

The AGAPE Service Project

AGAPE MISSION

- ◆ To foster understanding of Christ's presence in and through serving in Whatcom County, as well as the reason Catholic Christians are called to serve. *"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers so you do unto me."* Mt. 25:40
- ◆ To help participants recognize the Catholic churches rich tradition of generosity, service and compassion.
- ◆ To understand what "social justice" is from a Catholic Christian standpoint.
- ◆ To expand participant's world view through service experiences.
- ◆ To help participants realize how they can impact their local community and the world through serving others, and having a mission and understanding of service.
- ◆ To inspire participants to continue answering their "call to service" throughout their lives.
- ◆ To address the needs of the Migrant community by providing food and clothing.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Your group will have the opportunity to do various service projects throughout the week. Here are some projects they will be involved in:

-Walking Food Drive

Youth will be in groups with adult chaperone to collect food in Bellingham neighborhoods. Food collected will be used for food bank distribution.

-Food tables at grocery stores in Whatcom County

Teams will collect food at local grocery stores to be used for food bank distribution.

-Agape Food Bank

Teams will set up & run a food bank for Migrant workers.

-Migrant Immersion Day

Experiencing the typical day of a migrant worker.

-Service at local Migrant Camp

Groups will promote and invite people to the Agape Food Bank. Groups will have the opportunity to provide and facilitate sports, games, and crafts for children at the Migrant Camp.

-Donations

Groups are asked to collect donations in their communities prior to their week. What you bring up will be used to stock the food bank along with what is collected through the Walking Food Drive & Grocery Store Tabling. Depending on what week you come to Agape you will be assigned what donations to bring up. This method helps us to be able to provide what is most needed at the Food Bank.

PROGRAMMING

Agape has four full time Program Directors who coordinate the service projects, lead ice breakers and community building, and facilitate morning and evening sessions of prayer and reflection.

MEALS and LODGING

*****In keeping with the spirit of The Agape Service Project, the meals and lodging are simple.**

All food for meals is provided. Each group will share in the responsibility of cooking and serving meals in community. The Agape Service project includes: 4 dinners, 4 lunches and 5 breakfasts, as well as daily snacks and beverages.

****PLEASE NOTE: Meals and snacks are simple but substantial enough IF students take advantage of all that is offered.** For example, if you don't like carrots and oranges, and choose to forego them for the snack or part of lunch, then you will be waiting until dinner to eat again and may be hungry. Being hungry has been an issue in past years but it is due to pickiness on the part of students more than the lack of food provided.

Participant Information

Packing: Please pack lightly. You will be living in community for a week and sharing a room with others.

Money: There will be an opportunity to buy an Agape Sweatshirt (for \$25), but other than that you do not need any money this week. All of your meals and snacks are provided.

Free time: There are designated free times during the service week. When there is free time, youth must remain with the group. Youth may **not** leave the facility to go beyond the parish premises unless they are in the company of a chaperone. We ask that you check in with the Program Directors before leaving to make sure there is time to do so. Even on the premises, chaperones should be aware of the activities and location of all group members.

Music: No personal CD players, mp3, iPods, or tape players. Your group may decide to bring a community boom box, but it should be used for group, not personal enjoyment. Please be aware that music shared must be appropriate for a Church retreat/service experience.

Chores: Small Groups will be assigned chores each day, such as meal preparation, kitchen duty, straightening the parish hall, etc. Each small group with their adult leader will be responsible for the various tasks.

Food: ****See ABOVE****

Please notify us in advance of any special dietary needs, some may require the participant with special dietary needs to supplement their daily meals with food from home.

Lodging: Groups will stay at Sacred Heart Parish in Bellingham. Participants will stay in the Parish Hall & Religious Education Classrooms. Groups will sleep in separate rooms according to gender, and will be sleeping on the floor. Participants are encouraged to bring a sleeping mat. Showers will take place on two days and at a local swimming pool and YMCA .

Medications: All medications, whether prescription or over the counter, will need to be bagged and labeled with the participant's name and instructions for dispensing. We suggest the primary adult leader in each group be given responsibility for holding and dispensing medication for the youth they are chaperoning. We have included a sample form for dispensing medication that you may use if you do not already have one.

Departure: Plan to depart by 12pm on Friday of your mission week.

Sample AGAPE 2014 SCHEDULE

Sunday

6:00pm-Groups Arrive
7:00 pm -Welcome/Community
Building/Program Orientation
8:00pm -Evening Session & Prayer
9:00pm -Snack
9:15pm -Adult Leader Meeting & Youth Free
Time
11:00pm -Lights Out

Monday

8:00am-Wake - Up
8:15am-Breakfast
9:15am-Morning Prayer
9:30am-Walking Food Drive Guidelines
10:00am-Start Walking Food Drive
12:30pm-Return from Walking Food Drive
1:00pm-Lunch
1:45pm-Clean Up Lunch and Do Chores
2:30pm-Head Out to local Grocery Stores for
collecting food
5:00pm-Arrive Back at Sacred Heart
5:45pm- Dinner
6:30-7:45pm-Evening Activity
8:00pm-Reflection
9:00pm-Youth Free Time & Adult Meeting
11:00pm-Lights Out

Tuesday (Migrant Immersion Day)

Wednesday

8:15am-Wake – Up and get ready
8:45am-Breakfast
9:15am-Morning Prayer
9:30am-3pm-Food Bank Preparations
12pm-Lunch
3:30pm-Food Bank
7:00pm-Return to Sacred Heart
7:15pm-Dinner
8pm-Reflection & Prayer
9:30pm-Adult Meeting, Youth Free Time
11:30pm-Lights Out

Thursday

8:15am-Wake – Up and get ready
8:45am-Breakfast
9:15am-Morning Prayer
9:30am-Distribute Walking Food Drive Flyers
12:10pm-Mass at Sacred Heart
12:45pm-Lunch
2:00-5pm-Swimming and Showers
5:30pm-Service at Migrant Camp with a BBQ
9:00pm-Return to Sacred Heart/ Reflection &
Prayer
10:15pm-Adult Meeting, Youth Free Time
11:30pm-Lights Out

Friday

8:00am-Wake - Up
8:30am-Breakfast
9:00am-Packing & Clean Up
10:00am-Closing Session
11:00pm-Depart

*The schedule is subject to change depending on needs of service projects, facilities, and activities. You will be given an updated schedule upon your arrival at *Agape*.