

High School Youth Connection Summer Trips 2018

Wyalusing State Park

We are heading to Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chein where the Mississippi River and Wisconsin Rivers meet! This experience will provide some challenges but will also offer the chance to relax.

We will be spending 4 days and 3 nights camping in this beautiful area. Daytime activities will include hiking the trails including the bluffs overlooking the rivers and canoeing the backwaters of the Mississippi. (Fishing is a definite possibility for those interested!) We will be camping in the Homestead Campground of the Park, which offers comfortable sites and showers. Our evenings will be spent together with campfires and reflective discussions. We're packing a grill and will have great food!

We will also be packing our bicycles. On the way home, we'll pull out the bikes in Dodgeville and ride the 36.5 miles to Verona via the Military Ridge State Trail!

Wyalusing facts & figures:

Dates: Tuesday, June 12, 9:30 am, through Friday, June 15, 6:00 pm

Cost: \$200 total paid to Covenant, which includes the campsites, food, canoe rental, bike trail passes, and transportation via rented vans and a truck. (Fishing licenses for those 16 & over at the time of the trip should be purchased prior to the trip.)

Sign up deadline: December 10 (Talk to me if you need a little more time to sort out your summer schedule.)

Downpayment: \$50.

Rosebud Indian Reservation of South Dakota!

Our mission trips have become a staple of our summer travel and for good reasons. People who immerse themselves in the mission field find they get much more in return than they ever thought possible. They learn about others from a very different set of circumstances than their own and they learn a great deal about themselves. This coming summer we will take part in the mission field of the Rosebud Indian Reservation of South Dakota! We will be working with the "Tree of Life Ministries" through the United Methodist Church. We worked with "Tree of Life" on three previous trips and had great experiences!

We will be the only group in the "guest house" that week. We will have ample space in which to live. There are bunk beds, private showers, and our own kitchen facilities. We will be on our own for food, which means WE pick the menu, the quantity, and cook it ourselves to our liking.

The work to be done will include helping refurbish the homes of those in need on the reservation. We may be stripping a house down to the studs and putting up new interior and exterior siding, roofing, painting and more. "Tree of Life Ministries" will work with us to ensure proper training for the tasks at hand. There will also be opportunities to interact with children and others on the reservation in various work settings such as area food & clothing banks.

Evenings will include a chance to experience the local culture through music, dance, food, and guest speakers. We will have a "free" day during which we will explore the beautiful Black Hills including Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse memorial.

We will travel in rented 15-passenger vans, staying night at a church along the way out and back.

Read on...there's more!

South Dakota facts & figures:

Dates: Saturday, July 14 through Sunday, July 22

Cost: \$525 total paid to Covenant. This includes meals and lodging at the site, extra site-seeing activities, and transportation via rented vans. This amount is pre-fundraising. An additional \$70 will be needed for traveling meals. Extra spending money is up to the families.

Sign up deadline: Sunday, December 10

Downpayment: \$75, due at the time of registration.

Fundraising: Our “Trash & Treasure Sale” is open to those on either trip.

This event not only provides money, it also provides a GREAT opportunity for teamwork and a sense of church-wide community that can only happen through time and effort. It’s truly an in-house mission opportunity to which many, including those not connected to the trips, are invited to participate!

The youth have a tradition of donating 10-15% of their net earnings to charities in the cities in which they work. We also help fund two outstanding local charitable activities in Madison for which the youth purchase food and toys for the clientele of “The River Foodpantry.”

Preparation for this event is February 26 – March 2, with the actual sale on Saturday, March 3.

Hours required and potential earnings:

- **Rosebud only:** In the past several years, the mission trip youth have earned in the \$350 range. A youth will be required to put in a minimum of 9 hours and a parent will need to put in 6 hours during the course of the week. We will also need an additional 3 hours per family that can be put in by either the youth or the parent. It’s all or nothing. People will not be able to work a few hours and earn only a portion of the total.
 - **Wyalusing only:** If families put in 6 youth hours and 3 parent hours, they will earn the balance due on their trip and be helping with the charitable causes which “TnT” support.
 - **Those doing both trips** could earn an extra \$75 per youth.
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Scholarship money: If a person wishes to travel with us and is in need of financial assistance, we have a ceiling amount that will assist in the cost, but will not pay for both trips in their entirety. Participants will need to work the required Trash & Treasure hours in order to be eligible for scholarship money. Talk to me privately to find out more.

Between now and then...

Our trips should be a celebration of who we are during the year. By signing up to take part in the trip next summer you are ***agreeing to be active in our High School Youth Connection program between now and then.*** By signing up for a summer trip, it is expected that the individual youth will participate in some level of Youth Connection programming during the course of the year leading up to the actual trip. This may include Sunday evenings, Saturday night overnight retreats, and special events that fall at other times. In my years in Youth Ministry and many week-long trips, I have seen time and time again that the better a group knows each other before a trip, the better the trip will be. This can only happen through regular participation in the program. Nobody wants to travel with a group of strangers on trips such as these. Youth from outside of Covenant are welcome **only IF** they agree to be active in the program between now and the time of the trip.

Feel free to call me at Covenant at 608-233-6297, if you have any questions.

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In Christ,

Steve Royalton