



United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth U.M. ARMY - Florida

Join us in 2018 for a week of amazing youth mission!!

Basics About Our Program

Participants sleep, eat, worship and enjoy fellowship at a local United Methodist church or camp and retreat center. Each weekday small teams set out to a worksite in the local area. Teams are supported by adults who have been trained in Safe Sanctuary procedures and who have undergone a criminal background check. While serving neighbors in need is our primary focus, leadership development and spiritual growth are integral components to our program.

The Projects

We believe our relationship to those being served is the top priority and central to our work. Homeowners are referred by local social service agencies and churches. Those receiving our assistance are elderly, neighbors with disabilities or families and individuals who are unable to do the work for themselves due to financial concerns. The work ranges from simple projects such as yard work or painting to small home repairs on doors, windows, stairs, porches and construction of handicap access ramps. The teams bring a lunch to share with their neighbor each day and are encouraged to interact as much as possible. Often the idea that someone cares is much more important than the actual work!

The Activities

Throughout the week, fun evening activities are planned. They often include swimming, dancing and/or games. We begin each day with a devotional service and end each evening with an uplifting worship service designed to engage youth. One evening during the week is reserved as "Community Celebration Night". We invite those whom we have served to a dinner at our host church and they are given the opportunity to speak to the young people about what their service has meant. (Definitely a highlight of the week!)

Participants

People of all denominations and beliefs are welcome. While our primary participation has been from United Methodist youth groups, most of our programs are attended by those from a blend of faith traditions. Registration is open to youth who have completed 6th grade by the time of the mission week. However, youth under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Church groups of all sizes attend. Each participating church is required to bring 2 adults for every 5 youth. Our leadership team is made up of volunteers but key leaders have several years of experience and extensive training. While most participating adults will be assigned to work with a team, there are also opportunities for adults who would prefer to help with kitchens, tool organization, administration, worship and activities for the week.

Registration Fees

Our registration fees are very affordable. Fees include all activities, work materials and meals (Some locations plan one dinner out at a family restaurant during the week. This meal is at the individual's expense).

We are able to offer lower fees than other youth mission programs for a variety of reasons:

- Our programs are housed in United Methodist Churches and Retreat Centers. Our gracious hosts see us as an extension of their own outreach to their local community and do not profit from their hospitality.
- We do not hire program staff. Instead we train and empower devoted and passionate volunteers as leaders in the program.
- Good stewardship allows us to commit a large portion of each participant fee toward building materials and the actual mission projects.

Preparation

There are pre-mission trainings for adult participants and adults who are new to U.M. ARMY. New churches will receive a visit from a U.M. ARMY representative prior to the mission week to help prepare adults as well as youth and parents. We ask churches to bring tools. The Director at each location will send a list of the necessary items.

Planning For You!

U.M. ARMY has been in existence for 40 years yet the program is constantly being refined and improved based on regional and contemporary needs. Please feel free to contact us with questions or comments at any time!

Check out our website for more information:

www.umarmy.org

*Registration fee for 2017.