



Office for Evangelization  
Catholic Diocese of Richmond

Diocesan Work Camp  
June 21-25, 2021

This communication contains initial information concerning the Diocesan Work Camp for 2021. Please read all the information contained in this communication to ensure you have a full understanding of the event.

### **What is the Diocesan Work Camp?**

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The Diocesan Work Camp is a weeklong camp experience for high school youth to serve our brothers and sisters in need by making their homes safer, warmer, drier, and greener while also having the opportunity to grow in our Catholic faith. Work Camp is not just a youth event. It is an opportunity for parishes to make a difference in the lives of those in need right here in our diocese while encouraging youth to answer their baptismal call to serve others.

This year due to COVID-19, Diocesan Work Camp will be held as a day camp experience at local parishes, with livestreamed programming elements and regional evening Masses.

### **Who should attend Work Camp?**

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Work Camp is open to all high school-aged youth (rising 9th graders through graduated 12th graders). The week is going to require that youth be willing to get uncomfortable, as they will be asked to give of themselves in service to others and to the Lord. It is a challenging week, and youth who attend should be aware that it can be physically and spiritually demanding.

### **Where and when is the Diocesan Work Camp?**

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The Diocesan Work Camp will be held Monday, June 21 through Friday, June 25, 2021 at the local parish level.

### **Who will be the speaker?**

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With a morning livestreamed program experience, we are hopeful to include a variety of national speakers as different daily hosts alongside our Diocesan Office for Evangelization staff.

### **What is the structure of Work Camp?**

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Each day of Work Camp has a rhythm to it, with activities centered around service, prayer, and fellowship.

- Each morning starts with a livestreamed program that has both virtual and in-person components.
- Following morning program, youth head to work sites.
- Parishes will be invited to a regional Mass, held in the evening one night (date dependent on your location).
- Optional components coordinated at the parish level are daily Mass, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, and social downtime.

Parishes are encouraged to assign youth to the same Work Crew for the whole week. Early in the week, we will spend some time in teambuilding activities. We will also review general safety instructions and have the opportunity to prepare for the specific site locations. Each Work Crew will assign their youth to certain Crew Roles and will be given a Crew Devotional to use at their work sites throughout the week.

Morning Program will be a short and excellent livestreamed program, hosted by the Office for Evangelization. Parishes will watch it at the same time before heading out to their worksites for the day.

Work sites will be coordinated at the parish level. The Office for Evangelization will provide direction in how to find and manage service projects in your area that are appropriate for your parish situation.

Throughout the week, we hope to offer regional Masses for youth from the different parishes to gather together. Beyond the regional Masses, we encourage groups to join daily Mass at their local parish as well as work with their priest to offer Eucharistic Adoration and/or Reconciliation one night during Work Camp.

Due to the structure of the week and the Work Crews, it is strongly recommended that all participants attend the whole week of Work Camp.

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### **What are the requirements for adult chaperones & adult volunteers?**

**For this event, we recommend 1 adult chaperone for every 6 youth who are participating in the Work Camp.** Adult chaperones are responsible for looking out for the well-being of youth participants both at the parish and at the work sites. Knowledge of home improvement is not needed to serve in this role. Because of the work we will be doing, adults should be able to work in environments that do not have air conditioning, be able to lift light-weight items, and be able to drive. Chaperones must be 21 years old before the beginning of Work Camp.

**Your parish might also choose to have adult volunteers on-site during Work Camp to help with other logistics.** This might include tasks such as coming in to help prepare lunch one day or preparing for a Work Camp-specific Eucharistic Adoration time. These adult volunteers should also be registered.

Each adult chaperone and adult volunteer must be in compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environment Policies, which includes completing the following:

- Screening One (every 5 years)
- VIRTUS training (once)

Please note that parish employees and Catholic school employees have additional screening that must be completed.

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### **Do I need to provide contractors this year?**

This is dependent on the types of projects your parish chooses to commit to. For instance, if you choose to do a building project where power saws are used, then yes, you will need to find an adult chaperone who can function as a contractor, teaching and assisting your group in completing the projects. If you choose to do other sorts of service projects (such as volunteering at a local food bank or pregnancy center), then no, you do not need any adult chaperones to function as contractors.

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### **What kind of transportation is needed?**

Due to COVID-19 and current state and diocesan guidelines for transporting minors, the types of allowed transportation might look different from other years. By the end of May, the Office for Evangelization will communicate what the rules regarding transportation will be for Work Camp. As a reminder, the use of 10-15 passenger vehicles is strictly prohibited per Diocesan Policy.

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### **How can we prepare for Work Camp?**

The Office for Evangelization will host Zoom meetings and send out resources prior to Work Camp to prepare youth ministers for coordinating the following aspects at their parishes:

**The Zoom information for all 5 of these meetings is:**

**Meeting ID: 959 6694 9201**

**Passcode: Hydrate!**

- Wednesday, April 14 at 3pm: Finding & Coordinating Service Projects
- Wednesday, April 28 at 3pm: Logistics (Food, Volunteers, Transportation, Space Needs, Sacrament Reservations, & Daily Schedule)
- Wednesday, May 12 at 3pm: Programming (Supplies, Devotionals, & Sacramental Elements)
- Wednesday, May 26 at 3pm: Preparing your youth for the week

- Thursday, June 10 at 5pm: Training for All Group Leaders & Adult Chaperones (Worksite Safety, Safe Environment, Leading Crews)

### What is the registration fee?

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At this time, we expect the following registration fees:\*

*\*PLEASE NOTE: Parishes will have other additional costs beyond the diocesan fee to participate in work camp. These additional costs include things like food, gas, supplies for your chosen service projects, etc.*

**Youth Participants**                      **\$50**

**Adult Chaperones**                      **\$50**

**Adult Volunteers**                      **\$0\*\***

*\*\*Note: Adult volunteers do not receive t-shirts or other giveaway items*

**The last day to register is Monday, May 24, 2021 at 11:59pm.**

### Cancellations & Substitutions

Each participant cancellation on or before **May 24, 2021**                      Full Refund

Each participant cancellation after **May 24, 2021**                      No Refund

Each participant substituted on or before **June 4, 2021** \*\*\*                      Full Refund

*\*\*\*The last day to request a substitution is Friday, June 4, 2021 at 11:59pm. Please note, correct t-shirt sizes for substitutions cannot be guaranteed.*

### What does this registration fee cover?

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The registration fee goes towards the cost of programming (video creation, speaker fees, etc.), name tags, crew devotionals, game supplies, t-shirts, and gaiters.

Aspects that the registration fee DOES NOT COVER this year: food, transportation, building supplies for building projects, disinfecting supplies, etc. We know that you will have costs beyond the diocesan costs, and we hope that the low cost of participating in this year's Work Camp allows you to cover these additional costs at the parish level.

### How do I register?

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For all youth and adult registrations, follow this process:

1. **Registration Form, Including the Medical Form:** Distribute the corresponding registration forms for youth and adults from [www.evangelizerichmond.com](http://www.evangelizerichmond.com). Remember to keep the medical forms on hand during the week – do not send these to the Office for Evangelization!
2. **Register Participants via the Online Registration System:** If you are a parish group leader, contact the Office for Evangelization via email ([evangelization@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:evangelization@richmonddiocese.org)) or phone (804-622-5159) to get the password for the online registration system.
3. **Parishes are responsible for the registration fee.** Parishes can pay registration fees at the time of registration via credit card or check. An invoice will be sent to each parish after the event for any unpaid fees.

**Registration will close on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 11:59 pm.**

### Questions?

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Contact us via email ([evangelization@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:evangelization@richmonddiocese.org)) or phone (804-622-5159).