



Service Camp in the Kitsap Community

FAQ (Frequently Asked/Anticipated Questions)

What makes this an ideal Mission/Service site for your youth group?

We are striving to take much of the work out of organizing a mission/service week by lining up the partner organizations, dealing with housing/meal logistics, providing action/reflection times, an amazing lake for recreation and it is all in a theologically progressive setting. Pilgrim Firs is located about 45 minutes from SeaTac International Airport, and is a ferry ride from Seattle giving a terrific opportunity to explore a beautiful Pacific Northwest city before or after your service/mission week.

Kitsap Community also has a mixture of urban, rural and suburban issues that are only increasing due to Seattle's growth and area housing price increases (top in the nation at 13.5% rise) leading to the displacement of the vulnerable and poor. Kitsap is facing a growing number of issues including a rise in homelessness, food needs for families, environmental impacts with population growth and the clash of growth due to Seattle flight with protectionism of a "suburban/rural" lifestyle. We also have a large military presence (roughly 17,000 employed with the shipyard) that can lead to social and family support systems being absent in times of financial and personal crisis.

Included (in the \$475 registration for youth and adult participants)

Planned work sites with area organizations, afternoon/evening programs (see schedule), housing, linens, meals/evening snacks, donations to the partnering organizations and an event t-shirt.

Not Included

Transportation to work sites, transportation to Pilgrim Firs, adult leaders, personal toiletry items.

Arrival / Departure Times

Please plan to arrive between 4-5:30pm on Sunday for registration and settle into your cabins. Departure will be at 10am on Friday after clean-up and good-byes.

Adult Leadership

Leaders must be age 21+, completed background checks, and a minimum of a 1:5 ratio.

Individual youth participation

While the service camp is designed for church groups, an individual youth may participate in the service week as space allows. Individual youth will be invited to participate with churches that have agreed to making space for additional youth.

Church groups participating

We hope to have church groups from around the country (and perhaps even Canada!).

Ages for Common Fire

Entering 7th grade through 12th grade graduates. There are many work sites with age requirements so we will do our best to make those accommodations. Some church groups may need to have a couple work sites for their youth and work with other groups.

Justice Chats / Reflection

In the evening, we will be working to take our experiences of service and thinking about them through a lens of systemic issues and injustices that as Christians we are called to address. The curriculum is being developed in collaboration with national UCC staff and local church clergy.

Agreement to Participation

Groups must agree to participate in all the aspects of the week. The focus will be both on the development of relationships for the local church and building connections with the other participants through activities and discussions.

Roles of the Adult Leaders

Adult leaders will be managing the youth that came with them, helping at times to lead small group discussions and activities, be full participants in the program and have an awareness of stepping back so as not to dominate discussions and activities.

Basic theology of the program

Pilgrim Fire is an Open and Affirming ministry with a progressive Christian theological tradition.

Other Questions

As more questions surface we will update the FAQ page.