

SUMMER 2022 INFORMATION



**YOUTH
manchester umc**

Spirit Camp

High School Mission Journey

Middle School Mission Journey

Register for all trips online SOON at

www.manchesterumc.org/summer

SPIRIT CAMP

When: Saturday, July 16 12:30 pm – Thursday, July 21 1:00 pm

Who: Youth who have completed 5th – 12th grade.

Where: Camp Jo-Ota in Macon, MO (2.5 hour drive from church)

What it is: Spirit Camp is a unique experience that many report is the highlight of their youth experience. Students spend the week together in the midst of God's creation playing, learning, and growing in discipleship. Some high school students will serve on the leadership team and plan and execute the majority of the activities. Adults serve as chaperones and of course have lots of fun.

What we do: We will do a little bit of everything, including (but not limited to) crafts, sports, drama, dance, Bible study, etc. Kids will also take a field trip to a nearby water park, experience impactful worship, hear testimonies from high school students, participate in the "Olympics," host an 8th grade graduation, and send off our graduating seniors with an Affirmation Walk. All participants are part of a family group, a supportive and inclusive group, which helps youth feel like they have a home away from home. Family groups are divided into middle school and high school, and middle school groups are assigned high school mentors.

Leadership Team: Campers in high school (completed grades 9-12) may complete an application to serve on the Youth Leadership Team. The application is available online and is due April 4. They can serve in two capacities:

- **Mentor:** Mentors will be dedicated to helping middle schoolers have a positive experience. They will be assigned a middle school family group and will be expected to form meaningful relationships with the middle schoolers throughout the week.
- **Coordinator:** Coordinators will be responsible for planning and executing various events throughout the week. They will have work to do work before camp in preparation.

Roles will be assigned based on applications and will be announced via email in early April. Youth may request their preferences as well as discuss their gifts and talents. Youth may serve as both mentors and coordinators, however, they will be assigned less time-intensive events to coordinate. The entire team will meet many times before camp to help plan the week.

Cost: Cost is TBD. It will be similar to last year. (2021 cost: \$50 deposit due at registration, \$230 total)

As with all events, when you get to the payment page of the registration, you can select to pay the full amount, half, or none. We budget for scholarships. Simply select the option that you are able to pay.

Adult Need: Adult Chaperones – Most of your duties are the safety and wellness of the campers, since the leadership team will plan and lead most of the activities. You are also responsible for leading the family group discussions. If you are new, we will pair you with a veteran. We will need approximately 16 adults.

Transportation: We will provide a bus to and from Jo-Ota. However, if you would LIKE to drive your child to camp, you are welcome! You will have a space on the registration to indicate your preference. We will need several safe-gatherings certified adults to supervise the bus ride as our camp adults will already be on site getting ready for the week. Parents driving separately are welcome to follow the busses if they choose.

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION JOURNEY

When: Saturday, July 30 – Saturday, August 6

We will depart Saturday morning and return Saturday evening. Exact times are TBA based on the location we are assigned.

Who: High School students (Youth who have completed 9th – 12th grades.) Incoming 9th graders may attend if they also attend the Middle School Mission Journey.

Where: Appalachia Service Project (We will be assigned 1 of 3 sites and will be notified of our specific location at a later date.)

What it is: The High School Mission Journey is an opportunity for our older youth to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action. They will work hard, but they will also play hard, experience another culture within our country, and grow in their relationship with God and each other. We recognize that being in mission is a lifetime commitment and we hope these trips are the beginning of a lifelong journey for our youth.

What we will do: We will work on building/renovating houses for people who live in rural Appalachia who do not have the means to complete the work. ASP thoroughly screens their recipients so as to make sure the need is vital and the location is safe. The goal of every project is to make a home warmer, safer, and/or drier. Exact projects will be determined almost right before we leave based on the needs of the homeowners.

Fun Events: We will stop and play somewhere on Saturday July 30. We will stay at a church on Saturday night before finishing the drive on Sunday morning. The actual event is TBA and dependent on which location we are assigned.

Cost: Cost is TBD and will be similar to last year. (2021 cost: \$50 deposit, full price \$225)

As with all events, when you get to the payment page of the registration, you can select to pay the full amount, half, or none. We budget for scholarships. Simply select the option that you are able to pay.

Adult Need: ASP requires two adults for every five youth. We need six adults for this trip, with at least two of each gender. We will also need two additional vehicles for this trip that seat 8 people.

Additional Info: If you would like to read more about the experience, you can visit www.asphome.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION JOURNEY

When: Thursday, June 9 – Sunday, June 12

We will leave at 9:00 am Thursday morning and return at 10:30 am on Sunday morning.

Who: Middle School students (Youth who have completed 6th- 8th grades)

Where: LifeWise StL in St. Louis, MO

What it is: Participants will complete service work that benefits LifeWise StL, an agency that provides a variety of social services to members of the St. Louis community in the Near South Side neighborhood. Participants will also engage in service learning where they will better understand the root causes of urban poverty and what we can do to address the systemic societal imbalance. We recognize that being in mission is a long-term commitment and hope that this trip will begin a life-long journey for our youth.

What we will do: Some of our tasks might include helping stock the food pantry, supervising and playing with children in their summer camp, working in their community garden, and organizing their clothing boutique. We will stay in their Urban Forum house across the street from the main building. Exact projects will be determined closer to time based on the needs of the agency.

Fun: We will do fun things in the city of St. Louis, most likely to include the City Museum, the high ropes course at Union Station, and the City Garden.

Cost: \$50

As with all events, when you get to the payment page of the registration, you can select to pay the full amount, half, or none. We budget for scholarships. Select the option that you are able to pay.

Adult Need: We will need two men and one woman as chaperones.

COVID-19 Information

All trips are planned to take place as scheduled. Additional requirements may be in place depending on county mandates and church policies. These requirements may include vaccination, a negative COVID test shortly departure, masks, and other things. If trips are modified or postponed, we will contact all participants with new details as soon as decisions are made.