fundraising effort. Participation in individual fundraisers is NOT a requirement, but a choice to "add funds to the student's account". Those that cannot or choose not to participate in fundraising will still be responsible for paying their portion of the overall mission trip costs, so the burden is shared equally by all participants.

With this policy, we ask that ALL participants pay an initial non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 which will be credited to the students account. This amount will hold our spots with the work camp organization. You may check the balance on your account at anytime by contacting Dave in the youth ministry office. The final payment will be DUE after our last fundraising event.

### **A NOTE ABOUT FUNDRAISING**

If a student raises over the \$650.00 cost for the trip, that positive balance up to \$300.00 will be credited to a future trip or placed in the Mission Trip Scholarship/Grant fund. Funds can be transferred to siblings only. Please contact us if there are any questions or if there is a financial need—we want any and all teens to experience this great event!

#### **Fundraisers**

1. Pie Sale - October/November
2. Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast – Jan 14
3. Beard Shaving Collection-Jan. 27-28
4. Mission Trip Weekend/Teen Speakers/Collection
5. Fish Dinners – Mar. 8 & 15
6. Aurora Day of Service – May 11
7. Bake Sale – Apr. 20-21
8. Rummage Sale – June 7-9 (Setup June 1-6)

We will send out an email before each fundraiser asking for volunteers and giving specific details. Teens/Parents will need to sign-up ASAP to get an open spot on the fundraiser.

## **OTHER DATES**

**ALL Team meeting** will be held on **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm** in the PLC multipurpose room. ALL teens and adults attending the trip are asked to attend. We will give out our mission trip shirts at this meeting as well as get to know those going on the event.

**FMSC Service Packing event** will be held in June (TBD) to help our group get to know each other. We will also have the Sign-Up for the vehicles going on the trip at the end of the FMSC event.

**DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP IS DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>!** We will take teens as long as we have a spot--but hurry, because it fills fast! Remember, a \$50 deposit is required to hold the spot.

## **HOW MANY CAN ATTEND?**

There are 54 teens and 12 adult spots available for the trip. Spots are filled on a first come, first serve basis. However, if we have open spots after the deadline date, we will continue to take teen sign-ups. Once all spots are filled, we will start a wait list for any teens interested in attending.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

The absolute DEADLINE to cancel a spot for the trip is Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Any cancellation after that date will require the teen (parent) pay the full amount due of the trip unless a replacement teen can be attained to fill that spot.

## **DEPOSIT**

The non-refundable \$50.00 deposit must be returned to the Youth Ministry Office located in the Parish Life Center (701 S. Eola Road, Aurora IL 60504) by December 15th! We accept cash or check. Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Mercy.

## **WORKCAMP AND FORMS**

All participants on the trip will be asked to go online and fill out the Group Workcamp information form. This link will be sent out to everyone via email. In addition, the Diocese of Joliet requires a permission form for each teen attending and additional requirements for adults (18 or older). This form is included in this packet. Please return the form to Dave in the Youth Ministry Office ASAP OR send via email to [DaveM@olmercy.com](mailto:DaveM@olmercy.com).

## **PARENT HELP NEEDED!**

Parents are invited to consider going on a trip as an adult leader! We will need 12 adults to make this trip happen. An adult leader needs to be at least 25 years of age and willing to drive to and from the work camp (rental mini-van), chaperone our teens at the camp and work as a team to make this the best experience possible for our teens.

*If you are interested in learning more about this great opportunity please contact Dave in the youth ministry office at 331-707-5371 or e-mail at [DaveM@olmercy.com](mailto:DaveM@olmercy.com).*

## Workcamps • Program

# Daily Themes 2024

## Theme: Influencer

Make-up tips, viral videos, and giving away large amounts of money to complete strangers are a few ways young people have found themselves becoming famous, influential, and extremely wealthy. Along with social media, we're all influenced by the people around us through news, music, work, school, sports, and basically anywhere we direct our attention. Whether we think so or not, everyone is an influencer in some way or another. Everything we do is watched by our friends, family, peers, and others around us, making an impression and having influence.

Our goal with the program this year is to help students navigate the many influences in their lives and encourage them to look toward Jesus, the greatest influencer of all time, so they use their influence to positively change their culture. Romans 12:2

**Sunday: Pattern. (Romans 12:2) Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Monday: Conformed. (Mathew 26: 31-35 & 69-75)** Peter falls to society's pressures the way we all do so often. Sometimes standing up for what we believe in can be hard and it feels easier to go with the flow, but Jesus calls us to live in Him.

**Tuesday: Transformed. (John 2: 1-5)** When we are focused on Jesus, He can transform us in incredible ways. Mary sets a perfect example of transformation. Mary went from young and afraid to a strong woman with unshakeable faith.

**Wednesday: Renewed. (Luke 19: 1-10)** To be renewed means to start again. Zacchaeus has a complete change of heart when he meets Jesus. Jesus welcomes his transformation the same way he encourages ours.

**Thursday: Tested. (Luke 23: 32-43)** The Bible is full of amazing stories and people. Today, we will look at several stories of people with radical faith that influenced many. But what do these people all have in common? The Bible never calls them out by name. Yet, their faith has gone on to influence others for centuries.

**Friday: Approved. (Acts 16: 13-15)** Our faith was never meant to be hidden. Paul and Lydia are wonderful examples of using our faith to positively influence others in big and small ways. Sometimes our small acts of Jesus' love go further than we know.

**Workcamps • Schedule, Menu, Packing****Schedule****SUNDAY**

12–2 p.m	Check-in
3 p.m	Kick-off program
4 p.m.	Adult meeting
5–6:30 p.m	Dinner
7 p.m	Evening program Meet your crew Project assignments
8:30 p.m	Youth group devotions
11 p.m	Lights-out

**MON, TUES, THURS, FRIDAY**

6:45 a.m	Wake-up call
7–7:45 a.m	Breakfast Gather tools Fill water jugs Pack coolers with lunches
8 a.m	Morning program Depart for sites Work on project Lunch and crew devotions
3:30 p.m	Return to the lodging facility Camp store is open Report progress Recreation/free time
5–6:30 p.m	Dinner
7:30 p.m	Evening program
8:30 p.m	Youth group devotions
11 p.m	Lights-out (midnight Friday)

**WEDNESDAY**

6:45 a.m.–12 p.m	Same as Monday
12:30 p.m.	Check-in at the lodging facility Youth group free time Dinner on your own
7:30 p.m	Program with a variety show
8:30 p.m	Youth group devotions
11 p.m	Lights-out

**SATURDAY**

7–8 a.m	Breakfast
7–9 a.m.	Room check-out Groups depart

**SPECIAL MEETING**

Tuesday 4:15 p.m.	Adult meeting
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- Shower locations and times will be communicated at camp. There will be separate shower times designated for those that are 17 and younger from those 18 and older.
- All aspects of camp are designed just for you. Don't miss out on anything!

## Workcamps • Schedule, Menu, Packing

### Sample Menu

(All meals are subject to change at any time)

Food will be prepared by cafeteria staff at your lodging facility. It's going to be great, but keep in mind, it's cafeteria-style food. It's not a fancy made-to-order restaurant.

#### BREAKFAST

Participants will have one or more of the following options:

- Scrambled eggs, French toast, tater circles, sausage, pancakes, breakfast burritos, English muffins
- Accompaniments (each day): Cereal, yogurt, wheat bread, juice, coffee, tea, variety of fruit

#### LUNCH

Lunches are picnic-style at the work sites. There will be a variety of lunchmeat sandwiches, chips, a fruit or vegetable, and a treat like a granola bar or cookie. Peanut butter and jelly will be available each day.

Beverages on the work site:

- Participants will need to fill their water bottles that they brought with them before they leave the lodging facility each day
- Each crew will bring a full 5-gallon water container with them to the work site to refill their own bottles

#### DINNER

- Sunday: Hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, fries, and dessert OR a cosponsor provided meal
- Monday: Chicken breast with gravy or BBQ sauce, mashed potatoes, side vegetable, rolls, and dessert
- Tuesday: Taco bar with flour tortillas, taco shells, ground beef, tortilla chips, black beans, rice, lettuce, tomato, cheese, onion, and dessert
- Wednesday: DINNER ON YOUR OWN
- Thursday: Chicken tenders, mac and cheese, side vegetable, and dessert
- Friday: Baked ziti or similar dish (vegetarian option will be available), garlic bread, side vegetable, and dessert

Salad bar (every evening): Featuring a variety of mixed greens, diced tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, cottage cheese, beans, cheddar cheese, croutons, and choice of Ranch or Italian dressing

Beverages: Lemonade and iced tea will be available

Dessert items may include: Ice cream, brownies, pudding, strawberry shortcake, or cookies

If you have a participant that has to eat gluten-free, please let us know. We can have a few gluten-free options at camp, but we need to know in advance.

Please note that we do have peanut butter on our menu.

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Group Mission Trips understands there are many people with dietary restrictions and food allergies. We want our staff and participants to work together to provide a safe environment for anyone with food restrictions.

#### **DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:**

- If a participant has a food allergy or restriction, their trip leader should ensure they've seen Group Mission Trips' Sample Menu. They can decide what supplement meals/snack items they'll need to bring.
- If a participant must eat gluten-free or has any other dietary restrictions, please let Group Mission Trips know either by calling or via the online Dashboard prior to camp since menu may be subject to minor changes per location.
- If a participant needs to bring supplement meals or snacks to accompany the Group Mission Trips' menu, there cannot be a reduction in registration fees since Group Mission Trips purchases food in bulk. Camp staff will assist by providing space for additional food in the kitchen or another designated storage area.
- If the food allergy is severe, the trip leader should notify Group Mission Trips either by calling or by logging a note under Special Requests. Depending on the severity, the participant may need to be assigned to a crew with another person from their own group who understands their food restrictions. The participant should inform the rest of their crew about their food restrictions too, should an emergency arise.
- Participants need to bring any medication they need (i.e. EpiPen).
- Participants may want to bring their own small cooler to keep their lunch separate from the others on their crew.
- Cafeteria staff will be able to provide ingredient information before each meal at camp. There will be signs posted in the cafeteria each day at camp that list vegetarian options, please also see the next page for those.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 844.258.9616.

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## **Vegetarian**

We have listed here some possible options from our menu that may work for you. Anything marked (\*) may contain meat additives so please check with staff when you get to camp.



**BREAKFAST**

- French toast
- Tater circles
- Pancakes
- English muffins
- Wheat toast
- Oatmeal
- Yogurt
- Fruit
- Cereal
- Cheese
- Butter, jelly, peanut butter
- Orange juice, coffee, tea

**LUNCH**

- Bread
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, mayo, mustard
- Chips
- Fruit or veggie options
- A variety of treats (like a granola bar or cookie)

**DINNER**

Salad bar each night: Mixed greens, diced tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, cottage cheese, beans, cheddar cheese, dressing\* (Ranch or Italian)

- Sunday: Baked beans\*, buns, fries, and dessert
- Monday: Mashed potatoes, side vegetable, rolls, and dessert
- Tuesday: Flour tortillas, taco shells, tortilla chips, salsa, diced tomatoes, onions, lettuce, sour cream, cheese, black beans\*, and dessert
- Wednesday: Dinner on your own
- Thursday: Mac and cheese, side vegetable, and dessert
- Friday: Baked ziti, garlic bread, side vegetable, and dessert

Lemonade and iced tea

## Workcamps • Pretrip Meetings

### Adult Guide

THANK YOU for accepting the responsibility of providing teenagers a life-changing week to grow closer to God. We appreciate you taking your time to serve others. Now get ready for an unforgettable and transforming experience!

#### **\*\*OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH: \*\***

We believe the Bible is the inspired, authoritative Word of God. We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his death on the cross, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in his personal return. We believe people receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus.

#### **\*\*OUR HISTORY: \*\***

With humble beginnings going back to the early 1990s, Group Mission Trips has been working with and helping communities across the United States and the world. As the non-profit mission ministry of Group Cares, we work hard to bring meaningful service to the communities we serve. Since our beginning, thousands upon thousands of mission trip participants have racked up millions of volunteer hours serving people in need.

All these years later, one constant remains true: We strongly believe in providing opportunities for teenagers to encounter Jesus through serving others either in their own backyard or halfway across the globe. The Group Mission Trips legacy of lasting impact continues...

#### **\*\*OUR OFFICE: \*\***

Group Mission Trips is located in beautiful Fort Collins, CO.

#### **\*\*OUR MISSION: \*\***

To serve others through home repair and community service experiences that transform communities and help participants, residents, and partners grow closer to Jesus.

#### **\*\*OUR PRIORITIES: \*\***

Connecting people with Jesus is the number-one goal of Group Mission Trips, and we also focus on the following priorities:

- Safety
- Faith-building activities
- Meaningful projects

**Workcamps • Schedule, Menu, Packing****Packing List****PERSONAL ITEMS:**

- Air mattress, cot, or foam pad (twin-size)
- Sleeping bag or sheets
- Blanket and pillow
- Towels and washcloths
- Modest swimsuit and shower shoes
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Soap and shampoo
- Any prescription medications
- Laundry/plastic bags (for dirty clothing)
- Long pants or jeans
- Modest shorts
- Work t-shirts
- Pajamas, socks, and underwear
- Work boots or sturdy shoes
- Water bottle (refillable, to be used at your work site)
- Personal health insurance card or copy
- Bible
- Tools from the Tool List
- Jacket
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Bandanas, a hat, or visor
- Insect repellent
- Mirror\*
- Camera\*
- GPS\* (recommended for drivers)
- Rain gear\*
- Snacks\*
- Musical instruments\*
- Fans\* (most schools do not have AC)
- Flashlight\*
- Alarm clock\* (battery-powered)
- Spending money\*
- Games for free time\*
- Pen/pencil for program and devotions

\*Optional Items

**AS A GROUP:**

- 1 first-aid kit for every vehicle
- 1 5-gallon water jug for every 6 people
- 1 large cooler (on wheels is preferred) for every 6 people

COMMUNITY GIFT: We asked each camp location for a specific need in their community. Your group's mission: have FUN collecting as much of the needed item as you can and bring it to camp with you!

Check on your customer account, under "Helpful Resources, and then Schedule, Menu and Packing", to see your camp's requested item. Your gift will be meeting a specific need in the community you are serving—thank you in advance!

- Involve your congregation, friends and even your local businesses in the effort.
- Is transportation a problem? Purchase your community gifts when you arrive.

**WHAT NOT TO BRING:**

- Alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs
- Expensive clothes or jewelry
- Anything really valuable
- Fireworks, weapons, or toy guns
- Skimpy or revealing clothes
  - Please bring clothes that are appropriate in any situation. Longer shorts, t-shirts, modest swimsuits, etc.

**CELL PHONES/IPODS/LAPTOPS/ETC.**

For security reasons, it's best to leave these items at home. However, we do understand that they are great for capturing moments, sharing life, and communicating back home. If you decide to bring any of these items, don't let them distract from your experience. How can you be tethered to your devices and expect God to work in unexpected ways? If you decide to bring them, be sure to put them away during the programs and on your work sites.

**Workcamps • Schedule, Menu, Packing****Tool List****EACH YOUTH SHOULD BRING:**

- Safety goggles
- Work gloves
- N-95 disposable dust mask (used when scraping paint) (5 per person)
- A tool pouch, bag, or bucket
- Hammer (12 oz. or larger)
- Tape measure (16' or 25')
- Carpenter's pencil
- Paintbrushes: a variety of sizes
- Paint roller handle
- Paint roller cover(s) (3 per person)
- Paint tray with liners
- Paint scraper and/or wire brush

**EACH ADULT SHOULD BRING:**

- Safety goggles
- Work gloves
- A tool pouch, bag, or bucket
- N-95 disposable dust mask (used when scraping paint) (5 per person)
- Spray bottle
- Paint roller extension handle
- Utility knife and extra blades
- Chalk line and chalk
- Chisel
- Caulking gun
- Circular saw (extra blade)
- Level (4' length minimum)
- Pry bar
- Screwdriver(s) (Philips and Flathead)
- Square (Speed square or 3' square)
- Extension cord (with GFCI protection) **or** ground fault interrupter splitter/adaptor
- Cordless drill 18 volt or better
- Extra drill battery with a charger
- Star Bits Type T-25 (Qty 4 minimum)
- Drill bit kits (including small bits for drilling pilot holes and a 3/8" and 1/2' diameter 6"-8" in length)
- Lumber clamp/vise
- Carpenter pencil

**AS A GROUP PLEASE BRING:**

- One 5-gallon water jug (1 per 6 people)
- Family-size cooler on wheels (1 per 6)
- Spade shovel (2 per group)\*
- One box of rags
- Drop cloths (1 per 6 people)
- At least one wrench or socket set
- Small old containers for paint
- Paint bucket hook (1 per 6 people)
- 16-ft or longer extension ladder (1 per 6)
  - *Extras are appreciated!*
- 8-ft stepladder (1 per 6 people)
  - *Extras are appreciated!*
- Posthole digger (2 per group)\*
- Heavy duty digging bar
- Jigsaw and sharp blades (1 per group)\*
- First-aid kit (1 for every vehicle)
- A box of gallon-sized Ziploc bags (for paintbrush storage)
- A box of large strong black trash bags
- Nitrile gloves (3 pairs per person)

\*If your group is larger than 50 participants, please double these items.

The only tools at camp are those that YOU bring! There's a chance you may not use all the tools you bring, but it's better to have a tool you don't need than to need a tool you don't have!

Tools are often shared so be sure to label all tools with your name and church.

Flying to camp? You're still going to need tools! Plan to either ship ahead or purchase upon arrival. You can donate your tools to your resident or ship them back.

We don't expect you to buy tools brand new—try to borrow or buy them used. If you do purchase tools, keep receipts in case something doesn't get used.

## Group Mission Trips Resources • Getting Started

### Code Of Conduct

#### To Provide the Best Experience, All Trip Participants Agree To The Following:

Group Mission Trips looks forward to providing a safe, fun, and memorable mission trip experience. Each participant is responsible for acting in a way that is respectful to God, ourselves, and others and assures everyone has a positive experience. All participants are required to follow these behavioral guidelines.

##### Expected Behavior

- Be respectful of others and property.
- Be responsible for your words and actions.
- Dress and behave modestly to show respect to God, other participants, the community, and its people.
- Follow the designated shower times, scheduled lights out, room assignments, and quiet times.
- Do not use cell phones, gaming devices, or anything else causing a distraction on work sites or during worship programs, and understand there is no security for valuables.
- Follow directions from adult leaders, other adult participants, Group Mission Trips staff, and lodging representatives.
- Be alert to potential safety risks and take action to prevent injury to other participants and yourself.

##### Prohibited Behavior

- Endangering the health and safety of yourself, other participants, residents, partners, staff, or volunteers.
- Entering areas of the lodging facility that are not assigned to you or leaving the lodging facility or worksite without permission.
- Damaging of any property.
- Using profanity, inappropriate language, or displaying clothing or other personal items with offensive content.
- Inappropriate physical contact, comments, gestures, references, pictures, or videos.
- Illegal activity, possession, or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, firearms, weapons, or any object that may cause harm to another or place another person in fear of their safety.
- Use tobacco, e-cigarettes, or vape pens in vehicles, on school or church grounds, at the project site, at the lodging facility, or in neighboring residents' yards.
- Bullying, violence, acts of aggression, discrimination, or language that is attacking or degrading toward any other person.

**How behavioral guideline violations will be handled:**

**Camp leadership will:**

- Gather information from any party involved regarding the specific violation in question.
- Inform the group leader(s) of any participant(s) involved in the allegation of a violation.
- Act as a mediator and advise group leaders of involved parties on any consulted solutions and potential communication process with participant(s) in question and any further communications necessary to other leaders and/or parents.

*Disciplinary decisions are at the camp director's or camp leadership's final discretion after consulting with the group leader.*

*Failure to adhere to these behavioral guidelines may result in warning, correction, dismissal, or legal action as necessary. We reserve the right to dismiss a participant from camp whose conduct is severely disruptive or creates physical harm to self or others.*

*In the event of a dismissal, there will be no reimbursement of registration fee, nor any travel expense required by a guardian to pick up the participant if required.*

*Your signature verifies that you have read, understand, and agree to this Code of Conduct.*