

Relentless

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

MINNEAPOLIS, MN
JUNE 23-28, 2019

INFORMATION GUIDE
FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY
IN 6TH-8TH GRADE
& ADULT LEADERS

Register at <https://permission.click/eZZ3Z/us>.

YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT...

St. Pius X Youth
S. P. Y.



About this trip

What is a middle school mission trip?

The Middle School Service Trip is a summer opportunity offered by St. Pius X Youth Ministry. It is open to any student, Catholic or otherwise, who will have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the summer of 2019. We welcome students regardless of whether or not they are registered parishioners at St. Pius X. While there are many reasons parishes offer service trips, we are believers that Christ has called us in a special way to recognize the dignity of each and every person with whom we come in contact. We are called to serve any who are in need.

Why Minneapolis, MN?

Chances are you've been to the twin cities for a game, concert, a trip to the MOA. But the city has its challenges too: people who are homeless, families that can barely pay the bills each month, homeowners that face fines for not cleaning up their yards or painting their garages, children at risk of falling into bad situations because of too much free time on their hands during the summer months.

When you join the Minneapolis Week of Hope team, you'll have the chance to minister to the "least of these" that Jesus described in Matthew 25. They are the homeless and hungry living on the streets, the senior citizens in need of help with home care, the children who need help learning to read, the members of a small inner-city church who want to make a difference in their community but doesn't have the resources to do it on their own, right here in our own state.

Who is Group Mission Trips?

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. 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.

Programming

What is the theme of this year's camp?

RELENTLESS describes someone who is... Unstoppable. Energized. Enduring. Relentless also can describe someone who is overbearing, harsh, dissatisfied. Each day at camp this summer, your group will explore how King David was relentless in a different way. He threw himself into life with great passion, sometimes suffering painful consequences. Despite huge successes and devastating failures, David relentlessly pursued God. He recognized God's relentless love and mercy and responded with relentless faith, trusting God to guide and shape his life. Through faith, David became a "man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22).

What can I expect from the camp programming?

Focused on Jesus. Our goal is to point people to Jesus. Programs focus on Bible passages and daily themes that challenge us to respond to Jesus in ways we will never forget.

Interactive. People learn better by doing. Participants will be involved in sharing, speaking, acting, reflecting...not just sitting and watching.

Relevant. Through creative multimedia, thought provoking sound and video, and moving contemporary worship, programs are designed to reach everyone.

Fun. Relationship-building activities, games and having fun are part of every program. Expect to have a great time!

Can I get more involved?

Yes! There are many ways participants can be more involved in the camp:

- There will be a couple skits during the programs for any participants that enjoy acting.
- There will be a lip-sync battle during the week! If any participants, or your entire group, want to prepare a little something for this, the camp staff will just need to approve your song.
- Bring fun stuff for our theme days throughout the week!

How does the service portion of the trip work?

Participants are split up on six-person crews for the work portion each day, each person from a different church. When groups allow us to mix participants up to make crews, individuals develop social and leadership skills, make new friends, and develop a closer bond with those they meet. Your team members will experience God working through them at projects such as these:

- Assist at a youth camp--developing relationships with kids, and even some program planning.
- Work with seniors to socialize, and assist with activities such as Bingo, bowling, trivia games, music, art projects and exercises. You may serve lunch, do gardening, cleaning or organizing of supplies.
- Help support a local food bank. Packing or sorting food and some outdoor projects on their farm!
- Package meals specially formulated for malnourished children around the world. These meals are sent to partners around the world where they are used to operate orphanages, schools, clinics and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty.
- Work at a camp for children and adults with disabilities! You'll assist campers and counselors in programming and activities, as well as do some site upkeep.
- Help seniors in and around their homes with things they are no longer able to do such as yard work, painting, organizing and cleaning.
- Help a summer camp program with brush removal, painting, wood splitting, weed removal, cleaning, and other grounds work. You will also interact with the campers.
- Assist families in need with landscaping projects, light building jobs and cleaning to provide a comfortable and caring home-away-from-home that supports families and reduces stress during a child's serious illness.
- Unpack and sort donations at a local thrift store and help get them ready for the sales floor. Other volunteer projects may include hanging, price tagging and stocking.
- Help out with painting and repairs at local residents homes who need your help.
- Assist with vacation bible school! Develop relationships with kids and even help with some program planning (as needed).

Schedule Tentative and Subject to Change

Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Pius X and send off blessing
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch with participants and families before we leave
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. Load vehicles and depart for Minneapolis
- 3:00-4:00 p.m. Registration and unpack at sleeping site
- 4:30 p.m. Adult Meeting
- 5 p.m. First program
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7 p.m. Evening Program, everyone will get to meet their project crews! (6:30 p.m. for Preteens)
- 8:30 p.m. Youth group devotions (8 p.m. for Preteens)
- 11 p.m. Lights-out (10 p.m. for Preteens)
- 11:15 p.m. Lights Out

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast crew begins
- 6:45 a.m. Rise and shine!
- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast, gather supplies and sack lunches
- 8:00 a.m. Morning program and then depart for project sites!
- 12:00 p.m. On-site lunch and devotions
- 3:30 p.m. Return to lodging for clean-up and free time
- 5 p.m. Dinner crew begins
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Clean-up
- 7:30 p.m. Evening program
- 8:30 p.m. Youth group devotions
- 11:00 p.m. Lights-out

Tuesday

- Same schedule as the other days until 3 p.m.
- 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Youth groups have free time (dinner is on their own)
- 8 p.m. Lodging facility is back open
- 9 p.m. Games (optional)
- 11:00 p.m. Lights-out

Friday

- Check out by 9:00 a.m.
- Return to Rochester by 11:00 a.m.

Cost

The cost for this year's trip is set at \$400.00/student. That fee covers: Group Mission Trip's registration fee (\$266), transportation (\$50), all group activities, chaperone fees, and any other incidentals.

A \$100 non-refundable down payment is due with registration.

If you register by February 1st we are able to give you an early bird discount of \$50 so your total trip cost would be \$350 and your down payment would be \$50.

Refund Policy: Down payments are always non-refundable. After May 15th all participants will be responsible for paying the full amount of the trip stated above, less any fundraising dollars earned.

All meals will be included in your camp fees, but we recommend bringing \$50-75 if students are interested in purchasing souvenirs, camp merchandise, snacks on our free day, or other stuff students might want to buy.

Please note that if the deposit would be a hardship, you may contact the parish office to arrange for assistance or other payment plans. It is our hope that no participant be turned away do to financial hardship. We also offer fundraising opportunities for all participants regardless of financial need.

Fundraising

If students participate in even just a few of the fundraising opportunities we are confident that they will raise close to, if not all of, the entire amount needed to go on their trip, less their deposit.

We'll be sure to send you fundraiser information as it comes up so stay tuned for more information about our fundraising opportunities. Between now and then let our us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Our two group fundraisers for St. Pius X youth are Trivia Night (January 18th) and Invest Youth (Spring 2019). You are not required to participate, but you will not receive credit from these events if you choose to opt out. More information will be made available after you register.

Frequently Asked ?s

How do you set the cost for the trip?

\$266.00	(YouthWorks registration fee)
+\$65.00	(Adult Leader Subsidy)
+\$45.00	(Transportation Fee)
+\$24.00	(Dinner & Activity Fee for our free day)
\$450.00	Total

What are the age requirements?

This trip is open to students in grades 6-8 during the 2018-2019 school year or who are 12 years old on June 24th. Adults need to be 25+ in order to drive. Young adults and high school students will be considered for trip. Please talk to youth ministry staff for more information.

What is the adult to student ratio?

1 adult (21 +) for every 5 youth (ages 12-20). Extra adults over your 1-to-5 ratio can be part of your group or, if staff positions are open at our location, may have the option of serving on staff without paying the registration fee. Information about staff positions can be found on GroupMissionTrips.com under About Us.

How do we get there?

This year we'll be carpooling in adult leaders' vehicles.

How do we get to our worksites during camp?

Adult leaders drive their small groups to sites in the vehicles we bring with us.

What are the accomodations?

We usually sleep on the floor or on air mattresses in school classrooms or church halls. The rooms are gender specific and are often shared with other parish groups.

What if I need to arrive late or leave early?

We ask that all participants arrive on time and stay for entire time. Every part of the program is valuable and helps guarantee a life-changing experience. We really try not to make exceptions to this because it does effect other participants, partners, and work projects--so please check the schedule and make travel arrangements accordingly. Contact us if a situation arises.

Registration

Reserving your space

To reserve your space, please fill out our online registration form and turn in your deposit by May 8th. A \$100 non-refundable down payment is due with registration (or \$50 by February 1st).

Your spot won't be confirmed until we receive your down payment. Down payments should be sent to St. Pius X Church. Be sure to note on envelope or in the check memo that the payment is for the Middle School Service Trip.

Online registration can be completed at <https://permission.click/eZZ3Z/us>.

Group Mission Trips Information Form

Once you have registered, we ask that you complete the Group Mission Trips participant information form. This includes a code of conduct for you to sign and important information that the camp will keep on file for you. That form is found at <http://groupmissiontrips.com/pc/st.-pius-x-church-rochester>.

This website will also have other useful information such as packing lists, worksite information and more. Feel free to explore!

Pre-Trip Meetings

We will have 3 pre-trip meetings to get to know one another and prepare for our trip. Parents, students and adult leaders are invited to attend. Please mark your calendars and try to make these meetings a priority.

January 26th:

Mass together at 4pm

Meeting in Founder's Hall 5pm-6pm (Getting to know each other, Why a service trip?)

Winter Chill to follow at Pax Christi starting at 7pm

May 8th:

Meeting in Founder's Hall 6-7pm (Will include fundraising update/expectations)

June 2nd:

10am Mass Together

Meeting in Founder's Hall at 11am-12pm (Packing Lists, Contact Info, Final Details)