

# HOH YOUTH

## Calendar | Retreats | Activities

### Youth Sunday

We invited you to come and participate in Youth Sunday! There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and help out that Sunday. We are still in need of 2 to 3 Acolytes, Offering Deacons, a Creed and speakers to read the Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, a prayer and Announcements.

### Community Retreat

A multi-generational retreat that will be held at Eagle Lodge in Clearwater Forest. There youth will be able to participate in group activities, as well as some of their own. If enough of you sign up, the youth might be able to have their own cabin.

### Grand Old Day

For youth not interested in the retreat, we are in need of volunteers to work the parking lot for Grand Old Day. This is one of our main fundraisers that makes our trips possible.

### Summer Lock-in

Not yet scheduled

Events	Details
March 15 @ 11:30 am	Organizing Meeting for Summer Trips; Pine Ridge, Montreal and more.
March 22 @ 6:00 pm	Dinner and Discussion
May 3 @ 10:00 am	Youth Sunday
May 10- Mother's Day	Planting Flowers
May 31 @ 10:00 am	Senior Recognition Day
May 31 @ 11:30 am	Mission Trip Meeting--Parents And Participants
June 5-7	HOH Community Retreat
June 7- 7:00 am to 4:00 pm	Grand Old Day
June 14-19	Mission Trip to Pine Ridge
June 28 @ 6:00 pm	Dinner and Discussion @ Pastor Wilson's House
July 12 @ 11:30 am	Montreal Youth Conference Meeting
July 19 @ 6:00 pm	Dinner and Discussion
July 24-August 3	Montreal Youth Conference (This can be rescheduled a week later if it allows more people to participate)



HOUSE OF HOPE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## D&D @ Pastor Wilson's

Pastor Wilson will be hosting Dinner and Discussion at his house on June 28th. We will be grilling outside if the weather allows.

1288 Portland Ave, St Paul, MN  
55104

## August Summer Party

We are looking for someone to host this year's Summer Party.

## About Pine Ridge

A strong relationship with Crazy Horse School is a defining characteristic of mission trips to Pine Ridge. Beyond being our housing site, the school invites YouthWorks to come alongside them with our Kids Club ministry and other service projects. Your group will serve through painting and simple work projects. In addition to serving, your students will see the rugged beauty of the Badlands, experience The Gathering beneath a 40-foot cross in South Dakota's rolling prairie-lands, grapple with issues of poverty, take part in a community cookout and hear the history of the area. YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 1999.

## Serving in Pine Ridge

- ✦ Serve through painting, cleaning, helping with yard work or doing other simple work projects.
- ✦ Plan and lead children's programming, including Bible lessons, games, crafts and reading activities.
- ✦ Begin the week with an interactive experience learning about the Native culture.
- ✦ To best meet the needs of the community and build stronger relationships, some students will serve at Kids Club each day while others will rotate between Kids Club and Work Projects

## YouthWorks FAQs

<https://bit.ly/zuNukHz>



HOUSE OF HOPE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## WHY MISSION TRIPS?

FROM REV. ZACH WILSON:

In a time where self-interest and self-dealing seem to be the norm and “enlightened self-interest” the best human beings can or should aspire to we need to remind ourselves and that Jesus calls us to a still more excellent way which includes the call:

1. To serve, not be served
2. To love our neighbors as ourselves
3. To love our enemies and pray for them
4. To care for the poor, widowed, orphaned
5. To heal the sick
6. To notice the marginalized and put them at the center of the church’s mission
7. To welcome the stranger

We don’t learn to do these things without practice. At least I don’t. So I hope you’ll come practice what it means to follow Jesus in Pine Ridge, SD this summer. Register by 5/1/2020 at [bit.ly/HoH\\_YWs2020](https://bit.ly/HoH_YWs2020)—there is a \$100 deposit. If that’s beyond your means please let me know as soon as you’re able: [ZachW@HoHChurch.org](mailto:ZachW@HoHChurch.org)

### FROM YOUTHWORKS:

When done well, mission trips bring together the best of both worlds in ways that communicate Christ’s servant love, prompt growth and ignite passions. That’s work we want to be a part of!

Mission trips connect people with what God is up to all around them, and teenagers are an important part of what God is doing. The trouble is that sometimes they don’t realize it. Misplaced expectations, infinite distractions and disconnected values have turned the love and service that Jesus intended students’ stories to be about into a mere footnote. But mission trips invite students’ faith to their fingertips, allowing meaningful conversations about why service is essential to following Jesus. Mission trips invite students to be fulltime participants in God’s plan.

Communities, too, are participants in that plan. We know that every community – the ones we visit and the ones we come from – have both strengths and struggles. By entering a different town or city, we get an inside view of another context where Jesus is at work. Alongside the real needs we’ve seen students meet, the people and places we serve have also poured back into church groups. This mutual giving makes mission trips much more than simple service

projects. It changes perspectives, shapes passions and alters pursuits. It opens students’ eyes to the incredible possibilities God has put in front of them.

Here’s the deal: We think that every teenager should experience a mission trip that values relationships, respects communities and connects the hands of service with the heart of Jesus. Again and again we see quality mission trip experiences show students how to use their lives to love and value others better.

You see, we’ve never thought of mission trips as a youth group’s “big event” where students finally get to live out their faith. The “big event” of students’ faith happens every day as teenagers find the opportunity to love and serve the people God puts in their path. Instead, mission trips are a launch pad... a drawing back of the bow... a wind-up for the pitch. Mission trips equip and encourage students to go home and love the communities they travel into every day when they roll out of bed.

And God’s mission for us is far more than a trip. But we know, for many, living out that mission begins with a trip.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Who can go on this trip?***

House of Hope Youth and their approved friends (1 per student unless cleared with Rev. Wilson after a conversation with youths' parent(s)/guardian(s)) from those entering ninth grade in the fall to those graduating this spring. Please register as soon as you are able at [bit.ly/HoH\\_YWs2020](http://bit.ly/HoH_YWs2020). After you register there you will receive and email link to an additional YouthWorks registration site.

### ***What are the dates of the trip?***

We'll leave the church on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> early in the morning. We'll return the following Friday-Sunday depending the recreational options the group chooses.

### ***What is the adult to youth ratio requirements on youth trips?***

High School Trips: 1 Adult Leader for every 7 students. Current trip leaders are Amy Greening and Rev. Zach Wilson

### ***How much will the trip cost?***

We are asking for a deposit of \$100 and will a more definitive number by March 15, 2020. If you want to go we will figure out a way to enable your participation financially.

### ***What is the Deadline for Registering?***

The deadline is May 1, 2020, however, registrations are on a first come first served basis so register as early as you can: [bit.ly/HoH\\_YWs2020](http://bit.ly/HoH_YWs2020)

### ***Do you require background checks on your leaders? What about students?***

Yes. Each church group will need to conduct a national (multi-site) criminal background check and sex offender registry check on any participant (adults or students) that is 18 years and older. Church groups will then provide YouthWorks with written confirmation that every participant 18 and older has been approved to work with youth and children.

### ***Are the sites safe?***

Safety is of the utmost importance to our organization! We want participants to feel safe throughout the entire week, and we want parents and church leadership to know that we take every precaution in order to ensure their safety. Our staff are thoroughly trained on a variety of safety practices and procedures. With that said, we do rely on Adult Leaders and youth to help the YouthWorks staff in maintaining the safety policies and procedures for their mission week.

### ***Will we be serving in one place all week or various places?***

It depends on the YouthWorks site. We seek to meet the needs of our community partners and their ministries. Some of our organizations prefer the same volunteers to come back each day, all week long so there is consistency in the relational aspects but also logistically as well. In other situations you might serve with multiple partners during the week.

### ***Will there be other groups on site with mine and how many participants should we expect?***

A typical YouthWorks site has capacity for 65 to 80 participants depending on the site and week. Our goal is that as many teenagers as possible would experience mission trips so there may be multiple other groups on site during your week. The only way this would not happen is if your group were to register for the whole week (all of the spaces on site).

### ***Will our group be serving together or will we be split up?***

If your group is larger than seven people and has more than two Adult Leaders, you will most likely be split into different ministry/work crews for the week. Each crew will have anywhere from 7 – 15 people with 1 – 3 Adult Leaders depending on the needs of our service partners, the size of the group on site, and the number and size of vehicles available. Ideally, each crew will be comprised of youth from different churches along with an adult leader from each church.

### ***How do we get there?***

We'll be getting there in a van—both adult leaders will go through a drivers' orientation and training

### ***Where do we stay?***

Groups are housed in a local church, school or community building. Participants need to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows and sleeping pads or air mattresses that are twin-size or smaller (Puerto Rico has a slightly different requirement). All females and males sleep in separate rooms, including married Adult Leaders. Showers are available either on site or at a nearby location. Off-Site showers may be at local community center, YMCA or public high school which may include open shower rooms or private stalls. Specific details will be available in the spring as they are confirmed in each community.

### ***Can you accommodate participants with special needs or disabilities?***

YouthWorks welcomes youth and adult participants with disabilities and works collaboratively with Trip Leaders to provide accommodations to need and circumstance. For more information, please talk with a Trip Consultant, if not yet registered for a trip, or a Mission Trip Associate, if you are registered already.

### ***What does the schedule look like?***

#### *SUNDAY*

4:30–6:00 pm Your Group Arrives at Housing Site  
6:15 pm Dinner  
7:15–8:30 pm Orientations for Adult Leaders and Students  
8:30–9:30 pm The Gathering  
9:30–10:30 pm Church Group Time (a time to process the day as a group)  
11:15 pm Lights Out

8:25–8:50 am Personal Devotion Time  
9:00 am Gather and Depart for Service Sites (Lunch is around noon at service sites.)  
3:30 pm Depart from Service Sites  
3:30–5:30 pm Showers, Afternoon Snack, Adult Leader Meeting, Dinner Crew Prepares Meal  
5:30–6:30 pm Dinner and Cleanup  
6:30–8:30 pm Evening Activity and Snack\*  
8:30–9:30 pm The Gathering  
9:30–10:30 pm Church Group Time and Prepare for Bed  
11:15 pm Lights Out

#### *MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY*

6:45 am Breakfast Crew in Kitchen  
7:00 am Wake Up  
7:15–7:45 am Breakfast (Everyone also packs their own lunch during this time.)  
7:45–8:15 am Breakfast/Building Cleanup

#### *FRIDAY AND SATURDAY*

We may choose our own recreational activities as we make our way home

## WHY MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE?

Montreat Youth Conference (MYC) is designed for high school students, entering freshmen through graduated seniors, and for their group leaders. We can choose the following:

YOUTH 5: JULY 26–AUGUST 1 | YOUTH 6: AUGUST 2–8

Youth who attend Montreat Youth Conference consistently site as one of the formative events in the development of their faith. Our House of Hope Youth will meet Presbyterians from around the country—and often the world—and see what it means to be part of the global movement of our connected and connectional church.

There are four main parts of every day at MYC:

1. **Keynote** – The keynote session gathers everyone together for movement and group building (fondly known as energizers), announcements, music, and keynote. Keynote is a 45 minute-ish presentation engaging conferees in that day's scriptural theme. After keynote, conferees head to small group sessions.
2. **Small Groups** – Small groups allow youth to form relationships with others in order to have honest discussions with each other about questions raised during keynote and worship. Small group sessions are led by trained small group leaders, who guide conversation and lead group building activities.
3. **Worship** – After dinner, everyone gathers for worship. In worship, youth engage the Word of God as they seek to understand and respond to the challenges and triumphs of being a high schooler in the twenty-first century. Youth Conference worship is joyful, reflective, and seeks to glorify God using many creative gifts of the participants.
4. **Recreation** – Recreation events are featured throughout the day and include everything from dance, games, and group building activities to snow cone parties, international crafts, and service. Energizers are a much beloved Montreat tradition, pairing popular music and simple movements everyone can enjoy.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How much will MYC cost?**

We're asking for a \$100 deposit—we'll have more final numbers on March 15. Please register as soon as you're able at [bit.ly/HoH\\_Montreat2020](http://bit.ly/HoH_Montreat2020). If you would like to come we'll find a way to make it financially feasible.

### **How will we get there?**

The current plan is to drive a van. We will need to add two days to the above dates before and after to accommodate travel.

### **Can I bring a friend?**

Subject to the approval of staff and a conversation with parent(s)/guardian(s) you may bring one friend.

### **How do I reserve my spot?**

[http://bit.ly/HoH\\_Montreat2020](http://bit.ly/HoH_Montreat2020)



# WHAT TO EXPECT SERVING IN *Native American Communities*

---

***Thank you for preparing to visit a Native American community this summer! By the time you arrive, we'll have been getting ready for your group for over nine months, hoping that your students' experience in a reservation setting will deepen the way they think about God, their neighbors and themselves.***

***As you consider your group's expectations, heart-preparation, prayer concerns and much more, know that we are too. We're thinking about those things as we organize trip logistics, plan evening activities and set up service opportunities. As we set the stage logistically, we are asking, "How can we also create positive expectations about the community for your group?" You see, each community has a distinctive story. And as you know, each member of your group also has a unique story. As we bring these stories together, our desire is to successfully connect you to the places you serve and dispel any stereotypes or fears.***

---

## LIFE IN A NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Beauty and pain... Even the most seasoned traveler can be overwhelmed by both in the Native American community. You will probably encounter evidence of a people group and culture that have been systematically oppressed for over 200 years. However, you will also encounter men, women and children who are passionate about their culture, their sense of identity and their grasp of the relationships with the space around them. You will be overwhelmed by the beauty of the landscape and humbled by those who are willing to share their culture and history with you.

Life in Native American communities may feel slower but to simply say it's slow misses the bigger picture. YouthWorks has been facilitating mission trips in Native American communities for over 20 years, and we are continually confronted with the fact that real service cannot happen outside the context of relationships. YouthWorks takes the idea of respectful service seriously in these communities and for this reason, we place a great emphasis on cultural learning and story-sharing with community members. It is important to remember that respectful service sometimes looks like listening and learning rather than simply doing.

We desire for students, adult leaders and staff to learn that people matter, attitudes are important, and the posture of our hearts determines how we connect with others. Our hope is that your time in this community will not only raise awareness of life on the reservation, but also move you to reflect on the impact that you can have in your own community using the knowledge you will gain throughout your week.

As you serve in the community, you may encounter various levels of poverty and the challenges remaining from the oppression Indigenous people have endured. The reality is that every community has its struggles. Rather than only seeing the poverty, look through it to learn from those you meet in the community. You'll find that the stereotypes you've previously held may not hold true. We invite you to join us as we continue to let go of preconceptions and interact with people as they are and not as we expect them to be.

## SERVING IN A NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Understanding a few cultural differences of a community before entering it will help your leaders and youth respond appropriately in a new place. Here are a few we'd like to highlight for you.

**Time Sensitivity** Main stream American culture is very task-oriented. This however, is not the case in these communities. Spending time with people is valued more than being on time. As a result, things won't always run on schedule—community members may be late for appointments or events. Simply spend time with people before trying to get things done. The focus of life in these communities is always about relationships. Schedules and plans are secondary to friendships.

**Quietness** Native American communities tend to be quiet places. Native culture values quietness and listening. Please be mindful that large groups of teenagers bring a lot of energy and noise to a quiet place. When in the community, try to be mindful of this energy and volume.

**Listening** You might find that conversations feel awkward. This may be because Native American culture values listening. Don't be afraid of silent times in a conversation, sit in the silence, enjoy the beauty around you and wait for someone to speak. Good things can happen in conversations when you are not trying to push an agenda, rather be ready to simply sit and listen.

**Handshakes / Eye Contact** Some Native American cultures don't value eye contact; this is normal. Handshakes may also be different, as some cultures don't value a firm handshake. Come with a soft grip.

**Photographs** Some people do not want to be photographed while others do not mind. Some places or events should not be photographed because they are sacred for the tribe. Be respectful and ask permission.

---

*We hope that this information helps as you continue to prepare for your trip. Please take time to talk with your group about expectations and the type of community you will be traveling to. Groups who have intentionally taken time to process and prepare before they begin their trip have more meaningful individual growth, team solidarity and community relationships.*

## Being like Jesus in this Community

Native American communities are complex places built on a difficult history. It's easy for all of us to label a community and its people with all sorts of stereotypes. These labels feed our perceptions and influence how we approach people, situations and relationships. As you prepare, think about how you will approach each person and situation with the kind of grace that Jesus demonstrated to each person he met along the way. The following characteristics are great examples of how your students and adult leaders can prepare their hearts for their mission week.

### Serve with Humility

Jesus came to earth with the attitude of a servant. If you want to serve others, have a humble attitude. Become a servant focused on listening instead of speaking and learning instead of teaching. Come with a humble heart that is ready to jump in and serve wherever needed, whether it's cleaning a bathroom or listening to a life story.

### Embrace Powerlessness

Jesus did not come as a powerful king, but as a powerless infant and, later in life, a carpenter. Do the same. Don't seek positions of power or wealth. Come ready to put the needs of those you serve above your own.

### Don't Depend on Privilege

Jesus had access to privilege and wealth, but he voluntarily chose poverty instead. Your time on site may feel like poverty. The sleeping arrangements are probably less comfortable than you have at home, the food may not be what you prefer, and there might not be air conditioning. Our hope is that this week of service will remind you to depend more on Jesus by living outside convenience and, sometimes, going without.

### Encounter Brokenness

Jesus stepped out of the order and harmony of heaven into the disorder and brokenness of Earth. You are called to do the same. You will encounter brokenness during your time in the community. God is calling you to be present among the broken, not to draw conclusions or judge. Instead, open your eyes wide to the needs around you, both in your YouthWorks community and back home.

<sup>1</sup> Muri, O. (2009, December 29). *Pace and place of missions today*. Urbana Conference 2009. Retrieved on January 28, 2011, from <http://www.intervarsity.org/page/urbana-09-audio>