

**2012  
Summer  
Mission  
Project**

**information  
packet**

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# 1 overview

## June 24-30, 2012 Wyoming, IA

**Trip Price:     \$150 deposit by March 1, 2012  
                      \$200 deposit after March 1, 2012  
                      \$100 (despite date) for each add'l family member  
                      (all registration forms and checks must be turned  
                      in together)**

**\*\*additional funds required will be raised by the group and/or individually to cover the \$210 per participant total\*\***

### **Trip Description:**

We're going about an hour east of Cedar Rapids, IA to Camp Wyoming, with 380 acres of hardwood forest, bluffs, caves and stream. Camp Wyoming is a year round Camp & Conference center supported and owned by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and is a mission of The Presbytery of East Iowa. Just like Clearwater, they have lots of work to do to keep the camp in good condition for campers, but not a lot of help or money to get it done.

We'll leave PPC very early Sunday, June 24 so we can arrive early afternoon at camp. We'll leave Saturday, June 30 late morning after the campers have left and will arrive back at PPC late afternoon/early evening June 30, depending on how many stops we make. It is about a 5 ½ hour drive each way.

Monday through Friday each person is responsible for getting himself/herself up, dressed, and ready to be at breakfast on time (meals will be provided by the camp foodservice). We will put in a full day of work with a short break for lunch. Our workdays typically end around 4:00 pm. Times can shift earlier or later based on the work being done and the weather.

Prayer and devotion are a part of life on the trip. We begin and end each day in prayer. Each night, the group spends time in devotions. Lights out are non-negotiable - 11:00 pm the entire week.

The entire group leads worship the Sunday after we return. Each aspect of the service is led by someone from the group. This is not a sharing of our inside jokes and how much fun we had; we are leading the congregation to see God's glory through the experiences we have had. The worship service can take any format the group chooses.

We will have the opportunity to share photos, videos, and stories at a mid-week evening gathering with the congregation.

## 2 FAQs

### **Why should I consider going on the Summer Mission Project (SMP)?**

This is an opportunity to live out Christ's call to humble servanthood like no other. Instead of responding to a disaster as we have in past years, we are responding to an ongoing need that often gets overlooked when disasters strike elsewhere.

### **How old do you have to be to participate?**

You must have completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Where will we be staying?**

We will be in an air conditioned camp lodge. Each room has 2 twin beds, with linens provided. The lodge is about ½ mile from the main campsite. There is a full kitchen facility, grill, and even space for a campfire at the lodge.

### **Who are the leaders?**

Plymouth Presbyterian Church adults share responsibility for leading the trip.

### **How will we get where we're going and back?**

We will drive in mini-vans. Each van will have two licensed adults to ensure safety, and can be reached by a leader's cell phone. Seat belts are required at all times for all passengers.

### **What about transportation while we're there?**

Once we arrive at the campsite, we will remain there for the entire week. Our lodging is about a half-mile from the main campsite, so expect to do a lot of walking.

### **Is it all work and no play?**

We expect all participants to put in a full day of hard work each day we are at the worksite. However, that doesn't mean we can't have some fun! We have free time in the evenings and can participate in the camp activities like kayaking, swimming, low ropes course, disc golf, hiking in caves, etc. We may take one evening and go to Cedar Rapids, about an hour away, if our work schedule permits.

### **I want to bring a friend who isn't a member of PPC. Is that okay?**

We welcome all who come to serve! Friends are expected to follow the same preparation, fundraising, and participation expectations as members.

### **How will we know what to bring?**

We will have a final details meeting one week prior to our departure where we give out relevant information as to what to bring, what kind of work we'll be doing, what our accommodations will be like, etc.

### **Where and what do we eat?**

We will be using the food service at the camp, so we will not need to buy groceries or prepare meals.

# **3** details

## **Pre-Trip Preparation**

Ongoing, front-end preparation such as participating in the fundraisers, service projects, and team meetings, will help prepare you for a life-changing experience and maximize the experience for you. You **MUST** be in e-mail contact with the group. We will do our communications electronically, and you are responsible for staying informed.

March 1, 2012 – Early registrations due with deposit and signed covenant  
May 1, 2012- All registrations are due with deposit and signed covenant

## **Final Details Meeting**

All available details about the work we will be doing, where we will be staying, and what to bring will be shared the week before we depart. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting.

## **Commissioning Service**

The trip will officially kick off with a commissioning service during the Sunday worship prior to departure (June 17, 2012).

## **The Trip**

We will spend a week living in community. We will be doing outdoor facilities and maintenance work for 7-8 hours during the day with a short break for lunch. We will be eating camp food with hundreds of young campers. Prayer and devotion will be part of our daily routine. Quiet time and lights out are strict and non-negotiable. And it's the most fun you'll have all summer!!

## **Return Worship Service**

The team leads worship on the Sunday morning after we return (July 1, 2012) sharing where we saw God at work and felt God's presence, and how we grew spiritually.

We will also have an opportunity to share in-depth with the congregation at a mid-week evening gathering following the Return Worship Service. All mission trip members should plan to participate in both events.

# 4 trip registration & next steps

1. Read all the information in this packet. Contact Allison Nahr at 763-559-2946 x12 or [allison@plymouthpc.org](mailto:allison@plymouthpc.org) if you have additional questions or need clarification.
2. Fill out the trip registration form. Read and sign the Participant Covenant.
3. Return your registration and signed covenant with a deposit check made out to Plymouth Presbyterian Church with “youth mission trip” in the memo line to Allison Nahr **on or before the March 1, 2012 early bird deadline or the May 1, 2012 drop-dead deadline.**

NOTE: Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and are not considered complete until we receive a registration form, signed covenant **and** a deposit check. Incomplete registrations or registrations received after the May 1, 2012 deadline will go on a waiting list and the applicant will be notified if a space becomes available. Allison will do her best to get everyone accommodated.

If you are unsure of your availability to go on the trip by the deadline, we encourage you to sign up anyway so you have a space reserved on the trip. If you must cancel, we ask that you give us as much notice as possible. A refund of half the deposit will be issued for cancellations after the May 1, 2012 deadline.

4. Begin NOW to set aside part of your own allowance, paycheck, babysitting cash, birthday money in case additional funds are required.
5. We do almost all of our communication via e-mail. Please check the e-mail account you provided on your registration often, especially around important dates. If your e-mail address changes, please let us know. You can also check the PPC website (<http://www.plymouthpc.org>) for current information. (It is YOUR responsibility to stay informed!)

# 5 fundraising

While we strive to keep expenses as low as possible, it is unavoidable to have to raise money to carry out our mission. We are blessed to have a generous congregation willing to support us spiritually and financially.

We recognize that most trip participants lead active, involved lives and are often asked to raise money for other activities through school and sports, and even with church. However, we feel that this trip is just as important as those other activities. Therefore, we expect an equal amount of effort to be put into raising funds for this trip. We know it can be awkward to ask the same relatives, coworkers, and neighbors for financial support.

## **Participant Responsibility**

\$150 deposit per participant, due March 1, 2012. (Or \$200 deposit per participant between March 1, 2012 and May 1, 2012.) The final amount required from each participant is wholly dependent on the fundraising efforts of the group. Confidential scholarships are available upon request.

Each participant is strongly encouraged to begin setting aside funds NOW for this trip. It is not our goal for your parents to simply write a check. This is intended to be *your* investment of preparation time, including time taken to raise money. Set aside just a few dollars per week from your paycheck, allowance, babysitting/nursery volunteering cash, birthday money, and you will see how quickly it adds up.

All donations received from fundraising efforts will benefit the entire group and not a particular participant.

## **Sponsorships**

An open invitation to the congregation will be extended and general donations will be accepted to benefit the entire group. Our congregation typically responds faithfully and generously.

Individually, you can ask neighbors, relatives, friends, coworkers, etc. to sponsor you. Consider doing odd jobs (chores, babysitting, etc.) or making small crafts, cookies, etc. to sell in your neighborhood. The more time and effort you invest in sponsorships, the more quickly you will raise money.

Most importantly, WRITE A SINCERE THANK YOU NOTE to anyone who contributes any amount of money to your fundraising request!! (I know someone who wrote a thank you note to a person who gave them a quarter.)

## **Fundraisers**

We will be participating in multiple fundraising events. Each participant on the trip is expected to engage fully in all fundraising efforts. They may range from product sales to service events to sponsorships. All funds raised go into a common pot. Each person's efforts directly impact the group.

# **6** service projects & skills training

As Christians, we are called to serve others as a way of life, not just one week out of the year. And we are called to do it to the best of our abilities. To help get you in the servant mind frame, and to equip you for the work we anticipate doing, we expect participation in the service projects and skills training events that are associated with the trip.

The service project and skills building events based on the work that we will be doing will be communicated in a timely manner. Please be as flexible as possible. The goal is to get the group as prepared as possible to do quality work while we're on the trip.

# **7** participant behavior expectations

**These are fundamental behavioral expectations for the trip to which all participants will be held accountable. Some are common sense and common courtesy, and others are specific to our trip. By going on this trip, you are agreeing to behave within these expectations.**

Adult leaders are responsible for the **safety** of the youth volunteers at all times while on the trip. YOU are responsible for your own **behavior**.

Please use tools, supplies and materials, and other resources responsibly and for their intended purposes. Always keep the safety of others as a priority.

Discretion in clothing must be used at home base, the worksite and in the community.

Because you are visiting an unfamiliar community, please always go from place to place in a group of two or more people. Never travel alone.

Working hours in the summer are from approximately 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EACH DAY. You have covenanted to put in a full day of work and to work the entire week!

Please be on time for all activities and departures. For safety reasons, each volunteer is required to wear a seat belt at all times when in a vehicle.

You are expected to treat your fellow participants and worksite leaders with respect. Physical violence, verbal abuse, and/or vandalism are prohibited at any time during the course of the trip. We do not condone or tolerate sexual harassment or abuse in any form.

Please respect the privacy and property of others under all circumstances.

We expect everyone to become a part of the group and join in all group activities including meals, chores, devotions, evening gatherings and special events. We expect that you will work to your best ability at the job site and around the home base. We expect you to be helpful, friendly and cheerful. Our work and our behavior this week will set the standards by which our group will be welcomed on a future mission trip.

Please get yourself in good physical condition prior to the trip.

Try not to be overly demanding, and do your best not to offend or cause embarrassment for the church that sends you or the local mission host. Go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ and adopt that attitude when dealing with fellow team members and the people that you meet during the trip.

Participants who violate the guidelines will be sent home at their own or their parent's expense. If necessary, a youth will be accompanied by an adult (also at the parent's expense).

# 8 trip registration checklist

This SERVICE PROJECT has the potential to be a wonderful time of spiritual growth, making deep friendships, evaluating our basic beliefs and values, and helping to make a significant difference in the lives of others. It can also be a real struggle if you are not prepared for the hard work and discomfort. As part of the process, you are asked to sign a covenant committing yourself to full participation in all aspects of the project, along with thoughtful preparation ahead of time. Please make sure you are prepared to make this kind of commitment before you apply.

To help make sure no one turns in an incomplete registration and misses the opportunity to go on the trip, please use the checklist below to see that you have everything completed and included when you hand it in. Remember, incomplete or late registrations will go on a waiting list and the applicant will be notified if a space opens up.

- Information packet read thoroughly?
- Participant Registration form completely filled out?
- Participant Covenant read and signed?
- Skills Assessment filled out?
- Deposit check (made out to PPC with memo line "youth mission trip") turned in?
- Calendar says "May 1, 2012" or earlier?

# 9 participant covenant

I will focus on the service aspects of the project and remember that our purpose is to serve Christ by bettering human conditions for those less fortunate and to build community within and among the Plymouth Presbyterian Church family and friends.

I will adopt an attitude that I am part of a team. I will not try to convince others of my own viewpoint or style, because I understand that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective, and know that my way is not necessarily the best.

I will accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leaders and promise to abide by their decisions as they concern this mission trip.

I will participate in all pre-trip preparatory activities and meetings and attend all team activities during the mission trip. I will put in a full day of honest work each day.

I will refrain from meddling, complaining, making derogatory comments or arguments, and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others on my team, during the journey, at the worksite and in the community will look at me for an example of how a Christian acts, and will not treat that responsibility lightly.

I will adopt a flexible attitude and be supportive as plans may need to be changed. I understand that I must travel with the rest of the team, unless other prior arrangements are made.

If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all members of the team, not just one another. I promise not to initiate or seek new romantic relationships during the trip and to avoid all actions that might be perceived as amorous attentions toward local people I meet.

I understand that every member of this group is expected to share freely from their particular blessings and talents, whether that is skills such as music, art, carpentry, or basic hard work. I agree to participate in these ways as fully as possible.

**I will refrain from using tobacco or alcoholic beverages and abstain from any illegal drugs or prohibited activity throughout the entirety of this trip. Firearms, weapons, replicas thereof, and fireworks are not permitted.**

I agree that in the event my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the mission of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, that my connection with this mission shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own or my parent's expense.

In signing below, I represent that I have fully read and agree to the conditions listed above and am 18 year of age or older, or my parent/guardian will sign also, accepting the above conditions on my behalf.

Participant's name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/legal guardian signature (if under 21): \_\_\_\_\_

# 10 registration form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ T-SHIRT SIZE S M L XL

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if your family is able to loan us a van for group transportation for this trip.

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***STOP! Before you fill the rest of this application form out, take a moment to quiet your thoughts and focus on God's call to you to serve on this mission team.***

**What expectations do you hold for this mission trip and what would be your greatest disappointment on this trip?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How do you want to change and grow through your mission trip? In other words, what would you like God to accomplish in you?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What has God done in your life that's worth telling the world about through your words and actions?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What questions do you want to ask the leaders about this trip?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer this last question on the back of this sheet. Sooner or later someone will want you to explain your trip- not just the work you're doing but *why*. So answer: *Why* are you going on this trip?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify your skills according to the following levels:

**1**= haven't done yet, but willing to try    **2**= have done, but need guidance    **3**= can do well independently    **4**= can do well and guide others

\_\_\_ Debris Removal

\_\_\_ Heavy Lifting

\_\_\_ Foundation

\_\_\_ Tear out drywall, floors

\_\_\_ Framing Carpentry

\_\_\_ Finish Carpentry

\_\_\_ Electrical

\_\_\_ Plumbing

\_\_\_ HVAC

\_\_\_ Insulation

\_\_\_ Drywall Hanging

\_\_\_ Drywall Finishing

\_\_\_ Siding

\_\_\_ Window Installation

\_\_\_ Door Installation

\_\_\_ Cabinet Installation

\_\_\_ Flooring: vinyl, etc.

\_\_\_ Tiling: ceramic, etc.

\_\_\_ Mason: brick/plaster

\_\_\_ Priming/Painting

\_\_\_ Roofing

\_\_\_ Landscaping

\_\_\_ Pastor

\_\_\_ Cook

\_\_\_ First Aid/CPR Skills