



# Community Info Sheet

## Philadelphia, PA

**Community Type:** Large Urban    **Age Group:** High School    **Trip Type:** Beyond    **Bus Accessible:** No Buses  
**Service Model:** Kids Club, Service Partnership

### Community Experience

During a trip to Philadelphia, you and your youth will experience and engage in this city's past and its progress. Serve with urban gardening initiatives, help with kids summer programs, and witness the immense pride of Philadelphia's residents. Philadelphia is a YouthWorks Beyond site and a major focus of the week is both learning & experiencing the ways the city provides resources to hungry residents. It's almost impossible to serve in this community without seeing the impact of hunger on daily life for many of its residents. Whether it's weeding at an urban garden, packing boxes at a food distribution center, or helping load or unload food deliveries to food pantries, you'll be a part of feeding the city. You may also have the chance to spend time with local senior citizens or meet families at a local shelter. This YouthWorks site is unique because we don't just help out in urban gardens, we are provided local produce from many of the gardens in which our youth volunteer. Salad bar greens, fruits and veggies that participants eat during the week are coming directly from our neighborhood! YouthWorks even composts here--this goes directly back to the gardens with which we partner. In the evenings, take a run up the "Rocky Steps" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, explore Old City, attend a local church service, and spend time feasting with the community at a cookout.

### YouthWorks Relationship

YouthWorks has been partnering in the city of Philadelphia since 2004. We've called the same church home for that entire time.

### ABOUT BEYOND TRIPS

YouthWorks *Beyond* trips are built to take older teenagers, who have been on missions experiences before, deeper in the heritage, history, strengths and struggles of communities. Because of a strong emphasis on students' understanding of communities, additional time will be spent listening, interacting and processing. Through processing, teenagers move from observers of an issue to participants in the conversation. Come ready for those deep discussions and awesome "aha!" moments with your students.

Since each community is different, each of our *Beyond* sites also has different schedules. In order to best serve the community, we've adapted our days to fit the opportunities available in each community. While raking, painting and playing with kids are all great ways to serve, we believe taking time to listen, learn and understand are also deeply meaningful services we can provide communities. *Beyond* will allow your students to partake in both tangible service as well as the service of understanding a community's story.

Finally, the *Beyond* experience will require that students come ready to interact with another culture, reconsider preconceptions and process together as a team. This means preparation before the trip is crucial for students to build appropriate expectations and become familiar with each other beforehand. We have great resources on our website that will assist you in preparing for the community you will be entering.