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PARENT PACKET

We are so excited that your teenager will be joining us this summer. It is our hope that they will have the opportunity to serve and be challenged during their mission trip experience. We know it can be a step of faith for both of you. This packet provides some information for you to use before, during and after.

What's in this Parent Packet?

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Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, contact your group leader on their personal cell phone. If they cannot be reached, call YouthWorks for 24-hour emergency assistance at 1-800-968-8504 ext. 1.

YouthWorks is committed to safety at all times during the mission week. There are specific rules and boundaries for each mission site to ensure safety on site.

Sample Schedule

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Devotions / Quiet Time
8:45 a.m.	Group Meeting and Prayer
9:00 a.m.	Depart for Service Sites
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at Site
3:30 p.m.	Leave Site – Shower Time
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Evening Activity
9:00 p.m.	The Gathering * This is the evening program consisting of sharing time, music and a video.
10:00 p.m.	Church Group Time * This time is set aside for each group to spend time debriefing their day.
11:15 p.m.	Lights Out!



Community Overview

Blackfeet Nation

Housing Location: Heart Butte Elementary School
P.O. Box 275 Heart Butte, MT 59448
Showers: Onsite **Air Conditioning:** No

Service on Site: Serve through painting, cleaning, yard work or other simple work projects. Plan and lead kids programming for children in the community, including Bible lessons, games, crafts and reading. Plan and facilitate sports-based programming for community youth. During the week, students may serve at one or more of the above service options.

Evening Activities:

Cultural Night \$8.00 Per Person

Blanket Exercise

Glacier National Park \$30.00 Per Vehicle

Community Cookout

Donations: GENERAL DONATIONS: School supplies and Backpacks
KIDS CLUB DONATIONS: Snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.).
WORK PROJECT DONATIONS: Paintbrushes, Tools, or Other Work Project Supplies

Talk to the Site Director during your pre-trip call for more specific donation needs.

Theme for Summer 2018: Onward

We all want to be on a journey that's moving forward. No one wants to live their life just wandering around – and there's a reason for that! Every day, God is moving to broaden our perspectives, ignite our passions, expose new possibilities and inspire worthy pursuits. And He hasn't just left us to figure it out on our own.

This summer as you learn about a new place, serve the community and interact with each other, pay attention to the way God is working in, through and around you. Maybe God will change the way you see things, open new doors and spark new desires in you. So, let's not be satisfied to stay where we are with God. Let's move onward together.

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

Prayer Requests: Please pray for community leaders in Heart Butte and for leaders of the Blackfeet Nation. Pray for the kids of the community. Pray that we can enter the community as learners and that we would serve in a respectful way.



Parent Processing Guide

Summer 2018

You might not be going on your son or daughter's mission trip, but as a parent you play an important role in the way they experience their trip after it's over! You see, a big part of the mission trip experience is what a student does with the trip after it's over. How will they apply what they've learned? How will it change the way they act? How will it impact their relationship with God? As a consistent presence in your teenager's life, you can continue the influence of the trip well beyond your student's return. Use the following ideas to help your student connect service in another community with life back home.

PROCESSING IDEAS

Processing is not an interrogation but – as its name suggests – part of a process you can invite your student into. Here are some ideas to enrich your conversations.

Take part in processing. Research shows that youth most benefit from a two-way conversation where the parent shares their story with the teenager. While you don't want to dominate the conversation, be willing to answer the same questions your teenager is. It is valuable for them to see your faith in process.

Spread it out. While it might be easy to think of processing as a one-time event to check off the list, thinking through what happened and figuring out how to apply it will take time. Remember, it's a *process*! So keep asking questions. Keep thinking back and looking forward with your student.

Find a safe space. The setting of your conversation matters. Pick a comfortable place where your student can feel safe sharing important things. And *time* is an even more important factor. Find a space where he or she doesn't feel rushed or preoccupied.

Talk in transit. Make the most of your drive times by asking students questions while driving. Maybe make it a point to have a "question of the drive" each day. Take time to truly listen and share your own answer to each question.

Make an event. Churches will often have an event where students get to share about their mission trip. Have an event that focuses just on your student. It could be just your family, or you could include friends or extended family. Going out for dinner, gathering for a living room conversation or simply grabbing coffee together can all ascribe value to what was just experienced.

Write it down. If your student is a writer or keeps a journal, have them write down what they experienced and have them share it. Also, encourage them to send a letter to supporters and friends.

Create a tradition. Find a time each day or week when you talk with your student. The days following their mission trip are a great time to launch a new tradition.

JUST LISTEN! There are some great ideas on this page, but if you do nothing else, make sure you just take time to listen to your student after their mission trip. And really pause to listen well! Often after mission trips, students have hours of stories, ideas and questions, but the people in their lives give them only minutes of attention. Life-change might launch on a mission trip, but what happens during the days after determine if that change will travel with them. Seek to be part of the positive life-change your student can experience after his or her trip. Check out this blog post for additional thoughts: <https://www.youthworks.com/difficulty-of-returning-home>

FOLLOWUP QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What was most exciting?
- What surprised you on your trip?
- What was the most important thing you learned?
- What were the three biggest things you did on this trip that you've never done before?
- Where did you see God during your trip?
- What did you miss most about home?
- How did God open your eyes during the trip?
- What made you angry? Sad? Happy?
- Who is one person you met that you won't forget?
- In what ways did you need to rely on God?
- How did the way you see others change during your trip?
- What is something you think you should do now that the trip is over?
- Why do you think God wanted you to go on this trip?
- How did this trip change you?
- What part of the trip helped you get to know Jesus better? In what ways did you get to know Jesus better?
- What did you learn about yourself on this trip?
- Are there any ways we can keep serving the community you were in? How could we do that?



ONWARD

YOUTHWORKS SUMMER 2018

EXPERIENCE THE WEEK WITH YOUR STUDENT

Students benefit from being asked questions about their developing faith, but also seeing the faith of adults in practice – especially the faith of their parents. These two pages have information about YouthWorks’ summer 2018 theme: Onward. We invite you to process what your student is processing this week.

Here’s how: Read the below theme description and Scripture passage – the same passage your student will hear and discuss during the corresponding day of their mission trip. Think through the questions below. Take time to answer each question on a separate piece of paper. When your student returns, schedule a few meeting times – maybe take them out for food or coffee once a week for the next five weeks and reflect on and discuss one of the themes each day. Rereading Scripture is great repetition. This type of process could be very effective in helping them tie the mission trip experience to life back home.

SUNDAY NIGHT

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:6

BIG IDEA: God is moving you Onward

REFLECTION:

- Have you ever wondered, “Why am I here?” or “Where am I headed?”
- God’s desire is for you to progressively move forward in your faith, but at times you’re just stuck. What are the things holding you back from moving Onward with God?
- How do you think God will challenge you this week?

- In Luke 19:1-10, how was Jesus’ perspective on Zacchaeus different than the crowd’s?
- How was Zacchaeus perspective changed after he encountered Jesus?
- How does Jesus’ perspective of you affect the way you see Jesus?
- How is God changing the way you see others?

MONDAY: PERSPECTIVES

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:1-10, Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 10:13-16, John 9:1-3, Matthew 5:43-47

BIG IDEA: God is moving you Onward to fresh PERSPECTIVES.

REFLECTION:

- Everyone has different perspectives. What is one thing that you have a perspective on and you know someone else has a different perspective?
- How do you respond to this phrase: “The way that Jesus sees things is the right and true perspective.”?

TUESDAY: PASSIONS

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 12:29-31, Mark 1:40-42, Matthew 9:35-38, Matthew 20:29-34, John 2:13-17

BIG IDEA: God is moving you Onward to fulfilled PASSIONS

REFLECTION:

- What are your thoughts on this description of passions?
 - Passions are things we care about combined with emotions that cause you to act.
- Do you think emotions matter when it comes to service? Why or why not?
- If Jesus had been without emotion, do you think he would have been as effective at helping people? Why or Why not?

- Have you noticed any type of service you feel strongly about? Or is there a group of people you really enjoy serving?
- Where have you found yourself thinking, “I care about this.”?
- How might God use your passions to serve people?
- How do you think God has shaped your passions this week?
- What’s one way you can serve people at home?

WEDNESDAY: POSSIBILITIES

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 10:17-22

BIG IDEA: God Is moving you Onward to new POSSIBILITIES

REFLECTION:

- In saying Yes to God, He opens you to new possibilities. When have you experienced new things because you said yes to God?
- In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-31) The master entrust 3 servants with talents. 2 of his talents are good stewards and one is not. What are the talents in your life that God holds you responsible for? What are the opportunities that come from those responsibilities?
- God puts us in settings for us to be Jesus. What are some places that you need to be Jesus more in?
- How do you see God opening new doors in your community?

THURSDAY: PURSUITS

SCRIPTURE: John 13:1-17, Luke 15:1-10, Luke 19:10, Matthew 9:13

BIG IDEA: God is moving you Onward to worthy PURSUITS

REFLECTION:

- Pursuits are things that we choose to chase after. What are the things that God is calling you to pursue?
- In what ways do you sense Jesus is chasing after you?
- What are the things you see Jesus chasing after?
- How does Jesus’ message of humble service to his disciples apply to your life?
- Who around your life do you need to pursue for God more?

FRIDAY MORNING: SEND OFF

SCRIPTURE: Luke: 19-10, Matthew 14:13-21, Matthew 25:14-30, John 13:1-17

BIG IDEA: Moving Onward back at home

SEND OFF PRAYER:

May God further broaden your perspectives,

Opening your eyes wider to what is good and true,
Expanding your understanding and grace for others,
So that you see the world as Jesus does.

May God continue to ignite passions within you,

Deepening the things you care about,
Creating meaning from emotion,
So head and heart connect in beautiful symphony.

May God never stop exposing new possibilities,

Opening doors you didn’t expect,
Challenging your status quo,
So you form a faith that says, “Yes!”

May God keep on inspiring worthwhile pursuits,

Bringing your faith to your fingertips,
Placing your feet in the footsteps of Jesus,
So you are part of God’s good work in the world.

And in all your perspectives, passions, possibilities and pursuits,

May you be confident of this:

“that he who began a good work in you
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ
Jesus.”

And finally, may you intimately know

the God who faithfully, lovingly, steadily draws you
ONWARD.



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PACKING LIST

For Everyone

CLOTHING

As you pack clothes for your trip, **make sure you've read the page entitled "Clothes to Pack for Your Mission Trip."** It has lots of information to help you pack well!

- ★ Mid-thigh or longer shorts*
- ★ Long pants
for cool nights and/or work projects
- ★ Short-sleeved shirts*
- ★ Long-sleeved shirts, sweatshirts and/or light jacket
for cool nights
- ★ Nice, clean clothes for a possible worship service
- ★ Underwear and socks
- ★ Tennis shoes or work boots (closed-foot)*
- ★ Swimsuit*
for showering if you wish and/or possibly for an evening activity (ask your Trip Leader)
- ★ Towel and washcloth
- ★ Shower shoes (flip-flops)

OTHER STUFF

- ★ Small shower bag or backpack
- ★ Soap, shampoo, deodorant, other toiletries, extra contact lenses, backup pair of glasses, etc.
- ★ Sleeping bag and pillow
- ★ Air mattress or camping pad
for sleeping on floors; mattresses must be twin size or smaller
- ★ Bible and pen
- ★ Reusable water bottle
- ★ Sunscreen, lip balm, hat, sunglasses
- ★ Spending money for snacks and T-shirt purchases
talk to your Trip Leader for further details
- ★ Insect repellent
not every person needs to bring their own; coordinate with others in your group
- ★ Flashlight
- ★ Battery-powered alarm clock
not every person needs to bring their own; coordinate with others in your group

* See "Clothes to Pack for Your Mission Trip" for additional details.

Notes on Packing

Because space is limited in the sleeping rooms, everything but your sleeping bag and camping pad or air mattress should fit in one duffel bag or suitcase.

Please check the local weather forecast for the community you are visiting to help you know how to pack.

PLEASE AVOID BRINGING:

- ★ Blow dryers, curling irons or straightening irons because shower time is short and because many of our housing sites do not have the power to run all of these small electronics at one time.
- ★ Electronic devices, too much cash or other valuables that you would consider to be irreplaceable. Also, consider leaving your phone at home. These items can distract you from others during the week and may be susceptible to theft. *YouthWorks is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.*

For Canadians going to United States Sites OR United States citizens going to Canadian Sites

- ★ Bring appropriate documents for border crossing.
See Border Crossing Info under Required Paperwork.
- ★ Exchange your money before your trip.
This can take up to a few weeks.

For those going to Puerto Rico

- ★ Because of space limitations, do not bring an air mattress. **Please bring a foam pad or camping pad.**
Need to buy something? We suggest: bit.ly/campmat
- ★ The summer is rainy season in PR – a small umbrella or raincoat is a good idea and bug spray is essential!
- ★ We will be attending a Puerto Rican church service. It is important to be culturally sensitive with our clothing. Appropriate clothing for church includes:
 - For women: at-least-knee-length skirts/dresses or shorts/capris and a nice loose-fitting shirt with sleeves; please no sleeveless dresses or shirts
 - For men: pants or knee-length shorts, preferably khakis with a short sleeve button-down shirt or polo shirt
 - For everyone: Sandals are appropriate.



CLOTHES TO PACK FOR YOUR MISSION TRIP

We want you to be successful in service! It might seem small, but being intentional with what you wear can help you eliminate obstacles when serving others. Because we get to be guests in another place, we want to do everything we can to respect others, including honoring their ideas about apparel. Plus, we'll be doing a lot of different kinds of service, so we want you to be ready for whatever this mission trip throws at you!

Bringing the following items on your mission trip will allow you to bypass potential barriers, participate in all sorts of service, and stay safe as you enter into another community and actively love others.

Please Bring...

Tennis Shoes or Work Boots

You can bring sandals too, but to keep your feet safe, you'll need a pair of closed-foot shoes that completely covers your feet. Bring footwear that you don't mind getting dirty or wet at service sites and that you can wear in the kitchen.

Mid-Thigh or Longer Shorts or Pants

Not sure if that's your shorts? Let your arms fall to your side; if your fingertips touch skin, look for a longer pair to bring along.

Shirts with Sleeves

They don't have to be long sleeves and you can roll them up anytime.

Loose-Fitting Clothing

During the week your clothes may endure paint, sweat, mud and lots of love from children! Bring clothes that you can work and play hard in.

Swimwear

If your YouthWorks week includes a swimming activity:

Guys: Please follow the shorts policy above.

Girls: Please bring a one-piece swimsuit.

If you are bringing a suit for additional privacy in the shower, two-piece suits are OK.

Please Leave at Home...

- Tank tops or sleeveless shirts
- Short shorts
- Clothing that reveals undergarments, midriffs or chests
- Tight-fitting clothing
- Clothing with obscene, vulgar, abusive or discriminatory language or images
- Attire that represents hate groups, contains threatening language or is gang-related
- Apparel that promotes alcohol, chemicals, tobacco or any other product illegal for use by minors

Why?

We don't want something as simple as clothing to hurt your opportunity to form incredible connections with other church groups on the trip or our friends in the community. Instead, we want to honor those relationships by avoiding attire that could possibly conflict with their cultural or organizational norms.

We know that some of the items on this list might not match up with what you usually wear. Sometimes service stretches us beyond what we're used to... and that's OK! Mission trips are all about moving into new territory and experiencing something different. Plus, it's kind of incredible that something as simple as how you pack your bags can be part of the way you begin to serve the community you're headed to. Thank you for serving in this way!