

# A WEEK OF HOPE

## WHAT IS A WEEK OF HOPE?

**Week of Hope is the affordable one-week camp** where your youth will build meaningful relationships with those they serve, those they serve with, and most importantly, a deeper relationship with Jesus.

A Week of Hope is a personal, friendly setting of about 100 youth from all over the country...ideal for getting to know everyone.

During the day students will serve elderly, disabled and disadvantaged residents in need...and back at camp they'll build closer relationships while serving one another through cooking, cleaning and maintaining the camp. And each evening, the whole camp comes together for music, sharing, prayers and laughs. It's a week-long atmosphere of service, unity and fun!

The service projects at a Week of Hope might include teaching a VBS, preparing meals for the elderly, serving disadvantaged children, or small home-repair projects. Your group will build meaningful relationships with those they serve, those they serve alongside, and most importantly, a deeper relationship with Jesus.

## WHY WEEK OF HOPE?

We believe Group Cares has the right goals. Here's what they provide us:

### *#1 Connect With Jesus*

Stretching your kids out of their "comfort zones" deepens their connection to Jesus. By being challenged, they learn quickly to look to their faith to see them through. You'll see how God uses the experience of serving others to change lives-in both you and the people you serve. And when you combine meaningful service with daily devotions and powerful, interactive programs, you open eyes and hearts to real growth. Each year, over 90% of campers report growing closer to God!

### *#2 We sweat the details*

To make your mission trip the best it can be, we have a team of people who work hard to take care of the details. From food and lodging to project preparation, we visit each project site to make sure they are ready for you to serve. We make it easy for you, so you can concentrate on the most important thing-spending time with your young people!

### *#3 Value Core Christian Messages*

If it feels scary to take your kids to an event with other churches-relax. We serve all denominations. The "faith" content focuses on core Christian beliefs. And if your kids have questions, great! It can be a powerful teachable moment for you to talk with your youth about their faith...and about your church's faith traditions, too. You'll see God at work

## #4 You can trust our staff

Our leaders are well-trained and passionate about helping you help your youth connect to Jesus. Our staff are prescreened with national background checks. Many have been working with us for years, and they keep coming back because they love the program and have a desire to serve you and your students.

## #5 Get more for your money

All service mission trips are not created equal. Compare us to others. Look closely at what you get - and don't get - when comparing costs of various camps. You'll find that with 30+ years of experience, we figured out how to juggle mission trip logistics like no other.

## FAQ'S

### 1. What's included in the registration fee?

- Lodging during camp week
- All meals, except for one evening meal where you have free time to explore the community
- All supplies and project materials
- Theme T-shirt for each participant
- Development of daily thematic, fun, faith-building programs
- Pre-, during, and post- trip devotions
- Highly trained, mission-minded camp staff
- Comprehensive online Leader Manual and project preparation materials
- Fund-raising ideas and FUNDIT (web-based fund-raising management tool)
- Program supplies for interactive activities
- Service Project selection, organization, and administration
- Unlimited customer support from professional and courteous staff
- Mission Handbook for each participant (a personal devotion book and guide for the week)

### 2. How are crews organized?

A typical "crew" is a group of four or five young people and one adult. Some projects require multiple crews or slight modifications of crew size based on local partners and community needs. Project crews usually include participants from a variety of churches. If you'd rather have your teenagers serve with your own group members, call us and we'll gladly accommodate your request.

### 3. Where do we stay?

Most lodging is in local churches, Christian schools, or community centers (accommodations vary by trip). Accommodations will include areas for groups to room together by gender, a common eating area, and a program area. Showers will be available, though they may be indoor showers (locker room style) or may be outdoor (cold, semiprivate, temporary) showers. Have all participants bring a swimming suit so they're prepared for any showering situation. Participants will sleep on the floor and need to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows, and a twin-size air mattress. Facilities may or may not be air-conditioned, so consider bringing a small fan. Cell phone coverage may or may not be available, but there will always be an emergency phone onsite.

### 4. Do you have references?

Absolutely! Don't just take our word for it-give us a call (1.800.385.4545) and we'd be happy to connect you with other youth leaders who have served with us.

5. What is a typical day?

A "typical" day involves serving others, "God Sightings", daily devotions, and inspirational/interactive worship programs. Your camp schedule will look similar to this: 6:30 a.m. Breakfast crew begins meal prep 6:45 a.m. Rise and shine! 7:00 a.m. Breakfast 8:15 a.m. Morning program 8:30 a.m. Depart for service project sites 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Serve in the community, eat lunch, have devotions 3:30 p.m. Return to the lodging facility 4:00 p.m. Hospitality tasks/free time/meal preparation 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Music Team rehearsal or free time 8:00 p.m. Evening program 9:00 p.m. Church group devotions 11:00 p.m. Lights out

6. What about food?

A total of 13 meals will be provided during the trip, beginning with dinner on Sunday evening. Meals will consist of continental breakfasts, sack lunches, and hot dinners. Participants take turns preparing the meals and cleaning up. Picnic-style lunches will be put together in the morning and you'll bring these with you to your project site locations when you depart in the morning. The last meal will be breakfast on Friday morning. IMPORTANT NOTE: Dinner will NOT be provided on Tuesday. Youth groups will have free time that evening.

7. What is the adult/youth ratio?

Bring a minimum of 1 adult for every 5 youth. If you register both males and females, bring at least 1 adult male and 1 adult female. Adults serve on project crews with young people.

8. What is evening program like?

You'll applaud the daily programs and devotions. Each evening, everyone will gather for a time of intimate, interactive, God-centered worship with music, Scripture, video, drama, and hands-on activities. Programs (designed by the youth ministry experts at Group Magazine) are coordinated by a staff member, but you, your group, and other groups will take the lead in sharing music (so bring your guitar and best song leader voices) and participating in other program elements.

9. How are Week of Hope Camps Staffed?

Your mission trip will be run by four ministry-minded staff, including two highly-trained, college-age leaders. Additional adults in your group (beyond the 5-to-1 ratio), may apply online for a volunteer position. If chosen as a volunteer staff member, your registration fee is waived. Many of our staff serve year-after-year because they have a heart to minister to church groups.

[www.groupweekofhope.com](http://www.groupweekofhope.com)