



A message to parents.

Why a Service Mission Experience from Group Workcamps Foundation?

As a parent, you want your children to diligently pursue God and draw closer to Him. You want them to begin to see the world beyond school, home and church...to see God at work in their lives and discover the joy of serving God in ministry.

So does your local youth worker. And so do we, at Group Workcamps Foundation.

A Group service mission camp is the perfect setting to accomplish all these goals. In one week, your teenager will grow spiritually, see his or her vision expanded, and experience in a new way that God is at work in the world—and in them.

There are very few programs that offer the same level of spiritual emphasis, practical ministry and personal safety as mission experiences from Group Workcamps Foundation.

Many youth workers and parents see this week of service as a major turning point in the lives of their young people. As one camper said. "I learned so much about myself throughout this week and I became SO much closer to God. I actually felt as if God was truly inside me working with me every second." And parents often tell us, "I don't know what you did with my kids...but I like it! Now they actually help me without asking...and they want to go to church!"



Three types of camps to choose from:

> **WORKCAMPS.** Your son/daughter will join other youth from all over the U.S. as they learn valuable skills doing **home repair** such as building or repairing porches and wheelchair ramps, painting and weatherization. Whether or not your kids know how to use a hammer or paintbrush, all they really need is a willing heart.

> **WEEK OF HOPE.** Your son/daughter will be involved in **community care and ministry** projects like tutoring kids, connecting one-on-one with the elderly, meaningful household projects, teaching a VBS or painting. Your kids will provide service directly to needy individuals, or work with local human service agencies or churches.

> **SERVICE EXPEDITION.** Your son/daughter will experience the increased challenge of **international** service and broaden their perspective of the world. The type of service may be home repair, community service, or one-on-one service in ministry settings. Each location will offer an unforgettable experience.



A few reasons why a Group camp may be the ideal summer mission opportunity for your child:

1. Group camps work! Since 1977, over 185,000 teenagers and adult leaders have attended Group Workcamp mission experiences. Service camps are the right combination of work, worship, fun and personal reflection. Devotional times remind them why they do it, and the inter-denominational evening worship is a celebration of Who they do it for. As your child serves God by serving others, his/her thinking will change. Many students gain a genuine appreciation for what they have. Others for the first time will see God work through them in new and powerful ways...creating a deeper faith and life-long hunger for God.



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2. Your kids will grow closer to Jesus. More than 90% of campers said they grew closer to Jesus through their Group camp experience. Your kids will experience a mission of service and love where the “service” is secondary to “spiritual growth”. Camps are structured to provide opportunity for God to work in the hearts of your kids, and the byproduct is great service to people in need.



3. Group Workcamps has experience. We’ve had many years to test, refine and redesign the camp experience. The result: service camps that are perhaps the most efficient, safe and spiritually effective camp experiences available. They are planned so that all the participants need to do is show up with a heart to serve and share the love of Jesus with others.

4. Your teenager will grow in life-skills and character. Your son/daughter will develop responsibility and accountability as they serve in teams during the week. They’ll learn good citizenship as they serve a community... compassion for those in need... tolerance...friendliness... acceptance...manners and self-control as they interact with other campers. And your kids will learn determination, endurance and dependability as they follow-through with their commitments for the week...even when it’s a challenge. Many also learn valuable home repair skills when serving at a Workcamp.

5. Group is careful. Creating a safe environment is foundational to providing a week of spiritual growth without distractions. Group mission experiences are staffed by well-trained, mature leaders...all staff are pre-screened with background checks. And with staff and volunteer leaders from your church, there is plenty of supervision. Your teenager will be trained to serve safely and use proper safety equipment. That’s why our safety record is so remarkable. We treat your son or daughter as if they were our own.

6. Group has the right focus. When you offer over 60 service camps a year, with thousands of service projects across the country, it’s easy to get your focus on all the great service work being done. But at Group Workcamps Foundation, we guard against that. Our focus is first on honoring God in all that we do. Next, on your teenager: we want him/her (and your church youth leaders) to experience God in a way that will change them forever. Finally, our attention is on the people benefiting from the service work. We want them to see what we do as a blessing from God, and to thank Him.

Other important information:

- > Your son/daughter registers through their church youth group.
- > Senior camp participants must be at least 14 years old and entering the 9th grade in the fall. Junior/Senior camp participants must be at least 12 years old or entering the 7th grade in the fall.
- > Adult supervision is required at every project site.
- > Adults and students lodge in schools or similar facilities and eat in the cafeteria.

We hope you will encourage your son/daughter and others to attend a life-changing service mission from Group Workcamps Foundation, next summer. It could be just what they need to strengthen their spiritual walk with Jesus.

Basic Schedule

The adventure begins with a program where students learn more about the camp, get to know other campers, and receive important training.

Young people start each day with an early breakfast, and then “off to the project sites”. At about 3:30pm, students start returning from the project sites for free time and to get cleaned up before dinner.

After dinner there is more free time until everyone gathers together for a fun and inspirational time to draw closer to God and one another.

Afterwards, there are youth group devotions and late-night activities, until lights-out.



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