

Grace UMC 7th/8th Grade Mission Trip Information

Omaha, NE 2018

Mission Trip Dates: Sunday, June 24 – Friday, June 29

Mission Trip Leader: Greg Czaplewski, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Lodging: Lodging is still being arranged. We may be staying at a church in typical fashion, or will be staying in a dormitory-style facility with dual occupancy rooms. Either way, there are men's and women's showers on site. We could be sleeping on the floor, or in a bed(!) – stay tuned for those details. Packing space will be limited; a packing list will be provided at the next meeting.

Cost: \$350 - We expect the cost to be no more than \$350. This cost is available because of monies that will be earned at Grace Extravaganza on March 2, 2018. (Partial scholarships are available; the scholarship form is available in the Youth Office and on the website at graceumc.church/youth. The form must be submitted with your student's registration by Sunday, January 31, 2018.)

Payment Schedule:

1/31/18: \$100 non-refundable deposit is due with the registration form.

3/1/18: \$125 second payment is due.

4/18/18: \$125 final payment is due.

Travel: 15 passenger vans. Space will be limited for luggage.

Partner Organization: We will once again be working through an organization called Urban Plunge. We used this group in Des Moines in 2016 and had a great experience. They will be arranging our lodging site and work opportunities. Urban Plunge works with a wide variety of partners, so our work could be quite varied. Students should expect to emerge from their comfort zones by doing things they've never done, things they never thought they would do, and things that challenge them. Due to the nature of how Urban Plunge operates and the challenges with coordinating multiple schedules, we will not know what our jobs are until much closer to our departure.

Fun Day: Our Fun Day will take place on Friday, providing us with ample time to have fun and relax together after a what will surely be a week of high temperatures and hard work. After our Fun Day activities, we will head back to Kansas City.

2018 MISSION TRIP IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 31, 2018: REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT DUE! – \$100 non-refundable deposit due with registration.

January 31 and May 30, 2018: MISSION TRIP COMMUNITY NIGHTS – All middle school students participating in a mission trip are required to attend these Wednesday evenings, which will help us prepare for our upcoming trip.

February 26 - March 2, 2018 – (times vary): GRACE EXTRAVAGANZA – Grace Extravaganza is our annual fundraiser to support missions at Grace UMC. This event covers half the cost of the mission trips we take and allows us to keep the trips affordable for our families. In an effort to thank our congregation for their support, students attending mission trips are **required** to participate in this event AND **required** to sign-up in advance. (We can't accept walk-up volunteers because of the complexity of the evening.) More details to come in February.

March 1, 2018: PAYMENT DUE – \$125 second payment due.

April 18, 2018: PAYMENT DUE – \$125 final payment due.

April 18, 2018 – 6:30-7:00pm: MISSION TRIP MEETING – All students participating are **required** to attend this meeting, as well as a parent. This meeting will include final details for our trip such as packing list, fun night info, final paperwork, etc.

June 3, 2018 – 9:15am service: Please join us as we worship as a youth community in the 9:15am service where the participants for the 6th grade mission trip and the High School mission trip will be consecrated.

June 24, 2018 – 9:15am service: Please join us as we worship as a youth community in the 9:15am service where the participants for the 7th/8th grade mission trip will be consecrated.

June 24, 2018 – 1:00pm: DEPARTURE DAY – All participants meet at Ridgeview at 1:00pm, either having eaten beforehand or with a sack lunch. We will load up and head to Omaha and begin our mission experience!

June 29, 2018 – 10:00pm: RETURN DAY – The 7th/8th grade mission trip crew returns to Ridgeview, no later than 10:00pm!

July 11, 2018: MISSION TRIP REUNION – All 7th/8th grade mission trip participants are invited to get together to reconnect, share mission trip memories and have dinner together. Details to come.