

Week of Hope camps are community service mission trips for youth. Students come alongside seasoned local ministries and nonprofits to make a lasting difference through meaningful community service! 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 they serve, with other teams, with their own youth group, and, most importantly, with Jesus!

Projects might include providing meals to the homeless, tutoring struggling children from low-income families, helping to lead a day camp for kids, working with disabled children, or sharing stories with a lonely elderly person in an assisted-living facility.

The fun doesn't stop after your day of service. The party continues with themed days, movie nights, lip-sync battles, bedtime stories, group games, and much more!

During a community service mission trip, participants stay at a local church that is full of fun and energy throughout the week as they engage in indoor and outdoor games, share meals together, and participate in worship and teaching in morning and evening chapel times!





DETAILS

Who

Graduated 5th grade - graduated 12th grade students and friends

Where

Nashville, Tennessee

When

Sunday, July 25th - Friday, July 30th, 2021

Cost

The initial cost is \$276 plus transportation however, the Hope Lutheran Church Board of Youth is covering part of the cost in order to bring your total down to **only \$200!**

Travel

Ford Transit Passenger Van

Other

Students are highly encouraged to serve at Rocky Railway VBS from June 14th-18th in preparation to attend Week of Hope.



REGISTRATION

- 1. Email Alex Cargin at acargin@lifeathope.org w/ a completed copy of the 2020/2021 Hope Lutheran Church "Medical Release & Permission Form", if you haven't completed one already.
- 2. Visit *lifeathope.org* and find the "2021 Summer Mission Trip" link. Click the link and fill out the online Group Mission Trips *"Participant Info Form"*.
- 3. Pay \$200 fee to Marci Scharf, Office Manager, in full or following the payment due dates listed below (cash and checks are accepted).

Payment Due Dates:

<u>1st Payment</u> - \$100 by Sunday, May 2nd, 2021 <u>2nd Payment</u> - \$100 by Sunday, June 6th, 2021



SCHEDULE

A "typical" day at Week of Hope involves serving others, "God Sightings," daily devotions, and interactive worship programs! Our 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 will get to meet their work crews and find out their service projects!)

8 p.m. Chapel, followed by youth group devotions

11 p.m. Lights-out

Monday, Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Breakfast crew begins

6:45 a.m. Wake-up call

7 a.m. Breakfast and pack lunches

8 a.m. Morning program

8:45 a.m.-3 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

5 p.m. Dinner crew begins

5:30 p.m. Dinner gathering

6:30 p.m. Hospitality tasks

7 p.m. Chapel team practice

8 p.m. Chapel, followed by youth group devotions

11 p.m. Lights out

Continued

Tuesday: 6:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Same schedule as Monday

3:30 p.m.-11 pm Free Day 11 p.m. Lights-out

Thursday

6:30 a.m. Breakfast crew begins

6:45 a.m. Wake-up call

7 a.m. Breakfast and pack lunches

8 a.m. Morning program

8:45 a.m.-3 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

5 p.m. Dinner crew begins

5:30 p.m. Dinner gathering

6:30 p.m. Hospitality tasks

8 p.m. Chapel, followed by youth group devotions

9:30 p.m. Lip-sync battle

12 a.m. Lights out

Check-out: Friday by 9 a.m.



THEME

This summer at Week of Hope we will experience a fresh look at the idea of worth through the parable of the prodigal son!

Through each powerful, transformational experience, we will see how Jesus wants each of us to know we are valuable, loved, accepted and worth it to him. Luke 15:11-32.





DEAR PARENTS

As you may know, our Student Ministry is planning a mission trip this summer! We have chosen to go with an organization with decades of experience in leading youth to serve Jesus all across the country. Group Mission Trips provides a great way, in a safe environment, for your child to gain skills they will use as adults:

Leadership

Your child will be assigned to a supervised crew of six where they will fulfill one of six specific roles and work together to complete a service project.

Teamwork

Your child will come together with other youth from different states and backgrounds, working as a crew to accomplish a goal that is bigger than each of them individually. They will make a lasting impact by providing a source of hope to those they serve.

Problem Solving

Your child will work with four or five other youth and one adult to serve a local agency where they may come up against obstacles, such as miscommunication or difficult people. Every year crews find creative and clever solutions to accomplish their tasks.

Confidence

Your child will learn they can work with many different people to serve and accomplish huge tasks on their own. Many often arrive thinking they do not have the necessary skills or cannot do this without parental assistance, and leave knowing they can positively influence and change lives.

Continued

Compassion

Your child will work with people from different walks of life which may be different than those they come into contact with at home. This gives teens and pre-teens a great perspective – the reward is as lasting for them as it is meaningful to those they serve.

Spiritual Growth

Your child will attend morning and evening interactive programs that guide their faith in Jesus to become more powerful and real. There will also be devotions during lunch and opportunities to discuss all they are experiencing with our group.

Students who have attended mission trips with Group Mission Trips have said they grew closer to God, grew closer to people in their group, and they wanted to attend another trip! Parents have seen their kids come home excited, positively impacted by their service experience, and committed to continuing their spiritual journey with Jesus. Your support is crucial in getting your kids on this life-changing trip! Thank you for encouraging them to put their faith in action. You are sure to find it to be an excellent investment.

Sincerely,

Alex Cargin

Director of Youth & Education (920)922-5130 acargin@lifeathope.org

COVID-19 PLAN

Camp season is still many months away and so many things surrounding COVID-19 are changing around the country daily. However, Group Missions is still hard at work preparing for a variety of scenarios for this summer. They have prepared a detailed list of many of the possibilities they could use to add precautions to sleeping arrangements, worksites, large-group gatherings, food prep, and more.

Arrival

• They will ensure that the camp environment has been cleaned and disinfected and ready for us.

Mealtimes

- They are recruiting extra facility volunteers to assist with increased sanitization and cleaning tasks
- Planning to expand mealtimes and creating shifts for separate groups to provide better social distancing practices during mealtimes.
- Analyzing their food preparation procedures at Week of Hope and make necessary changes to ensure food safety since youth groups usually help prepare meals for each other.

Free Time

- Providing colored bracelets to participants that designate a person's comfort level of interaction – From very little interaction desired (red bracelet) to almost all interaction welcomed (green bracelet).
- Taking each person's temperature daily at each mission trip location.
- Requiring everyone to wear masks at worksites, in all public places, and at the lodging facility during gatherings and interactions.

Sleeping Arrangements

- They are speaking with location partners about the possibility of expanding the number of sleeping rooms to provide for social distancing in sleeping areas.
- Keeping Youth Group together in one room. Obviously, boys and girls will still be in separate rooms.

Continued

Large Group Gatherings

 Creating multiple evening program times in shifts and conducting program outside (weather permitting) for separate groups to provide better social distancing practices during program times.

Worksites

- Keeping youth groups together (including on crews) to help keep people safe. We
 understand mixing groups is a large part of the relational experience at camp and if
 this is the safest option, we plan for this to be a temporary change for this year
 only.
- Limiting the amount of interaction with people at all project sites, including devotions, to decrease exposure of anyone who may be at higher risk including our elderly residents.

Their plan is to make summer 2021 as fun, safe, and as normal as possible. They are in contact with their partners in each community and working to make sure they provide the safest environment and follow all local guidelines when it comes time for camp this summer. Until we are much closer to the summer of 2021, they will not be able to finalize plans, but they hope this gives us some idea of how they are preparing. As the situation changes, they may add or remove any of the listed precautions, and they will notify us of any of these updates before our mission trip begins.