



Mission Trip 2020

Youth Currently in 10-12th Grades

DATE: July 26 - August 1st or 2nd

Estimate Cost \$1150 + or -

Week of Hope – Community Service

At Group Mission Trips, our passion is creating service experiences to help people grow in their relationships with Jesus and each other. It's more than a moment. It's a mindset. We are continually humbled by God's transforming work through this organization.

Week of Hope is packed with practical acts of love and service. Students build meaningful connections as they serve people through our strong partnerships with local ministries and nonprofit organizations. They'll learn Christ-like empathy and compassion for others as they meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of disadvantaged children, youth, and adults.

As students serve in the name of Jesus, they'll develop friendships with the people being served, with other teams, with their own youth group, and, most importantly, with Jesus. Denominational differences disappear as like-minded youth work together for a common purpose.



Wayne County, NY

Located in a lush region with green rolling hills, Wayne County, New York is a remarkable community with a vibrant, established relationship with Week of Hope.

The historic Erie Canal passes through the nearby village of Newark, allowing boaters to travel along a scenic water route from Albany to Buffalo. The community incorporates a portion of the Canal Way Trail System, giving ample recreation for hikers, bikers, or individuals who just wish to enjoy wildlife and quiet trails.

This rural community doesn't attract the huge organizations, but boasts small town volunteerism. The small town feel is unique to Week of Hope as the entire community rallies around us for the summer to provide meals, support, and friendly hellos wherever you go.

Our long-term host is a partnership of two churches—and between the two churches is a park that's home to a weekly farmers market. Teams will experience the benefits of the established relationships in the community, including meals prepared by groups such as Rotary. Teams are both anticipated for their arrival and remembered when they leave. If you come to Wayne County, you will leave knowing that you have been a blessing to specific people.

How You'll Serve

Some projects may include:

- Learn about domestic and sexual violence at a local crisis center. Meeting survivors, provide child care, assist with yard work, and organize donations.
- Help out at the Senior Living Center by visiting and playing games with residents along with gardening, yard work and painting.
- Assist with a summer VBS--serve and eat with the children and lead them in Bible stories, games, activities, and music.
- Deliver meals to community children at three different locations while engaging children with games, stories or music.
- Help at a Children's Retreat: landscaping, clearing wooded areas, raking leaves, mowing lawns, clearing and mulching trails.
- Do minor fix-up repairs to homes belonging to elderly or disabled individuals, and spend time visiting and befriending the residents.
- Build new structures in and help maintain a beautiful garden, there will also be arts and craft projects, weeding and planting, and the best part- getting to push a visiting resident around in their wheelchair.

Lodging

A Week of Hope can hold up to 100 participants and we house them all typically at a local church. Our staff transforms the facility into a home away from home—there will be a separate boy's hall and girl's hall, a space for meals, adequate bathrooms and showers, and a space for the programs.

Participants need to bring air mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows and other bedding to sleep on floors. Youth groups are assigned to sleeping rooms together, gender separate. Sleeping rooms may be shared with other youth groups, depending on the size of groups and the size of the room.

Air-conditioning: Each location is different, but sometimes there is NOT air-conditioning. We serve where we are needed and in some areas, churches just can't afford air-conditioning. Even if your lodging facility does have AC, it's a good idea to still plan on bringing fans as a backup. They are nice for white noise in a crowded sleeping area!

Showers: Often our church facilities do not have adequate indoor showers. We will always ensure showers are available, and they will always be separated by gender, but we do need to get creative in some locations. Showers may be a combination of inside showers, outside showers, and/or showers at a nearby school, YMCA, or an organization that we are serving at. Please remember to bring swimsuits so you are ready for any situation!

The schedule

A "typical" day at a Group Week of Hope involves serving others, "God Sightings," daily devotions, and interactive worship programs. Your schedule will look similar to this:

Check-in: Sunday between 3-4 p.m.

4:30 p.m. Adult meeting
5:30 p.m. Dinner gathering
6:30 p.m. Kick-off program (everyone gets to meet their crews and find out their service projects!)
8:00 p.m. Chapel, followed by youth group devotions
11:00 p.m. Lights-out

Monday

6:30 a.m. Breakfast crew begins
6:45 a.m. Wake-up call
7:00 a.m. Breakfast and pack lunches
8:00 a.m. Morning program
8:45-3:00 p.m. Serve at project sites, have on-site lunch and devotions
3:30 p.m. Return to lodging facility, free time, and camp store open until 5 p.m.
5:00 p.m. Dinner crew begins
5:30 p.m. Dinner gathering
6:30 p.m. Hospitality tasks
7:00 p.m. Chapel team practice
8:00 p.m. Chapel, followed by youth group devotions
10:30 p.m. Bedtime stories (optional)
11:00 p.m. Lights-out

Tuesday

6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Same schedule as Monday
3:30-10:30 p.m. Free time (dinner and devotions on your own)
8:00 p.m. Lodging facility is back open
8:30 p.m. Movie night (optional)
10:30 p.m. Bedtime stories (optional)
11:00 p.m. Lights-out

Wednesday

6:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Same schedule as Monday.

Thursday

6:30 a.m. Breakfast crew begins
6:45 a.m. Wake-up call
7:00 a.m. Breakfast and pack lunches
8:00 a.m. Morning program
8:45-3:00 p.m. Serve at project sites, have on-site lunch and devotions
3:30 p.m. Return to lodging facility, free time, and camp store open until 5 p.m.
5:00 p.m. Dinner crew begins
5:30 p.m. Dinner gathering
6:30 p.m. Hospitality tasks
8:00 p.m. Chapel, followed by youth group devotions
9:30 p.m. Lip-sync battle
12 a.m. Lights-out

Friday

7-8:00 a.m. Breakfast
7-9:00 a.m. Youth group check-out, hospitality tasks, and depart for home

Friday FUN DAY!! We will be planning a fun activity for Friday and staying in a hotel Friday Night.

Saturday OR Sunday we will be returning home. This will depend on the flight schedule. We will let you know as soon as we have confirmed the schedule.

Area Activities

Down the road an hour east or west you can visit Syracuse or Rochester, NY. For outdoor adventure seekers, there are a ton of lakes and state parks nearby; some favorites include Buttermilk Falls State Park and Watkins Glen State Park. You may also want to stop at Niagara Falls for some incredible views, which is about 2 hours from the facility.

****Price includes all lodging, meals, activities, and travel. Please send some personal money for snacks and souvenirs****