

Saint Michael Youth Ministry High School Mission Trip Informational Packet June 10-15, 2018-Niagara Falls, NY



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Mail form and entry fee to:

Office of Youth Ministry
3705 Stone Lakes Dr.
Louisville, KY 40299

Phone: (502) 266-5611
Email:
afrazita@stmichaellouisville.org

Registration is Due January 7th

Name _____

Grade/School _____

Phone _____

My Parent is Interested in Be a Chaperone: Yes No

Parent Name _____

Parent Phone _____

Please Fill Out, Cut Off the Bottom, and Return with money to the Youth Ministry

General Information About Our Trip

When: June 10-15, 2018 We will meet at 7 a.m. at St. Michael Youth Center to pack and head north from there. We will return around 6:30 pm.

Who: Any current 8th grade student through graduating senior and chaperones.

What are we doing:

What we will be doing at the worksite will depend on the skill set of the group. Most likely, we will be working with the Kid's Club put on by Youth Works or working in local soup kitchens or serving on construction and/or painting sites. We will be flexible and be open to anything that we are asked to do!

How Will We Get There:

Mini-vans or cars driven by adult drivers with background checks who are at least 21 years of age in accordance with Archdiocesan Policy.

So How Much is this Going to Cost Me?

The trip will cost each person \$380 which covers all costs associated with the all meals and housing for the week, construction materials, evening activities, a t-shirt and all transportation. We will meet as a group as needed to plan fundraisers.

All money must be turned in by June 1 or you will surrender your spot!!!!
Deadline to Register is January 7th, 2018

A \$50 Deposit is due per person to sign up for the trip.

***You may wish to bring a few dollars on the trip to purchase souvenirs or t-shirts at the different sites.

How Do We Pay For the Trip?

There are two main options that you may choose from or do both together to pay for the trip. The first is to simply pay for the trip outright out of your pocket, or you may choose to fundraise for the event. There is a sample letter and a Bingo board that students have used in the past to ask family and friends for their support for the trip. We will also be doing fundraisers planned by the group to help support the trip.

Special Site Requirement

Everyone on the trip, youth and adults, must have received a Tuberculosis Test within the last three years to participate in the trip. It is NY state law.

Rules

The normal Youth Ministry rules apply including the 4 B's (no boobs, butts, bellies, or boxers should be seen on the trip). And no writing on the butt of shorts! Also, YouthWorks asks that no one wear sleeveless shirts or tank tops and shorts must reach to the end of your finger tips when they are at your side. Also, no yoga pants are allowed.

There will be **no** alcohol or tobacco products on this retreat experience...

No Purple...

No boys in girl's housing or girl's in boy's housing....

Should any of these three rules be broken, your parents will be asked to drive to New York and pick you up at their expense. There will be NO exceptions!

Other rules to Come...

For more information or to Sign Up

Contact Aaron Frazita at (502) 266-5611 or afrazita@stmichaellouisville.org

General Information about Where We Are Going to Serve ***Taken from YouthWorks Website***

The magnificent waterfalls of Niagara Falls attract millions of tourists each year, making it one of the most popular tourist destinations in North America. The region offers adventure and recreation for all ages. But while tourists come and go, residents of Niagara Falls, New York battle economic problems, particularly poverty. Your group can make a positive, Christ centered impact on this community as you experience a variety of ministry opportunities, from outreach elderly residents, to work projects and partnerships with local social service organizations.

NIAGARA FALLS STATISTICS

- °Population of 51,645.
- °Niagara Falls is split between New York and Ontario by the Niagara River.
 - °In Niagara Falls, NY, 13.4% of houses are vacant.
 - ° 22% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- °The median household income is \$30,940 compared to \$53,514 statewide.
- °In 1848, Niagara Falls stopped flowing for 30 hours because of an ice jam blocking the Niagara River.
 - ° "Niagara" comes from the Iroquois Indian word "Onguiaahra" meaning "The Strait".
 - °Niagara Falls is the second largest falls in the world.
 - ° 12 million tourists visit every year.
- ° There are 3 different falls that make up Niagara Falls: The Canadian Horseshoe Falls, The American Falls, and the Bridal Veil Falls.

ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND WORK PROJECTS

Your group will serve in a variety of ways during your mission trip. You may spend all week serving at one site or switch between service sites throughout the week. Please come ready to serve and with an attitude of flexibility. **SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS:** It is our privilege to partner with organizations already at work serving the community. Through these organizations we are able to serve the community at large as well as individuals who have a diversity of backgrounds and needs. We support the community through relational interaction, hands-on labor and behind-the-scenes service.

We love serving communities by completing work projects that are at – not above – teenagers' capability. Many of these projects include painting houses, but we also serve the community through other simple projects. Our goal is to create meaningful work experiences where youth can make a difference while building relationships with those they serve.

We cannot confirm exactly what ministries your students will be a part of during the week until all groups arrive on site.

Evening Activities

Evening Activities are designed to give participants insight into the lives of local residents and the culture of the area. These are examples of what your group could partake in during your mission week:

Visit Niagara Falls at Goat Island State Park, Go on an Underground Railroad Tour at Murphy Orchards, Attend a local church service, Host a community cookout. Evening Activities are subject to change due to weather or availability. In case of change, suitable substitutes will be provided.

About the Organization We are Traveling With (Youth Works)

YouthWorks focuses on ministry. Although we use work projects as a way to see the love of Christ, it is not an end all. We do not call our trips "work camps" or spotlight a repaired house, instead the "works" in our name are about what God will do in our lives if we allow it. We desire to be Christ centered in everything that we do.

While it is important to be challenged in our ministry work, we believe the most important thing we can do is to live out the love of Christ with all whom we meet. Building true relationships is essential in showing Christ's love; the friendships you and your youth create with people in our communities are of the utmost importance. These relationships are more important to YouthWorks than any work we could accomplish.

We have all kinds of work ministry experiences set up for your trip that are designed to challenge teenagers. The opportunities vary from week to week and site to site, depending on the particular needs of the communities in which we serve. Everyone who participates in these work ministry projects will be divided into small teams. Teams may do various painting and rehabilitation projects, facilitate a Kids Club program or partner with other organizations working to meet community needs. More specific information regarding the unique opportunities at your mission site are available in the spring.

We firmly believe there is a need for people to have their homes painted and rehabilitated; a need for children to learn about the Bible through music, stories and games; and a need to serve existing community ministries. We know that paint on houses will eventually chip off, and that stories and games may be forgotten in time, but the relationships you develop with community members will create a vehicle for ministry to occur for a long time in the future. Come ready to experience the joy of being the hands and feet of Christ!

Sample letter

Date

Dear _____,

(Include a personal greeting here)

This June I will have the opportunity to travel to Niagara Falls, NY for a mission trip. I will be traveling with the St. Michael Youth Ministry Program through this journey. The group is comprised of about contains both students and our adult leaders. Having this opportunity is very important to me, as well as to our group. It is a chance to give what we can to a community that is truly in need. This is also a chance for us to live out the beliefs of the Catholic Church that we hold so closely and this is also chance for us to make a difference in the lives of others and is an opportunity to learn and be opened even more to the world that is before us.

In order to make this opportunity a reality, we must raise \$380 per person to cover all necessary expenses for the journey. I am writing to you to see if you could help the group in any way. Whether you can support us with a monetary donation or your thoughts and prayers, your contribution means a great deal to us.

If you are in need of more information or have any questions regarding this service trip, please feel free to contact me at _____.

Again thank you for your help and helping us to achieve our goal to be a part of this awesome service experience.

Peace,

Mission Trip Bingo

Saint Michael Parish

Your challenge is to find people to help donate and fill in all spaces on your bingo board with the amount noted in each square. If you do this, your entire mission trip will be paid for before you know it. Please thank them and let them know the blessing they are to you, the parish and those we will be serving. Good luck!

\$1	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5
\$6	\$7	\$8	\$9	\$10
\$11	\$12	\$13	\$14	\$15
\$16	\$17	\$18	\$19	\$20
\$21	\$22	\$23	\$24	\$25

"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example [a]of those who believe."

-1 Timothy 4:12