



SUMMER 2013

PARENT PACKET

Queens, NY

We are so excited that your teenager will be joining us this summer. It is our hope that they will have the opportunity to serve and be challenged during their mission trip experience. We know it can be a step of faith for both of you. This packet provides some information for to use before, during and after.

Housing Location

First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica
Jamaica, NY

Participants cannot receive mail at this location.

Showers are located off site.
Facility is partially air conditioned.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, contact your group leader on their personal cell phone. If they cannot be reached, call YouthWorks at 1-800-968-8504 ext. 1 for 24-hour emergency assistance.

YouthWorks is committed to safety at all times during the mission week. There are specific rules and boundaries for each mission site to ensure safety on site.

Service Opportunities

The following are examples of ways your teenager might serve this week. Each YouthWorks site provides a different service experience based on the needs of the community.

Service Partnerships: visit with the elderly, work with children, serve at feeding programs, sort donations, or do various other tasks.

Kids Club: facilitate a program for community children 5-10 years old.

Evening Activities

These fun, educational events will help your teenager learn more about the community. Activities may change in a given week, but here are some examples.

- Photo scavenger hunt around Jamaica
- Visit Rockaway Beach (no swimming!)
- Soup kitchen and attend a local church service
- Community cookout

A Typical Day

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Devotions/ Quiet Time
8:45 a.m.	Group Meeting and Prayer
9:00 a.m.	Depart for Ministry Sites
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at Site
3:30 p.m.	Leave Site – Shower Time
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Evening Activity
9:00 p.m.	CLUB * CLUB is the evening program consisting of mixers, sharing time, music and a talk by a YouthWorks staff member.
10:00 p.m.	Church Group Time * This time is set aside for each group to spend time debriefing their day.



YOUTHWORKS PACKING LIST

For Everyone

- ★ Reusable water bottle (extremely important!) – YouthWorks provides drinking water.
- ★ Sun block, lip balm, hat (to protect you from the sun), sunglasses
- ★ Long pants (for cool nights and/or work projects)*
- ★ Long sleeved shirts and sweatshirts (for cool nights and/or work projects)*
- ★ Short sleeved shirts (no sleeveless shirts or tank tops – see clothing policy)
- ★ Appropriate length shorts (see clothing policy)
- ★ Nice, clean clothes for a possible worship service*
- ★ Light jacket (for cool nights)*
- ★ Closed-Foot Shoes (see clothing policy)
- ★ Underwear and socks
- ★ One-piece swimsuit for showering and possible evening activities (see clothing policy)*
- ★ Bath towel, washcloth
- ★ Shower shoes (flip-flops)
- ★ Small shower bag or backpack
- ★ Soap, shampoo, deodorant, other toiletries (extra contact lenses, backup pair of glasses)
- ★ Sleeping bag and pillow
- ★ Air mattress or foam camping pad (we will sleep on floors)*
 - **Must be twin size or smaller**
- ★ Bible and pen
- ★ Spending money for snacks and t-shirt purchases (talk to your Trip Leader for further details)
- ★ Insect repellent (not every person needs to bring – coordinate with others in your group)*
- ★ Flashlight
- ★ Battery powered alarm clock (not every person needs to bring – coordinate with others in your group)
- ★ Reusable lunch bags/boxes for lunches (YouthWorks does provide brown paper lunch bags, but bringing your own can save on waste)

The Site Director will connect with your Trip Leader to talk through specific packing list items during the Pre-Trip Call, 3 weeks before your trip.

For Canadians going to US Sites or US citizens going to Canadian Sites

- ★ Appropriate documents for border crossing- See *Border Crossing Info under Phase 6*
- ★ Be sure to exchange your money before mission trip. This can take a few weeks depending on where you live.

For those going to Puerto Rico

- ★ Because of space limitations, do not bring a twin-sized air mattress! **Please bring a foam pad or something similar to a Thermarest.**
- ★ We will be attending a Puerto Rican church service while you are on site. It is important to dress appropriately to their culture, which means to dress modestly. YouthWorks staff will ask participants to change if they are not dressed appropriately. Suitable clothing for church includes:
 - For women: Just past the knee skirts or shorts and a loose-fitting shirt.
 - For men: Pants or knee-length shorts, preferably khakis with a short sleeve button-down shirt or polo shirt.
 - Sandals are appropriate for everyone to wear to church.

Notes on Packing

Because space is limited in the sleeping rooms, everything but your sleeping bag and camping pad or air mattress must fit in one duffel bag or suitcase.

Please check the local weather forecast for your site to make sure that you pack accordingly.

DO NOT BRING:

- ★ Blow dryers, curling or straightening irons because the shower time is short and because many of our housing sites do not have the power to run all of these small electronics at one time.
- ★ iPods, electronic games, portable CD players, other valuables, or too much cash. These items can distract you from others during the week and may be susceptible to theft.
- ★ **YouthWorks is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.**



YOUTHWORKS CLOTHING POLICY

YouthWorks loves the community where you are serving this summer! As you serve, your actions and appearance speak loudly and have the potential to influence the community's perception of YouthWorks and more importantly Christ. Choosing modest clothing helps to avoid distractions and misunderstandings. We ask that you choose apparel consistent with the following guidelines.

Please Bring

★ **Mid-Thigh or Longer Shorts (or pants)**

You will bend, twist, sit, climb and crawl as you love and serve communities. Short shorts will only get shorter with these activities. Here's how we define short: Let your arms fall to your side – if your fingers touch skin, bring a longer pair. Please note, this definition applies to the recently popular running/track shorts.

Loose-Fitting Clothing

During the week your clothes may endure paint, sweat, mud and lots of love from children! Bring clothes that you can work and play hard in.

Closed-Foot Shoes

To prevent injury, you need to bring a pair of shoes that completely cover your foot. Bring shoes that you don't mind getting dirty or wet at work sites and that you can wear in the kitchen. No plastic shoes (e.g. crocs).

One-Piece Swimsuits

Some YouthWorks sites include swimming activities. Please choose modest, one-piece, swimsuits for these occasions. If you do not bring a one-piece for swimming, you'll be asked to wear a dark t-shirt over it. Please note that although we won't swim at every site, swimsuits are a good idea for additional privacy in the showers, in these instances it is OK to wear a two-piece.

Please Don't Bring

Apparel that distracts . . .

- Tank tops or sleeveless shirts
- Short shorts
- Clothing that reveals undergarments
- Clothing that reveals midriffs or chests

Also, apparel that . . .

- Includes obscene, vulgar, abusive or discriminatory language or images
- Advertises or promotes alcohol, chemical, tobacco or any other product illegal for use by minors
- Represents hate groups, is gang-related, or contains threatening language

Why Not?

We represent Christ in the communities that we serve. While community members may choose to wear these clothing items, we know that our wearing them often work against our efforts to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus and so ask you to refrain. This distracting apparel can be disrespectful and damaging to our long-term relationships.

We don't want to be the "clothing police" and we know that you don't want us to be either. We ask for you to understand this clothing policy and follow it. YouthWorks staff will ask the adult leaders to enforce the policy by asking you to change your clothing if it is believed to be a distraction.

We appreciate your help in creating a safe, respectful, distraction-free environment for your mission experience.



PARENT PROCESSING GUIDE

You might not be going on your son or daughter's mission trip, but as a parent, you play an important role in the way they experience their trip after it's over! You see, a big part of the mission trip experience is what a student does with the trip after it's over. How will they apply what they've learned? How will it change the way they act? How will it impact their relationship with God? As a consistent presence in your teenager's life, you can continue the influence of the trip well beyond your student's return. Use the following ideas to help your student connect service in another community with life back home.

PROCESSING IDEAS

As its name suggests, processing is not an interrogation but part of a process you can invite your student into. Here are some ideas to enrich your conversations.

Process with them. Research shows that youth best benefit from a two-way conversation where the parent shares their story with the teenager. While you don't want to dominate the conversation, be willing to answer the same questions your teenager is. It is valuable for them to see your faith in process.

Spread it out. While it might be easy to think of processing as a one-time event to check off the list, thinking through what happened and figuring out how to apply it will take time. Remember, it's a *process*! So keep asking questions. Keep thinking back and looking forward with your student.

Find a safe space. The setting of your conversation matters. Pick a comfortable place where a student can feel safe sharing important things. And *time* is an even more important factor. Find a space where the student doesn't feel rushed or preoccupied.

Talk in transit. Make the most of your drive times by asking students questions while driving. Maybe make it a point to have a "question of the drive" each day. Take time to truly listen and share your own answer to question.

Make an event. Churches will often have an event where students get to share about their mission trip. Have an event that focuses just on your student. It could be just your family, or you could include friends or extended family. Going out for dinner, gathering for a living room conversation or simply buying coffee together can all express value for what was just experienced.

Write it down. If your student is a writer or keeps a journal, have them write down what they experienced and encourage them to share it. Consider sending a letter to supporters and friends. Your student can also share about their mission trip experience with other teenagers online at www.reverbmagazine.com by emailing reverb@youthworks.com

Create a tradition. Try finding a time each day or each week where you talk with your student. Following their mission trip is a great time to launch a new tradition.

JUST LISTEN! There are some great ideas on this page, but if you do nothing else, make sure you just take time to listen to your student after their mission trip. And really pause to listen well! Often after mission trips, student have hours of stories, ideas and questions, but the people in their lives give them only minutes of attention. Life change might launch on a mission trip, but it takes place afterward. Seek to be part of the positive life change your student can experience after his or her trip.

FOLLOWUP QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What was most exciting?
- What surprised you on your trip?
- What was the most important thing you learned?
- What were the three biggest things you did on this trip that you've never done before?
- Where did you see God during your trip?
- What did you miss most about home?
- How did God open your eyes during the trip?
- What made you angry? Sad? Happy?
- Who is one person you met that you won't forget?
- In what ways did you need to rely on God?
- How did the way you see others change during your trip?
- What is something you think you should do now that the trip is over?
- Why do you think God wanted you to go on this trip?
- How did this trip change you?
- What part of the trip helped you get to know Jesus better? How did you get to know Jesus better?
- What did you learn about yourself on this trip?
- Are there any ways we can keep serving the community you were in? How could we do that?

EXPERIENCE THE WEEK WITH YOUR STUDENT

Students benefit from being asked questions about their developing faith, but also seeing the faith of adults in practice – especially the faith of their parents. These two pages have information about YouthWorks’ summer 2013 theme: ~~UNDESIRABLE~~. We invite you to process what your student is processing this week.

Here’s how: Read the below theme description and Scripture passage – the same passage your student will hear and discuss during each day of their mission trip. Think through the questions below. Consider taking time to answer each question on a separate piece of paper. When your student returns, schedule a few meeting times – maybe take them out for food or coffee once a week for the next five weeks and reflect on and discuss one of the themes each day. Rereading Scripture is great repetition. This type of process could be very effective in helping them tie the mission trip experience back home.

2013 ~~UNDESIRABLE~~

“For the son of man came to seek and to save the lost.” –Luke 19:10

SUNDAY ~~UNDESIRABLE~~

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:1–10

BIG IDEA: We should see others the same way Jesus sees us – as desirable and worth God’s love.

QUESTIONS:

- How did Jesus see others differently than people sometimes saw each other?
- How do you think Jesus sees you?
- How is God asking you to seek out relationships with others in your community?
- Today, how can you see others as desirable in the same way Jesus did?

MONDAY ~~BROKEN~~

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:9–14

BIG IDEA: We must recognize our brokenness caused by sin and have humility as we serve others.

QUESTIONS:

- What’s the point of the story Jesus tells?
- In what ways are you like the religious leader (the Pharisee) in the story?
- In what ways are you like the tax collector in the story?
- How does Jesus respond to people broken by sin?
- Where does brokenness caused by sin exist in your life? What are some steps you could take toward healing?
- How could understanding your own brokenness help you better love and serve others?

TUESDAY ~~PURSUED~~

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1–7

BIG IDEA: Jesus places deep value on us and pursues us; we, too, can choose to see others’ value.

QUESTIONS:

- How is Jesus like the shepherd in the story?
- How are you like the sheep?
- How has Jesus pursued you into the brokenness in your life?
- How is Jesus inviting you to see others as worthwhile and desirable?
- What opportunities do you have to pursue others with the same love Jesus pursues you?

WEDNESDAY RESTORED

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11–32

BIG IDEA: Jesus wants to restore our relationship with God and our relationships with each other.

QUESTIONS:

- How have you been like the father in Jesus' story?
- How have you been like the older brother in Jesus' story?
- How have you been like the son in Jesus' story?
- What is one thing in your life you wish Jesus would restore?
- Is anything keeping you from having a restored relationship with Jesus? If so, what is it?
- How can you be part of God's work of restoring relationships?

THURSDAY EMPOWERED

SCRIPTURE: John 13:1–17

BIG IDEA: Jesus doesn't just restore us; he empowers us to be part of his work in the world.

QUESTIONS:

- What words from the passage do you find most empowering?
- Why is Jesus the ultimate example of service?
- Why do you think God wants to empower us to show God's love to others?
- How has God already empowered you to serve and love others?
- How is God empowering you to serve and love others in new ways?

FRIDAY DESIRABLE

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:10 & John 13:15, 17

BIG IDEA: You are desirable and are empowered to love and serve others.

QUESTIONS:

- How does understanding our own brokenness apart from Jesus help us love others better?
- If Jesus came to seek and to save you, what, specifically in your life, did he save you from?
- What, specifically in your life, did he save you *to*? (Jesus saved me to...)
- How is God inviting you to see others as desirable today? Who does God want you to change your perspective of?