

MFUGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WHAT NOW?

We are sad that we will not be doing FUGE Camp this summer, but we still want to partner with you in sharing the gospel. Our hope is that you and your students will seek out the needs in your own community and serve where you are this summer. The reality is that there are hurting people everywhere, even your next door neighbor.

Our FUGE Site Directors do work to set up sites for MFuge groups starting in January might be helpful to you as you seek opportunities to serve in your own communities. Below are some instructions, helpful hints, and ideas for how to make serving the community something you can start this summer and continue to do all year round.

COMMON QUESTIONS

We realize that setting up a site for you and your students to do ministry in your community can seem like a daunting task, so we want to prepare you with answers to some common questions, and ways in which you can get started.

- How do we get started?
 - What type of ministry should we do?
 - Who should we contact?
 - What do we say when we call?
 - How do we schedule projects?
- How do we get volunteers?
 - How do we form groups?
 - What does a good site look like?
 - How do we teach students to live on mission everyday?

GETTING STARTED

How do we get started?

- First, **decide** what type of ministry in which your group is interested.
- Think about the skills your group has that could benefit a ministry site.
- Brainstorm some ministries in your area that are in need of help.

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Community Research:

- GOOGLE: Take time to google local places to serve in your city such as “volunteer opportunities”, “ministries”, etc. Try searching for specific types of ministry such as “homeless”, “nursing homes”, “refugees”, “community centers”, etc. You may find new places you were not aware of before.
- Baptist Associational Office for your city, <http://www.sbc.net/stateconvhassoc.asp>
- United Way, www.liveunited.org
- Volunteer Networks such as Volunteer Match, www.volunteermatch.org or Hands On, www.handsonnetwork.org
- Local Chamber of Commerce--many have social service guides/referrals

IDEAS:

Here are a few ideas of ways to serve in community, especially during this time of social distancing:

- Bake and deliver sweet treats to the front porches of elderly congregation members with handwritten letters and notes of encouragement.
- Make cards or write letters, emails, or social media messages to seniors in nursing homes who can't have visitors.
- Create a “shop squad” to pick up groceries and medicine for elderly.
- Deliver meals to homebound individuals.
- Organize a week of free childcare provided by the oldest students in your ministry for families who are struggling to pay for babysitting.
- Set up one hour Zoom calls for your students to entertain kids of parents who are working from home. They can read kids books, play educational games, have a talent show, or craft activity (drop off craft supplies on the porch of homes participating the day before) etc.
- Make “Get Well” cards for kids in a local children's hospital.
- Organize a summer reading program to encourage kids to read.
- Organize an essential need drive.
- Contact the local fire and police department to find out how you can bless the servicemen and women in your community.
- Help cook/serve meals at a homeless shelter.
- Create a newcomers group in your neighborhood to help welcome new families.
- Create a Little Free Pantry in your neighborhood, or outside of your church.
- Spread cheer and positive messages in your neighborhood by creating sidewalk chalk art, painting kindness rocks, or organizing a teddy bear hunt.
- Offer to do yard work for local seniors or single parents.
- Help people paint and repair their homes.
- Volunteer to clean up trash around a neighborhood.
- Create a mural that depicts values of your community.
- Get in touch with your local Habitat for Humanity chapter about helping them build houses for those in need.
- Contact a local school principal to help with clean-up projects that get them ready for the new school year.

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GUIDELINES FOR A QUALITY PROJECT:

- Needs must exist that can be met by a group.
 - A rainy day option at the location is helpful so you do not have to change plans based on the weather.
 - The location enjoys having groups there to serve. You do not want to be a burden.
 - PCY (Painting, construction, yard work) specific: There should be enough work for everyone in the group to participate.
 - Students should see progress within the time frame you are at the site.
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THINGS TO CONSIDER:

Below are the things you want to be sure to get answers to before you and your students go and serve.

Facilities:

- Is there a place for students to use the bathroom?
- Is there a place for students to eat lunch (if necessary)?
- If it rains, is there a place for students to go inside?

Safety:

- Safety is important when setting up sites, but keep in mind danger and poverty are not synonymous.
- What safety protocols are in place?

Supervision:

- Make sure your contact is aware of the structure of your group and how you are planning to organize the project.
- The preference is to have someone from the ministry site available on site throughout the day.
- If someone is not able to be there, make sure he will be able to leave specific, detailed instructions on the work to be done and contact information in order to reach him with questions or in case of an emergency.

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Travel Time:

Consider the traveling time for all ministry sites when setting up a time to serve with the site contact.

Volunteers/Groups:

- Be sure to ask the ministry site what their age requirement is and assign students accordingly.
- Having too many students at a site does not serve the site well.
- We recommend a 1 to 5 student to adult ratio to maintain a well-run site

CALLING SITES

- Ask to speak with the person in charge of volunteers or the director of activities. Explain who you are and what you are seeking to do.
- Resist the urge to explain everything about your church in the first conversation. Begin the conversation by letting the organization know that you are interested in bringing a group of volunteers. “Volunteer” is a word that every organization understands. It may be helpful to give them an opportunity to first tell you about their volunteer opportunities. From that, you can determine how your church may best be able to serve their organization.
- Be sure the site contact knows how to get in touch with you before hanging up the phone.
- It is helpful to keep a digital call log in Excel or Google Sheets so that you can keep track of communications.

Things to confirm:

- Maximum number of students the site can handle.
- Will the group be allowed to take pictures or video?
- Is the group allowed to share the Gospel on site?
- What is the expected arrival and departure time for the group?
- Confirm day and time of project
- Find out what materials will be provided by the site.
- Confirm what materials you will need to bring with you.

*When calling to set up ministry sites be sure to use your name and your churches name. This is to help prevent any confusion with site contacts and the FUGE site director, if you live in a city where FUGE takes place during the summer.

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LIVING ON MISSION:

The goal of MFuge and serving in your community is to share the gospel and to teach and encourage students to live on mission every day. We want students to be intentional where they are; in the halls of school, on a sports team, and even within their families. We are praying that during your time serving in your community this summer the gospel becomes the natural overflow of your students' hearts.

EQUIPPING/TRAINING YOUR STUDENTS:

- Teach students how to have conversations with people they have just met. So much is done through social media that the art of face to face communication can sometimes be difficult.
- Teach students how to share the gospel. There are a lot of ways to share. Think about your group and the culture of your community before deciding on the best method of sharing. One that we use at FUGE Camps, is the 3 Circles approach. Many missionaries around the world use this when sharing with others. A free app is available that students can use on their phone: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/life-conversation-guide/id879490935?ls=1>
- Teach students how to share their own story. A great way to do this is by giving students to time to answer the following three questions:
 - a. What was your life before Christ?
 - b. How did you meet Christ and how did He change your life?
 - c. How does Christ impact your life today?(If you have students who don't have a relationship with Christ, this is a great time to share your story or have an older student prepared to share their story.)
- Practice. Give your students time to practice sharing the gospel and their story with other students and/or adults at church. This gives them a safe environment to practice, so when they go out into the community it will hopefully come more naturally.