



# PARENT PACKET

Louisville

We are so excited that your teenager will be joining us this summer. It is our hope that they will have the opportunity to serve and be challenged during their mission trip experience. We know it can be a step of faith for both of you. This packet provides some information for to use before, during and after.

## Housing Location:

Grace Community Covenant Church  
Louisville, Kentucky

*Participants cannot receive mail at this location.*

## Emergency Procedures:

In the event of an emergency, contact your group leader on their personal cell phone. If they cannot be reached, call YouthWorks at 1-800-968-8504 ext. 1 for 24-hour emergency assistance.

YouthWorks is committed to safety at all times during the mission week. There are specific rules and boundaries for each mission site to ensure safety on site.

## Service Opportunities:

Site Service Opportunities: Service Partnerships

Each YouthWorks site provides a different service experience based on the needs of the community.

**Work Projects:** paint houses, perform minor home repair, clean up debris, volunteer in community gardens or do other projects in the community.

**Kids Club:** facilitate a program for community children 5-10 years old.

**Service Partnerships:** visit with the elderly, work with children, serve at feeding programs, sort donations, or do various other tasks.

**Outrageous Sports Camp:** facilitate a sports-filled camp for community children 10-14 years old

## Evening Activities:

These fun, educational events will help your teenager learn more about the community. We are continuing to set these activities up. If there is an activity not filled in check with your trip leader closer to the trip to find out what the activity will be.

**Monday:** Waterfront Park

**Tuesday:** Kentucky Derby Museum

**Wednesday:** Bates Memorial Church

**Thursday:** Cookout at Salvation Army Portland

800.968.8504

Page 1

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### A Typical Day

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Devotions/ Quiet Time
8:45 a.m.	Group Meeting and Prayer
9:00 a.m.	Depart for Ministry Sites
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at Site
3:30 p.m.	Leave Site – Shower Time
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Evening Activity
9:00 p.m.	CLUB * CLUB is the evening program consisting of mixers, sharing time, music and a talk by a YouthWorks staff member.
10:00 p.m.	Church Group Time * This time is set aside for each group to spend time debriefing their day.
11:15 p.m.	Lights Out!



# Parent Processing Guide

Summer 2015

*You might not be going on your son or daughter's mission trip, but as a parent you play an important role in the way they experience their trip after it's over! You see, a big part of the mission trip experience is what a student does with the trip after it's over. How will they apply what they've learned? How will it change the way they act? How will it impact their relationship with God? As a consistent presence in your teenager's life, you can continue the influence of the trip well beyond your student's return. Use the following ideas to help your student connect service in another community with life back home.*

## PROCESSING IDEAS

Processing is not an interrogation but – as its name suggests – part of a process you can invite your student into. Here are some ideas to enrich your conversations.

**Take part in processing.** Research shows that youth most benefit from a two-way conversation where the parent shares their story with the teenager. While you don't want to dominate the conversation, be willing to answer the same questions your teenager is. It is valuable for them to see your faith in process.

**Spread it out.** While it might be easy to think of processing as a one-time event to check off the list, thinking through what happened and figuring out how to apply it will take time. Remember, it's a process! So keep asking questions. Keep thinking back and looking forward with your student.

**Find a safe space.** The setting of your conversation matters. Pick a comfortable place where your student can feel safe sharing important things. And *time* is an even more important factor. Find a space where he or she doesn't feel rushed or preoccupied.

**Talk in transit.** Make the most of your drive times by asking students questions while driving. Maybe make it a point to have a "question of the drive" each day. Take time to truly listen and share your own answer to each question.

**Make an event.** Churches will often have an event where students get to share about their mission trip. Have an event that focuses just on your student. It could be just your family, or you could include friends or extended family. Going out for dinner, gathering for a living room conversation or simply grabbing coffee together can all ascribe value to what was just experienced.

**Write it down.** If your student is a writer or keeps a journal, have them write down what they experienced and encourage them to share it. Consider sending a letter to supporters and friends.

**Create a tradition.** Try finding a time each day or each week where you talk with your student. The days following their mission trip are a great time to launch a new tradition.

**JUST LISTEN!** There are some great ideas on this page, but if you do nothing else, make sure you just take time to listen to your student after their mission trip. And really pause to listen well! Often after mission trips, students have hours of stories, ideas and questions, but the people in their lives give them only minutes of attention. Life-change might launch on a mission trip, but what happens during the days after determine if that change will travel with them. Seek to be part of the positive life-change your student can experience after his or her trip.

## FOLLOWUP QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What was most exciting?
- What surprised you on your trip?
- What was the most important thing you learned?
- What were the three biggest things you did on this trip that you've never done before?
- Where did you see God during your trip?
- What did you miss most about home?
- How did God open your eyes during the trip?
- What made you angry? Sad? Happy?
- Who is one person you met that you won't forget?
- In what ways did you need to rely on God?
- How did the way you see others change during your trip?
- What is something you think you should do now that the trip is over?
- Why do you think God wanted you to go on this trip?
- How did this trip change you?
- What part of the trip helped you get to know Jesus better? In what ways did you get to know Jesus better?
- What did you learn about yourself on this trip?
- Are there any ways we can keep serving the community you were in? How could we do that?

# EXPERIENCE THE WEEK WITH YOUR STUDENT

Students benefit from being asked questions about their developing faith, but also seeing the faith of adults in practice – especially the faith of their parents. These two pages have information about YouthWorks’ summer 2015 theme: *The Upside-Down Kingdom*. We invite you to process what your student is processing this week.

Here’s how: Read the below theme description and Scripture passage – the same passage your student will hear and discuss during the corresponding day of their mission trip. Think through the questions below. Take time to answer each question on a separate piece of paper. When your student returns, schedule a few meeting times – maybe take them out for food or coffee once a week for the next five weeks and reflect on and discuss one of the themes each day. Rereading Scripture is great repetition. This type of process could be very effective in helping them tie the mission trip experience to life back home.

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## The Upside-Down Kingdom

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

–Matthew 6:10

### SUNDAY WELCOME to the Upside-Down Kingdom

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 6:9–13

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus welcomes us to hope for and participate in the Upside-Down Kingdom.

**QUESTIONS:**

- How do you want God to work *in* you this week?
- How do you want God to work *through* you this week?
- Think about each of the following lines of the prayer in the Matthew passage. How does each line direct people to participate in God’s Kingdom?
  - “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name...”
  - “Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
  - “Give us today our daily bread...”
  - “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”
  - “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”
- What do the pronouns in this prayer tell you about your participation in the Kingdom?
- All week, keep thinking about these two questions:
  - What is the Kingdom Jesus talked about so much?
  - What is your place in this Upside-Down Kingdom?
- Close by praying the Lord’s prayer.

### MONDAY ESTABLISHMENT of the Upside-Down Kingdom

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 17:20–21

**BIG IDEA:** We can participate in the Kingdom *now* and seek the Kingdom where it is *not yet*.

**QUESTIONS:**

- When have you expected one thing but gotten something much better?
- How does this car commercial similar to what Jesus told his followers? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcApIogn79g>
- The Kingdom is like a mustard seed and like yeast. In these two symbols, what is Jesus saying about the establishment of the Kingdom?
- Many people expected the Kingdom to come with armies or thunder and lightening, but that’s not what God’s Kingdom looked like. Think about the impact Jesus and the Kingdom have made throughout history. How was the establishment of the Kingdom better than what people expected?
- Where has God established the Kingdom in your community? Where has the Kingdom not yet taken root?
- In what ways has God established the Kingdom in your life? How can the Kingdom more fully take root in your life?
- Take some time to thank God for the places the Kingdom is growing, and pray for those places you want to see the Kingdom spread into.

## TUESDAY CITIZENSHIP in the Upside-Down Kingdom

SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:28–34

**BIG IDEA:** As Kingdom citizens, we have the responsibility to love God and love others.

### QUESTIONS:

- Make a list of the most important things Christians should do and the things Christians should not do.
- When the man asked, “What’s the most important commandment?” what answers do you think some people in the crowd might have expected?
- How is Jesus’ direction to love God and love others a better answer?
- Who is Jesus inviting you to love more fully? How can you do that?
- What is one way you can more fully love God this week?
- To remind you that your hands should connect with your love for others, use a red marker to draw a small heart on the back of your hand. Every time you see it, remember that as citizens of God’s Kingdom, your job is to love God and love others with all you’ve got.

## WEDNESDAY SACRIFICE for the Upside-Down Kingdom

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:44–46

**BIG IDEA:** Being a citizen of the Kingdom seems costly, but it is well worth the sacrifice.

### QUESTIONS:

- When did you have to sacrifice one thing in order to get something else that you knew was better?
- In the Scripture passage, Jesus gives two examples of what the Kingdom is like. How are these things like the Kingdom?
- In both the stories the main character has to say “no” to one thing in order to say “yes” to something better. What might God be inviting you to say “no” to in order to say “yes” to the Kingdom?
- In both the stories the main character seems to think the sacrifice he makes is worthwhile. How is sacrificing for the Kingdom hard? How is it worthwhile?
- The merchant is out seeking for a fine pearl. The man in the field just stumbles upon his treasure. Which more closely describes the way you discovered Jesus and the Kingdom he talks about? How do you think God wants to use that piece of your story?
- What is Jesus inviting you to sacrifice for the Kingdom this week? What is worthwhile about that sacrifice?
- How can you live a lifestyle that aims to put everything on the table for God to use for the Kingdom?

## THURSDAY THE KING over the Upside-Down Kingdom

SCRIPTURE: John 13:1–17 (also Matthew 22:27)

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus is our King who shows us how to choose service and love over status or comfort.

### QUESTIONS:

- How has God worked *in* you this week in an unexpected way?
- How has God worked *through* you this week in an unexpected way?
- Jesus is the King of the Upside-Down Kingdom! How does Jesus embody the Upside-Down Kingdom in this passage?
- Jesus invites his followers – his citizens – to be like their King in the way they humbly serve each other. How is Jesus inviting you to be like him through humble service?

## FRIDAY The Upside-Down Kingdom

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:10

**BIG IDEA:** We can continue to hope for and participate in God’s Upside-Down Kingdom.

### QUESTIONS:

- What is the Upside-Down Kingdom Jesus talked about so much?
- What is your place in the Upside-Down Kingdom?



# CLOTHING POLICY

**SUMMER 2015**

YouthWorks loves the community where you are serving this summer! As you serve, your actions and appearance speak loudly and have the potential to influence the community's perception of YouthWorks and more importantly Christ. Choosing modest clothing helps to avoid distractions and misunderstandings. We ask that you choose apparel consistent with the following guidelines.

## ***Please Bring***

### ***Mid-Thigh or Longer Shorts (or pants)***

You will bend, twist, sit, climb and crawl as you love and serve communities. Short shorts will only get shorter with these activities. Here's how we define short: Let your arms fall to your side – if your fingers touch skin, bring a longer pair.

### ***Loose-Fitting Clothing***

During the week your clothes may endure paint, sweat, mud and lots of love from children! Bring clothes that you can work and play hard in.

### ***Tennis Shoes or Work Boots (Closed-Foot Shoes)***

To prevent injury, you need to bring a pair of shoes that completely cover your foot. Bring tennis shoes or work boots that you don't mind getting dirty or wet at work sites and that you can wear in the kitchen.

### ***One-Piece Swimsuits***

Some YouthWorks sites include swimming activities. Please choose modest, one-piece, swimsuits for these occasions. If you do not bring a one-piece for swimming, you'll be asked to wear a dark t-shirt over it. Please note that although we won't swim at every site, swimsuits are a good idea for additional privacy in the showers, in these instances it is OK to wear a two-piece.

## ***Please Don't Bring***

### ***Apparel that distracts . . .***

- Tank tops or sleeveless shirts
- Short shorts – including the recently popular running/track shorts
- Clothing that reveals undergarments, midriffs or chests
- Tight-fitting clothing – including leggings, yoga pants, etc.

### ***Also, apparel that . . .***

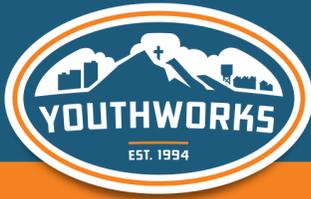
- Includes obscene, vulgar, abusive or discriminatory language or images
- Advertises or promotes alcohol, chemical, tobacco or any other product illegal for use by minors
- Represents hate groups, is gang-related, or contains threatening language

### ***Why Not?***

We represent Christ in the communities that we serve. While community members may choose to wear these clothing items, we know that our wearing them often work against our efforts to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus and so ask you to refrain. This distracting apparel can be disrespectful and damaging to our long-term relationships.

We don't want to be the "clothing police" and we know that you don't want us to be either. We ask for you to understand this clothing policy and follow it. YouthWorks staff will ask the adult leaders to enforce the policy by asking you to change your clothing if it is believed to be a distraction.

We appreciate your help in creating a safe, respectful, distraction-free environment for your mission experience.



# PACKING LIST

SUMMER 2015

## For Everyone

- ★ Reusable water bottle (extremely important!) – YouthWorks provides drinking water.
- ★ Sun block, lip balm, hat (to protect you from the sun), sunglasses
- ★ Long pants (for cool nights and/or work projects)\*
- ★ Long sleeved shirts and sweatshirts (for cool nights and/or work projects)\*
- ★ Short sleeved shirts (no sleeveless shirts or tank tops – see clothing policy)
- ★ Appropriate length shorts (see clothing policy)
- ★ Nice, clean clothes for a possible worship service\*
- ★ Light jacket (for cool nights)\*
- ★ Tennis shoes or work boots (closed-foot shoes)
- ★ Underwear and socks
- ★ One-piece swimsuit for showering and possible evening activities (see clothing policy)\*
- ★ Bath towel, washcloth
- ★ Shower shoes (flip-flops)
- ★ Small shower bag or backpack
- ★ Soap, shampoo, deodorant, other toiletries (extra contact lenses, backup pair of glasses)
- ★ Sleeping bag and pillow
- ★ Air mattress or camping pad (we will sleep on floors)\*
  - **Must be twin size or smaller**
- ★ Bible and pen
- ★ Spending money for snacks and t-shirt purchases (talk to your Trip Leader for further details)
- ★ Insect repellent (not every person needs to bring – coordinate with others in your group)\*
- ★ Flashlight
- ★ Battery powered alarm clock (not every person needs to bring – coordinate with others in your group)
- ★ Reusable lunch bags/boxes for lunches (YouthWorks does provide brown paper lunch bags, but bringing your own can save on waste)

\*The Site Director will connect with your Trip Leader to talk through specific packing list items during the Pre-Trip Call, 2-3 weeks before your trip.

## Notes on Packing

Because space is limited in the sleeping rooms, everything but your sleeping bag and camping pad or air mattress must fit in one duffel bag or suitcase.

Please check the local weather forecast for your site to make sure that you pack accordingly.

### DO NOT BRING:

- ★ Blow dryers, curling or straightening irons because the shower time is short and because many of our housing sites do not have the power to run all of these small electronics at one time.
- ★ iPods, electronic games, other valuables, or too much cash. These items can distract you from others during the week and may be susceptible to theft.
- ★ **YouthWorks is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.**

## For Canadians going to US Sites or US citizens going to Canadian Sites

- ★ Appropriate documents for border crossing  
See *Border Crossing Info* under *Required Paperwork*
- ★ Be sure to exchange your money before mission trip. This can take up to a few weeks.

## For those going to Puerto Rico

- ★ Because of space limitations, do not bring an air mattress! **Please bring a foam pad or camping pad.** (*Buying something? We suggest: [bit.ly/camppad](http://bit.ly/camppad)*)
- ★ The summer is rainy season in PR – a small umbrella or raincoat is a good idea and bug spray mandatory!
- ★ We will be attending a Puerto Rican church service while you are on site. It is important to be culturally appropriate in our clothing, which means to dress modestly. YouthWorks staff will ask participants to change if they are not dressed appropriately. Suitable clothing for church includes:
  - For women: At least knee-length skirts/dresses or shorts/capris and a nice loose-fitting shirt. Please no sleeveless dresses.
  - For men: Pants or knee-length shorts, preferably khakis with a short sleeve button-down shirt or polo shirt.
  - Sandals are appropriate for everyone to wear to church.