

WORKCAMP 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Workcamp?

Workcamp is a six-day, five-night service trip for teenagers, organized by Catholic Heart Workcamp (“CHWC”), a Catholic organization based in Florida that has a LOT of experience. Their website is www.heartworkcamp.com

Our group joins other churches and youth groups from around the country at camp, with 200-300 participants at each camp. The location of camp changes each year, but it’s usually within a 6-hour car ride in the Northeast.

What kind of work do we do?

Workcamp is usually a “home repair” trip. That means we do projects like interior and exterior painting, yardwork, small construction projects (porches, decks, and wheelchair ramps), and/or simple home repairs (drywall, weather-proofing). Other service could include work at a soup kitchen, nursing home, or daycare. The people we serve are people living in poverty, often elderly or disabled, who cannot afford or are not physically able to do it on their own.

You are placed on a work team with at least one adult and 5-7 young people from other churches, which is a great opportunity to meet people from other states!

Each year, the entire camp completes dozens of different projects in the week!

What happens at Workcamp?

Most of the day is planned out for us:

- 6:30-7:15 Wakeup and breakfast
- 7:30-8:00 Morning program, including Mass
- 8:00-3:00 Workday, including lunch and prayer time
- 3:15-6:00 Free times for showers, relaxing, socializing, dinner. Rosary offered at 4:30
- 7:30-9:00 Evening program
- 10:00 Rosary offered
- 11:00 Lights out

We have one free day during the week to explore the area. Our group usually heads to an area state park to hike, swim, or kayak.

Each day, the entire camp gathers for morning and evening programs. These are mixes of reflection, prayer, song, games, and stories, led by camp staff with camper participation.

How do we get there?

In rental vehicles. All drivers – parish volunteers – are insured with clean driving records.

Where do we sleep?

Usually in a local school or church, on the floor. We do bring air mattresses and sleeping bags – it’s very fun and bonding to sleep in one big room with your group. Males and females sleep in separate areas of the building, and each room also hosts adult chaperones from our group of the same gender.

What do we eat?

CHWC has an extensive staff that prepares a hot breakfast and dinner each day for us, except

on our free day. Lunches are sandwiches and snacks, prepared by one of your crew members. No one will go hungry, and CHWC can accommodate most dietary restrictions.

Do we get to shower?

Yes, thank goodness! Wherever we stay, there will be available shower facilities, whether it's in the school locker room or at the YMCA. (Although, no guarantee of hot water!)

What about safety and supervision?

CHWC requires that each youth group bring 1 adult for every 5 youth. All chaperones AND campers over age 18 must submit to a background check and be approved by each church's pastor. In addition, CHWC itself has a large staff at each camp, for an estimated total adult-youth ratio of about 1 to 4.5.

Every work site is carefully screened for safety, weeks before we even arrive in the community. No project is begun that may be too advanced or dangerous for the participants.

The building we stay in is locked each night for security.

What does Workcamp cost?

We generally bring about 25 people to Workcamp, adults and youth combined (1 adult for every 5 youth). The camp fee is around \$375pp. That helps buy supplies like paint and wood and also pays for our food and the maintenance of the facility where we stay. There is usually another \$2500 in additional costs—mostly in vehicle rental and fuel for the week. Total, it's around \$475pp.

Campers are responsible for a \$225 payment to Our Lady's Parish, which holds your spot on the trip and allows us to make our initial deposit to CHWC. The rest of that amount is from fundraising.

How do I sign up?

First, of course, is **parental permission** and filling out all **required forms**, in the spring.

\$225 program fee: This payment secures your spot. *We do waive the participation fee in certain circumstances, as needed. Please contact Kristina if this is the case.*

Participation in fundraising: We do 5 fundraisers through the school year: Sponsorship Weekend in the fall, 3 plant/flower sales, and one car wash in June. In order to raise the money we need, we require everyone's full participation in fundraising. This includes both your individual participation (i.e. selling to family and friends) AND participation in the events at church.

Lastly, Workcamp is essentially a trip of and for our **Youth Group** community. If you want to attend Workcamp, we expect a commitment to Youth Group all through the year, meeting on Sunday evenings for conversation and fellowship, along with other events throughout the year.

We ask you to reserve a spot (by communicating with Kristina) and to pay the fee by December 1, 2018.

*Any questions, please contact Kristina:
kpreman@sholnewton.org or 617-527-7560 ext.216*



WORKCAMP 2019

June 23-28, 2019 – Plattsburgh, New York

Important Info

Number of youth: 20 Number of adults: 5 Total participants: 25

Program fee per person: \$380

Total program fee: \$9,500

Additional expenses: ~\$2,500

Total cost per person: ~\$480

(Transportation, supplies, etc)

***We ask for a \$225 per-person, nonrefundable deposit up front, by **December 1, 2018**, to secure your spot on the trip.

We fundraise raise the remaining balance.***

As you can see from the financial breakdown, fundraising is an *essential* part of this experience. Therefore, each youth participant **MUST** volunteer for at least **THREE** fundraising events through the year.

Kristina does keep track!

Important Dates

October 27-28, 2018

Sponsorship Weekend at Masses

December 1-2, 2018

Christmas Sales after Masses

December 15-16, 2018

Christmas Distribution after Masses

March 30-31, 2019

Easter Flower Sales after Masses

April 13-14, 2019

Easter Flower Distribution after Masses

May 11-12, 2019

Mother's Day Flower Sales after Masses

June 2 and/or 9, 2019

Car Wash (1 or 2 dates, weather permitting)

June 23–28, 2019

Workcamp: Plattsburgh, NY

Plus regular attendance at Sunday Night Youth Group!

There will likely be additional meetings, as well as possible additional fundraisers. Dates and info TBA