



**Good Shepherd Youth Ministry**

# **WorkCamp 2016**

**Participant Information Packet & Covenant**

**Massaponax, Virginia**

**June 25 – July 1, 2016**

*designed for any high school students*

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THROUGH  
THIS ENTIRE PACKET CAREFULLY!**

**PAGES 1-2 ARE FOR YOU TO KEEP.  
PAGES 3-4 ARE FOR YOU TO TURN IN.**

*“Our resident said the greatest way of spreading the Good News was through service. Hearing him say that made me realize something: people talk a lot about bringing Christ to others, but the people we serve don’t need Christ brought to them; we need Christ brought to us.”*

--Neil Burke, WorkCamp 2006: Orange, VA

### **What is WorkCamp?**

WorkCamp is a week-long mission trip designed to help high school students live out their Catholic faith. This is accomplished through direct service with people in need, communal prayer and worship, small group discussions, talks, and more. The work you do depends on the work site you are assigned, but is typically light to moderate home improvement and/or construction. All work is well supervised and safe.

We prepare for WorkCamp as a committed team for six months, leading up to that one, wonderful and intense week. If you are only interested in completing service hours, WorkCamp is probably not for you. If you are open to God working in you and through you, and if you are interested in serving your brothers and sisters in Christ, then WorkCamp will probably be an amazing experience for you.

### **How can I participate in WorkCamp?**

If after reading through this information packet you decide you would like to make the commitment to be involved in WorkCamp this year, please fill out the attached covenant and turn it in by Sunday, January 24. You will then need to fill out the necessary Diocesan registration information, and turn in the signed copies and a deposit. Completion of these steps will place you on our roster in the order received. You will also need to attend ALL preparatory meetings and participate in fundraising efforts to raise the necessary money for your trip. Beginning in March, based on the number of adult volunteers, the order we received your paperwork and deposit, and your participation in preparatory meetings, you will be accepted in either a Roster or Wait-list status. Your continued participation will impact your status on our roster, and will be re-evaluated in April and May. The full schedule and deadlines are below.

### **How much does WorkCamp Cost?**

In past years, participant fundraising efforts have met the vast majority, often 100%, of the expenses for WorkCamp, over your initial deposit shown below. However, should fundraising not meet our goal, any leftover costs will need to be incurred by your family. The total cost per participant is approximately \$700, but as stated above, fundraising usually covers almost everything over the deposit, when we all work together. Therefore the more fundraising you do, the less you will have to pay out of pocket. We highly recommend that you discuss your WorkCamp trip with friends and relatives and ask them to support you financially if they are able to. This is the most effective way to raise money. If the cost is the only reason you are not sure about joining us, please talk to Miguel before you decide!

• Deposit Schedule:	
• Received by February 7, 2016	Deposit \$50
• First late deadline: February 14, 2016	Deposit \$150
• Last chance late deadline: March 19, 2016	Deposit \$350

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### **When are the mandatory preparatory meetings?**

Sun., Jan. 24, 4:30-6:00 pm **Families potluck**

Sat., February 13-14, 5pm-7am **Lock-In**

Sat., March 5, **Safety Certification** (time tbd)

Sun., March 13, 4:30-6:00 pm, **meeting**

Sun., April 17, 4:30-6:00 pm, **meeting**

Sat., April 30, 3:30-8:30 pm, **Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction**

Sun., May 22, 4:30-6:00 pm, **meeting**

Sun., June 12, 4:30-6:00 pm, **meeting**

### **Can I miss a preparatory meeting?**

Participation in WorkCamp requires preparation, formation, prayer, and team building. Thus our meetings are not optional. If, when you turn in your application, you are already aware of a life event that you cannot miss (like your sister's wedding or your brother's graduation), we can make an exception, but you must speak with Miguel immediately. We understand if an unforeseen emergency arises, but excuses will only be given for emergencies.

Other extracurricular commitments are incredibly important, but if there is a conflict, you will need to decide which commitment is more important to you. If you choose the other commitment (like a sports team, band, drama, etc.), then your absence will place you at the bottom of the wait list should resources (i.e. number of adult volunteers, transportation capacity or finances) force us to limit the number of students able to participate in WorkCamp. Some of the most difficult choices in life involve choosing between two things that are good. We understand how difficult it is to say no to a commitment. The decision is ultimately up to you, and we support that decision, even if it means you have to miss WorkCamp this year.

### **Deadlines and other important dates**

- December 13: Parish Covenant accepted. Diocesan Registration and signed paperwork accepted. \$50 deposit accepted.
- January 24: Final date to accept Parish Covenant for teens
- February 7: Participant Diocesan registration paperwork completed, signed, turned in, Final date for \$50 deposit
- February 14: Late date for Participant Diocesan paperwork turn in, requires \$150 deposit
- February 21: Last Adult Crew Leader Registration Paperwork turn in at Good Shepherd (no deposit required)
- February 15 - March 19: Teen Wait-list Applications accepted (\$350 fee required, refundable)
- March 1: Initial selection and notification to teen applicants of status: Roster or Wait-list
- April 8: Second selection and notification to teen applicants of status: Roster, Wait-list, Cancelled with deposit refund
- April 23: Last chance for teen withdrawal without full financial responsibility
- May 1: Third selection and notification to teen applicants of status: Roster, Wait-list, Cancelled
- May 15: Final payment due of any financial responsibility not covered by fundraising

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ **School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age you will be at WorkCamp** \_\_\_\_\_ **Youth E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Youth Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s)/guardian(s) Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your t-shirt size?**    S        M        L        XL

**Have you participated in WorkCamp before?**    Y / N    **If yes, which trip(s)?**

**Do you have any health/medical concerns or special needs that we should be aware of?**

**Why are you interested in doing service?**

**How does serving those in need relate to our faith in God?**

**How will you raise money for your trip?**

## Covenant for Youth

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the WorkCamp Participant Information Packet fully, and I understand what my participation in WorkCamp entails. I am aware that this is a huge commitment to serve God and to serve others. I promise that if I am selected to be a WorkCamp participant:

- I will attend and fully participate in ALL of the preparatory meetings, and I understand that if I choose to miss a meeting, I am ceding priority for others to participate in WorkCamp this summer should resources limit capacity
- I will pray about this experience before, during, and after the trip
- I will participate in fundraising efforts to raise money for the trips
- I will behave in a manner appropriate to a maturing Christian
- I will share my experiences with the church when I return

Note: Do not sign below if you are not willing to make this commitment.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Covenant for Parents/Guardians

As the parent/guardian of the student named above, I have read the WorkCamp Participant Information Packet fully, and I understand what my teen's participation in WorkCamp entails. I am aware that this is a huge commitment for her/him to serve God and to serve others. I pledge to give my teen full support throughout this journey. If she/he is selected to be a WorkCamp participant, I will support her/him in meeting all of the commitments listed above.

Note: Do not sign below if you are not willing to support your teen in this commitment.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*[This second signature line is for families with two parents/guardians.  
If your household only has one parent/guardian, please disregard.]*