



DIOCESAN WORK CAMP

SERVING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN NEED



2025 Work Camp Participant Handbook

June 21-27, 2025 | Southwestern Virginia



Table of Contents

Basic Work Camp Information	3-4
Parish Supplies	5
Tools & Parish Electrical Tape Colors	6
Preparing Yourself for Work Camp	7
Individual Packing List & Tool Kit	9
Adult Chaperone Responsibilities	10
Youth Participant Work Site Safety	13
Recommended Parish Activities & Meetings	14-16
Tool Identification	17-18

Basic Work Camp Information

Arrival and Travel

This year, our annual Work Camp will be held in the southwestern region of the state in Bristol. Please allow extra time for breaks and meals while travelling. As the safety of all our participants is of the utmost importance, we encourage all individuals to practice safe driving habits – stop when needed. **To ease the check-in process, we are asking that all participants arrive together as a parish group.** This will help tremendously, as each group will be bringing tools and supplies to check-in. Remember to bring your parish supplies (listed on page 5) with you to check-in when your group arrives!

Work Camp check-in will be held at **Saint Anne Catholic School** (580 Oakview Ave., Bristol, VA 24201). **Check-in will begin at 3:00pm on Saturday, June 21.** Please arrive no later than 3:45pm.

Departure

All groups should depart Work Camp together and follow the same safety tips as they did on their way to Work Camp. **Work Camp ends at 11:30am on Friday, June 27.**

Mass

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at the beginning of the Team Building Day on Sunday, June 22. Each work day, all participants will attend daily Mass before heading to their worksites.

Meals

We will be providing dinner on Saturday, all meals Sunday through Thursday, and breakfast on Friday. Each parish should arrange for any meals necessary on the way to and from Work Camp. It is important that each participant eat at every mealtime so that we keep our energy up. There are a limited number of supplemental snacks; please eat full meals!

Sleep

At lights out, everyone should be in their respective sleeping quarters prepared to go to sleep. Out of respect of those sharing sleeping space with you, we ask that there are no electronic devices (iPads, cell phones, gaming systems, etc.) used during this time. The time between lights out and wake-up is meant for sleep.

Programming

All Work Camp participants (both youth & adult chaperones) are expected to be present for all program times. Program will include praise & worship music, games, keynote talks, group prayer, and more. This time helps us remember that we are Christ's hands and feet. Please respect those who are presenting and other Work Camp participants by being respectful in behavior and posture. We ask for full participation from all those present, including adults. Air pods are not allowed to be worn during program or at any other point.

Home Base

Home Base is where Work Camp participants sleep, eat, and participate in programming. This year's Home Base is **Saint Anne Catholic School** (580 Oakview Ave., Bristol, VA 24201).

Work Sites

Participants will be on work sites Sunday afternoon through Thursday of Work Camp week. These sites are in the greater Hampton Roads area. It is important that all participants follow work site safety at all times. Each crew member will have the responsibility to do their part in accomplishing the goal of their work project. It is important to be a team player at work sites and to look after other members of your crew.

Work Camp Crews

All Work Camp participants will be divided into groups of six to eight people. A typical crew will have one adult chaperone, one adult contractor, and five to six youth participants. This group size is why it is critical for each parish to provide a vehicle that seats seven to eight people, like a minivan, for transportation. The youth from participating parishes will be mixed with youth from other parishes. Each youth participant will be given a Crew Role; this gives them certain responsibilities for the week at their work site. Each Crew Role will submit a form upon arrival back at Home Base that shares stories and updates from their work site. Adult participants will not necessarily be with youth from their parish. Every adult participant (chaperones & contractors) needs to be in compliance with the Safe Environment guidelines from our diocese.

Cell Phones & Electronics

New Rule for 2025 For the duration of their time at Work Camp, youth participants will not be allowed to have a cell phone, iPad, air pods, gaming systems, or laptop. This decision has been made to increase youth engagement and participation. Youth Ministers or Parish Point of Contact will be expected to set a communication plan with parents and to ensure that youth do not have these devices with them at Work Camp.

Work Camp is about giving your time and talents to serve those in need in our diocese, which requires focus. On work sites, each adult will have his or her cell phone in case the crew needs to reach Home Base. Any music that is played at the work site is at the discretion of the crew's adult leader; it should come from an adult's device and needs to be appropriate for teens and for Christian community.

If a teen has a school commitment during Work Camp (i.e., online P.E.) that they need access to a laptop, the Work Camp staff will work with their Group Leader to coordinate a scheduled time each day that they can access their laptop. The laptop will either be kept by the Group Leader or will be left in the Work Camp office.

If a teen is found with a cell phone or other electronic device, it will be confiscated and given to the Office for Evangelization staff for safe keeping until the completion of Work Camp. If a teen has a disability that needs to be considered, please have your Group Leader reach out to the Office for Evangelization prior to Work Camp to come up with an appropriate plan.

If parents need to reach a teen, they should contact your parish's group leader. If there is an urgent need to reach someone at Work Camp, you may call the Office for Evangelization Work Camp line at 804-592-1221.

Parish Supplies

Parish Supply Checklist

Please bring all Parish Supplies to check-in with you upon arrival.

- ☐ 2 five-gallon water coolers for every 5 participants or part thereof. Please label the top and bottom of the container with your parish name and electrical tape color.
- ☐ 1 box fan per parish (to be placed around the school as the work camp staff deems necessary). Please label with your parish name and electrical tape color!
- ☐ Frisbee, soccer ball, football, or other simple free time sporting equipment.
- ☐ Parish snacks (to be eaten only during Parish Time each night). Please bring these in large plastic bins; your parish will have a designated area to keep them.
- ☐ Vehicle that has 7-8 seatbelts for every adult chaperone (minivans are preferred). This will be needed for transportation of crews and supplies to work sites. Smaller vehicles cannot be used, even if your parish group can get to Work Camp in a smaller vehicle. *As a reminder, the use of 10-15 passenger vans is strictly prohibited per Diocesan Policy.*
 - ☐ Rental vehicles: Parishes should take out full insurance coverage from rental companies. Should anything happen, this insurance is primary; the insurance of the diocese is secondary.

Vehicle Supply Bin (1 bin per vehicle)

Each Vehicle Supply Bin should stay inside of the vehicle, as it will go back and forth with your crew and be used at the work site.

Each vehicle you bring needs to have a plastic supply bin with the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can of wasp spray | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pump bottle hand sanitizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 canister of Clorox wipes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of facial tissues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 rolls of toilet paper | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pack baby wipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 rolls of paper towels | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of contractor-grade garbage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pump bottle liquid hand soap | bags |

**Create 1 Vehicle Supply Bin for each vehicle you are bringing
before you leave for Work Camp.**

When you arrive at Work Camp:

- **The Parish Supplies should be brought with you to check-in.**
- **The Vehicle Supply Bins should be left in the Vehicles (1 in each vehicle).**

Tools & Electrical Tape Colors for Each Parish

By the end of May, the Office for Evangelization will send out a list of tools that are needed for our work sites to function well. Your parish will be assigned specific tools to contribute for the week.

Two suggested ways to find people to borrow these tools from are:

- by working with your local Knights of Columbus or another men's ministry
- by creating a Sign Up Genius that you can distribute to all of the parish via your parish's Facebook page, e-bulletin, or bulletin inserts/advertisements

All parishes are asked to do 2 things with their tools **before** arriving at Work Camp:

1. Mark the tools they contribute with the following color(s) of electrical tape.
2. Fill out the Parish Tool List Google Form, which asks for descriptions of tools.

Doing both of these will help us to speed up the tool intake process upon arrival and make sure that the correct tools return home with each parish. When you arrive at Work Camp, keep the tools in your vehicle until you are sent to the Tool Shed; this is where you will drop off your tools.

- Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg – **YELLOW & BLUE**
- Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach – **RED & GREEN**
- Church of the Epiphany, Richmond – **YELLOW & RED**
- Holy Trinity, Norfolk – **RED**
- Holy Name of Mary, Bedford – **GREEN & WHITE**
- New River Valley Parishes (Saint Mary, Blacksburg / Holy Spirit, Christiansburg / All Saints, Floyd) – **YELLOW & GREEN**
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond – **BLUE**
- Saint Bede, Williamsburg – **RED & WHITE**
- Saint Benedict, Richmond – **YELLOW**
- Saint Bridget, Richmond – **WHITE**
- Saint Edward the Confessor, Richmond – **BLUE & WHITE**
- Saint Gregory the Great, Virginia Beach – **RED & BLUE**
- Saint John Neumann, Powhatan – **YELLOW & WHITE**
- Saint Thomas Aquinas, Charlottesville – **GREEN**
- Star of the Sea, Virginia Beach – **GREEN & BLUE**
- Office for Evangelization – **BLACK & BLUE**

Preparing Yourself for Work Camp

Dignity & Expectations

The dignity of the human person is a theme that you will see recurring throughout Work Camp. We would like to ensure that you are treated with the utmost respect and ask that you respect others in the same way. We have these guidelines to help us create an environment of respect for the human person through behavior and dress:

- You are created in the image of God, so please abstain from putting people, including yourself, down.
- No inappropriate language or body language.
- We are at Work Camp to serve others, so it is imperative that we provide our bodies with the proper food, water, and sleep we need.
- Please pack clothes that will allow you to dress modestly at all times.
- Undergarments go under our clothes and are not meant to be seen.
- Our bodies should be properly covered at all times (including bedtime). This means no spaghetti straps, no short shorts, and no crop tops or shirts that reveal stomachs. Pants and shorts should cover our undergarments and be mid-length; you need to be able to bend over and sit on the ground comfortably.

What to Bring to Work Camp

- **Work Clothes:** We will be onsite for 5 days (Sunday-Thursday). We would suggest bringing 5 short sleeve t-shirts, 1-2 long sleeve t-shirts, 3-5 pairs of mid-length shorts, and 1-2 pairs of long pants. The long length clothing will be needed on some work sites, if working with insulation, or if tall brush is present on the work site. With a combination of outside work and meals being eaten outside, we ask that all participants wear shirts with sleeves at the work site to help protect from sunburn, so no tank tops are allowed at the work site. Shorts and shirts need to be long enough that you stay covered when you lift your arms or bend over.
- **Work Boots:** These are heavy duty work boots that are meant to protect your feet, and steel-toed are the best! These are not tennis shoes or fashion boots. No open-toed shoes will be allowed on the work sites.
- **Evening Programming Clothes:** In the evening, we have a variety of activities planned. After taking a shower, you will need something to change into. You should bring something that you can wear sitting on the floor with modesty and comfort in mind like mid-length shorts, long pants, short sleeve shirts, t-shirts, etc. Tennis shoes or flip-flops are good footwear for this time.
- **Sleepwear:** Both males and females should bring a pair of shorts/pants and a t-shirt to sleep in and to walk to the bathrooms in. Please keep modesty in mind.
- **Towel and Toiletries:** You will need a large towel, shower flip-flops, and a shower bag/backpack to transport your toiletries and clothing in. Make sure you are fully clothed, not in a towel or robe, when going to and from the shower.
- **Sheets or Sleeping Bag and Pillow:** All participants will sleep on classroom floors. Please bring a TWIN-sized air mattress/camping cot, pillow, and sleeping bag/sheets. Queen-sized air mattresses/cots are not allowed for youth or adults; we have limited space in the classrooms.

- **Personal Tool Kit:** You will need to bring a few items that everyone will need while they are on the work sites (see page 8). Each item should be labeled with your name, as everyone will have similar items on site.
- **Medicine:** Medicines, whether prescription or otherwise, need to be clearly marked with your name and the proper way to dispense them.

Do NOT bring the following items to Work Camp:

- Anything of significant value to you (jewelry, etc.)
- Youth: No cell phones, iPads, air pods, laptops, video games, etc.
- Clothing with inappropriate words or pictures
- Shorts or pants with words on the seat of the pants
- Spaghetti-strap shirts or crop tops (all sleeves should be 3-fingers wide, and shirts should fully cover stomachs and undergarments)
- Shorts that are shorter than mid-length
- Pocketknives
- Vapes, Cigarettes/Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, Marijuana, Illegal Drugs, or Alcohol

Make sure that all your bags have a tag with your name on it to identify it as yours.

- **Suitcase/Duffel:** This will hold all your clothes and personal items for the week.
- **Mesh Bag:** This will hold all of your dirty clothes during the week.
- **Shower Bag/Backpack:** This holds your shower supplies & change of clothes.
- **Tool Bag:** This will be used to carry your personal tools to the work site every day. This can be left in your crew van as you will not need it at Home Base.

Packing Tips:

- Space is limited, so pack only items that you will need.
- Use liquid soap instead of bar soap, as it is not as messy.
- Bring a few plastic grocery bags to put dirty/wet items into.

Individual Checklist

Personal Items

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 pair of long work pants | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 pairs of shorts or pants for evening programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 pairs of work shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-6 shirts for evening programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 short sleeve work shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis shoes/comfy shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 long sleeve work shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Modest sleepwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks for 5 work days | <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket or sleeping bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks for Home Base | <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear for 7 days + 5 work days | <input type="checkbox"/> TWIN Air mattress or camping cot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Large reusable water bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower bag/backpack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera (optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flip-flops for shower | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible, notebook/journal, pen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large towel (2 max) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washcloth | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription Medication (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal toiletries | <input type="checkbox"/> Optional: Spending Money for the Shed Shop (\$10-\$50) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drying rack (1 for every 3-5 people) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic grocery bags (for wet/dirty items) | |

Personal Tool Kit

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impact resistant OSHA approved safety goggles/glasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring tape (25 ft.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil and pen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 Dust masks (N95 rating) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Bandana/sweat rag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-20oz. Hammer | <input type="checkbox"/> Tool belt/apron (optional) |

***All personal tool kit items and work boots
will be left at the crew mailbox or in the crew vehicle.***

Adult Chaperone Responsibilities

Work Camp Adult Chaperones are a vital part of Work Camp. We are extremely grateful for your willingness to give of your time and talents to serve those in need in our diocese, as well as for your commitment to serve the youth whom you will be serving alongside.

The person whom the youth at Work Camp will spend the most time with is you. You will be eating, meeting, praying, working, playing, and driving with the youth. This is an incredible opportunity to build relationships with them.

It is important to remember that the youth will be seeing you at all times of day. They see how you handle different situations, so remember the example you want to be for them. Work Camp is hard work and the conditions will not be luxurious, but it will be an incredibly rewarding experience, both for you and the youth.

In your role as ministers during Work Camp, you will be asked to be one with the youth participating and working with them throughout the week. This means sitting next to the youth at program, working alongside them at the site, sharing meals with them, and being a role model. It is important that you stay rooted in prayer throughout the week, stay positive during challenges, and be fully focused on our youth participants.

Required Meetings Before Work Camp

- **2 Group Leader Meetings (Virtual).** These meetings will cover the Parish Handbook and go over all of the important pieces that parishes need to think about prior to Work Camp. Only the 1 designated Group Leader from your parish needs to attend.
 - MEETING #1: Thursday, April 3 from 12:30-1:30pm on Microsoft Teams ([Join the meeting now](#))
Meeting ID: 247 351 537 651
Passcode: Ez3ry3D9
 - MEETING #2: Thursday, May 15 from 12:30-1:30pm on Microsoft Teams ([Join the meeting now](#))
Meeting ID: 225 915 491 371
Passcode: Ry9h9cn2
- **1 All-Adults Meeting (In-Person, Regional).** These meetings are for all Group Leaders, Adult Chaperone, Home Base Volunteers, and Contractors. We will have some meet-and-greet, cover expectations for the different adult roles, run through the teen crew roles, and open it up for Q&A. These are presented regionally from 6-8pm and will include dinner.
 - WEST: Wednesday, May 28 at Saint Jude, Radford
 - EAST: Thursday, May 29 at Holy Trinity, Norfolk
 - CENTRAL: Wednesday, June 4 at the Pastoral Center, Richmond

Meeting dates updated on 4/16/2025

Transportation To and From Work Sites

- You will transport your crew of five to six youth each day during Work Camp.
- You will be provided with an address to get to and from your work site. Using GPS on your phone is recommended. If you do not have GPS on your phone, please let us know. If GPS is unreliable, we will provide directions.
- Consider driving with the radio turned down to give your work crew an opportunity to talk during the drive. If you do play music, make sure that it is appropriate.

- Everyone will work hard throughout the week, and it may be tempting to treat your crew to a treat, for example ice cream. **We ask that you do not make any unnecessary stops and that the crew eats the lunch Work Camp provides every day and not food from a local restaurant.** This helps every participant's experience be on equal footing.
- Drive carefully. All drivers must have an up-to-date Volunteer Driver Form on file with their parish. (<https://evangelizerichmond.org/youth/events/forms-and-faqs/>)

Work Crews

- Each adult chaperone will have a crew of five to six youth from different parishes, and all of the youth will not be from the adult's parish.
- **Safety needs to be a priority at all times, especially on the work site.**
- Your role as the adult leader of the crew is to support the youth. When possible, have the youth do the work and assist them, instead of having them assist you.
- Each member of your crew will have a crew role and responsibility; we ask that you help them succeed in those roles.

Home Base

- Attend all meal times, Masses, program, etc.
- Make sure that all youth attend meal times, Masses, program, etc.
- Follow Work Camp rules in behavior, attitude, dress, etc.
- Make sure that all youth follow Work Camp rules in behavior, attitude, dress, etc.
- Look out for the general well-being of the youth participants. Please do not handle situations you are unfamiliar with or uncomfortable with on your own. If you have concerns, please bring them immediately to the attention of the youth's parish leader or the Work Camp staff.

Work Site Safety

Safety on every work site must be the PRIMARY CONCERN of the Adult Crew Leader.

Construction jobs inherently have potential dangers. Awareness of and proper adherence to safety rules greatly reduces danger. Our goal is strict adherence to safety to avoid accidents. Enforcing safety rules may not always make you the most popular person on the site with some of the young people. Expect this and get over it now. Doing everything possible to ensure safety of all is your primary concern. Being "cool" should not be, and cannot be, your concern. Model proper safety practices. Here are some of our common concerns:

Eye Protection: Eye protection must be worn on all work sites while work is taking place. No risk is too small to take preventative action. If you are in doubt, wear your safety glasses. Every youth is required to bring a pair of safety-rated goggles or glasses with them. Don't let the youth talk you out of it because they don't want to put them on or because they would have to walk to retrieve them. Foreign objects in the eye, no matter how small, are both painful and can cause eye damage. Some examples of when to wear safety glasses include demolition, painting, sanding, using a power tool, driving nails, moving dirt, sweeping or in work areas where another crew member is doing one of those activities.

Power Tool Use: Youth may not operate a power tool without the direct supervision of a qualified adult. NO EXCEPTIONS. This means that an adult should demonstrate how to properly use the tool,

make sure that the space using the tool is clear, and the material the tool is being used on is secure. Accidents can happen VERY QUICKLY and often are serious. It is knowledge and safety precautions that will keep us safe.

Fall Protection: Any crew member on a ladder needs to realize there is a potential for falling. Make sure that you survey your surroundings and use safety checklists to keep risks to a minimum. Never reach. If you have to reach, you need to move the ladder.

Heat and Sun: Make sure that all crew members take frequent water breaks! Make sure they are not waiting until they are thirsty to drink water. This is especially important if it is hot and humid. Overexposure to the sun is also a major concern. Make sure crew members apply sunscreen frequently if they are working outside in the sun. Set up your break area in the shade, and if no natural shade is present, make some using a pop-up tent or tarp. It is important to have a place to rest that is out of the sun! Let Home Base know as soon as you can if you think there is a possibility you might run out of water. We will bring more to you. The Team Captain will be responsible for loading your crew's water coolers each day. You should not use the resident's water to refill your water coolers.

Footwear: Before departing for your work site in the morning, check to make sure all crew members have proper footwear. That means work boots/shoes. No sandals, flip flops, or other footwear. If they do not have the right shoes, they cannot go to the work site. It is each adult's responsibility to enforce this safety requirement.

Behavior: Make clear to your crew the importance of safety and the fact that any behavior that diminishes safety at any time during Work Camp in any manner will simply not be tolerated – this is especially true on the work site. The work site is not a place to allow playing around. If you have any problem with any of your crew understanding or complying with this requirement, call Home Base.

Swimming or Wading: It may be tempting to cool off if there are any bodies of water, swimming pools, creeks, lakes, ponds, etc., near your work site. Do not let it happen. There are many risks and things that you cannot control.

Animals: Never approach, touch, pick-up, or pet any animals, even if they are pets of residents. While cute and cuddly, they can pose potential risks including bites, fleas, etc. Enjoy the beauty of God's creatures from a safe distance. You should also be aware of wild animals that could potentially wander onto work sites -- this includes reptiles and bugs, as well as snakes, ticks, and spiders.

Adult Leaders: Please remember that you are ultimately responsible for all safety on the work site! Remember, if it does not feel right, it probably should not be happening. Please communicate with the contractor and the youth to ensure that everyone is safe at all times.

Youth Participant Work Site Safety

Adults: Give your adult leaders a break and follow all instructions exactly and joyfully! Even if you think they are being overprotective – it's their job to be that way.

Instructions: When instructions are being given, make sure you are paying close attention. Be sure the instructions are clear to you before you attempt the work. Ask questions if you are not sure.

Be aware: Pay attention to what is going on around you. Although the task you may be performing may not be too dangerous, a task that is being performed by another crew member may present a hazard if you are not careful. You need to know what is happening around you at all times. Do not wear air pods at the worksite, you need to be able to hear.

Cleanliness: Keep the work site clean. Don't leave things lying around on the ground, and be aware of trip hazards and eliminate them where possible. A clean site is not only a safer site, it is also easier to find things you need, and makes it a breeze to pick up when it is time to go.

Falling objects: Be aware of falling object potential. Check the top step of a ladder before moving it. A hammer left on the top leaves a bump when it hits you on the head.

Gloves: Wear gloves to protect your hands. You should have them on any time you are handling construction debris or cleaning up trash or brush. Never reach into a brush or trash pile without them. You might get an unpleasant surprise that could be painful too.

Hydration: Drink, drink, drink! Carry your personal water bottle with you at all times. Drink often! Drink only the water that is brought from Home Base. Do not drink any of the resident's water -- it has not been tested for safety. Do not get in water battles with your drinking water. You will need all of it.

Nutrition: Eat breakfast and lunch, even if you would rather not. Chances are your body is not used to this level of exertion and needs the energy to keep it going.

Illness: If you begin to feel sick, let your adult leader know immediately. It is probably a good time for a break. Keep a wet bandana around your neck if it is extremely hot. The evaporation will help to keep you cooler. Don't be afraid to take a break in the shade if you feel you need it.

Animals: Never approach, touch, pick-up, or pet any animals, even if they are pets of residents. While cute and cuddly, they can pose potential risks including bites, fleas, etc. Enjoy the beauty of God's creatures from a safe distance.

Recommended Parish Meetings

We strongly recommend having two meetings of all parish participants prior to Work Camp to get all participants together. Not only does this give all participants a chance to meet one another, it also gives you an opportunity to prepare for Work Camp as a group.

We also recommend having one adult meeting prior to Work Camp for chaperones, Home Base volunteers, and contractors. This will allow you to make sure your parish has all needed items and ensure that all adults understand their responsibilities at Work Camp.

We have provided basic information for each of the meetings below. Feel free to supplement this basic outline. You should also take the information provided above (in this packet) and go over the expectations and information about Work Camp with the group. You might spread it out over the three meetings so it does not become overwhelming or overtake the main theme of each session.

Suggested Structure of Parish Youth Meeting #1

90-Minute Meeting

To do 3-6 weeks before Work Camp

00:00	Start with an opening prayer
00:05	Play a group icebreaker game
00:15	Review Work Camp Handbook, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Schedule▪ Transportation▪ Safety▪ Packing Lists
00:25	Q&A from parents and youth
00:30	Tools & Fundraisers <i>Talk about tools and parish supplies that need to be collected as well as any last fundraisers</i>
00:45	Teen witness story <i>If you have 1-2 teens who have been to Work Camp or another mission trip experience before, ask them to share their testimonies with the group.</i>
00:50	Spend 30min in Eucharistic Adoration
01:25	Close in prayer

Suggested Structure of Parish Youth Meeting #2

90-Minute Meeting

To do 1-2 weeks before Work Camp

00:00	Start with an opening prayer
00:05	Break the teens into small groups and discuss the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What types of community service have you done in the local area? Have you done any mission trips or participated in any longer social justice initiatives before this trip?

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Look up one of the scripture passages and/or Catechism references that touch on Christian charity and social justice (listed below). What can we learn from this passage about compassion towards others and being the hands and feet of Christ? Why did you sign up for Work Camp? What are you looking forward to most? What do you think will be the hardest part of Work Camp for you? What can we, as your parish family, do to support you when we go? How can Work Camp help us to embody the message we understood from the scripture passage/Catechism reference?
00:30	<p>Tool Time</p> <p><i>Become familiar with some of the tools used at Diocesan Work Camp. This can be done hands-on with your contractor(s), with the worksheet found at the end of this handbook, or electronically by playing the Kahoot.com game “Diocesan Work Camp TOOLS” by edward23235: https://tinyurl.com/WorkCampTools</i></p>
00:45	Label Parish Tools
01:20	Close in intercessory prayer, praying for the residents we will serve and the friends we will make on our crews.

Suggested Structure of a Parish Adults Meeting

60-Minute Meeting

To do 1-4 weeks before Work Camp

00:00	Start with an opening prayer
00:05	<p>Discussion with Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a leader of youth from your parish, what are you hoping they will experience during Work Camp? What are you hoping to experience? What do you feel will be the biggest struggle for your parish youth? For you? Have you led a small group of youth before? (If not, share best practices for how to lead youth in prayer and to encourage everyone to share in conversations.) How does your observation of camp rules, choice of clothing, topics of conversation, and participation level affect the students you are leading during Work Camp? How could you take what you’ll learn at Work Camp and put it to use serving your parish/community? <p><i>For adults who have been to a youth mission trip before:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did you gain from your experience in the past – from the project, from the youth you worked with, from the spirituality parts of camp – and how did they change you? What made you volunteer your time again?
00:30	<p>Review Adult Pieces of Handbook, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Responsibilities Schedule & Transportation Packing Lists & Checklists of Needed Items
00:45	Q&A
00:55	Close in prayer

Suggested Prayers

Prayer for the Poor

From <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-poor>

God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of the poor. Open our ears to hear you in the cries of the exploited. Open our mouths to defend you in the public squares as well as in private deeds. Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to you. Amen.

Prayer for Solidarity

From <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-solidarity>

Almighty and ever-living God, empower your one human family to join hands on our journey of faith. Send us your spirit of hope, so that we may work to alleviate human suffering and foster charity and justice in our world. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Joseph for Workers

From <https://www.stjosephshrine.org/Prayers-to-St-Joseph-For-Workers>

Joseph, by the work of your hands and the sweat of your brow, you supported Jesus and Mary, and had the Son of God as your fellow worker. Teach me to work as you did, with patience and perseverance, for God and for those whom God has given me to support. Teach me to see in my fellow workers the Christ who desires to be in them, that I may always be charitable and forbearing towards all. Grant me to look upon work with the eyes of faith, so that I shall recognize in it my share in God's own creative activity and in Christ's work of our redemption, and so take pride in it. When it is pleasant and productive, remind me to give thanks to God for it. And when it is burdensome, teach me to offer it to God, in reparation for my sins and the sins of the world. Amen.

Related Resources/Activities

- Catholic Social Teaching (<https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/catholic-social-teaching>)
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development's video on poverty (<http://vimeo.com/35903896>)
- Ascension Press's "Connected: Catholic Social Teaching for this Generation: (<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/connected-catholic-social-teaching-for-this-generation>)
- USCCB Poverty Activities & PowerPoint Presentation (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/youth/epic-lesson-one-facing-poverty.cfm>) (<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/resources-and-tools.cfm#youth>)
- Review newspaper articles or statistics about poverty in your own community (http://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/agency_wide/poverty.html)
- Collect food for the local food pantry, baby supplies for the local pregnancy center, or clothing for a family in need.
- Volunteer as a group for a local charity or agency and give some sort of direct support to those in need.
- Pray a Rosary for the individuals we'll be helping.

Related Bible Passages/Catechism References

Bible Passages:

Zechariah 7:9-10
Proverbs 31:8-9
John 6:27
2 Corinthians 5:7
2 Chronicles 31:21
1 Peter 4: 9-11
Matthew 25:31-46
Isaiah 58:10

Catechism References:

CCC # 144
CCC # 2521-2524
CCC # 852
CCC # 2744-2745
CCC # 1397
CCC # 1694
CCC # 2013

Parish Send-Off

Consider involving your parish by asking if your Pastor can recognize the group that will be attending Work Camp at a Sunday Mass prior to Work Camp and then lead the parish in a prayer for their safety and guidance in their actions, or see if your Pastor/Parochial Vicar/Deacon can pray over the teens the Saturday morning you leave for Work Camp.

Tool Identification

Identify these tools below – fill in the blank space with the letter corresponding to the tool's name.



- a. caulking gun
- b. slip-joint pliers
- c. paint roller
- d. saber saw
- e. standard screwdriver
- f. crosscut saw
- g. adjustable wrench

- h. steel framing square
- i. hammer
- j. putty knife
- k. circular saw
- l. safety goggles
- m. pry bar
- n. electric drill

- o. mitre saw
- p. chisel
- q. hacksaw
- r. utility knife
- s. carpenter's level
- t. measuring tape
- u. Phillips screwdriver

Identify these tools below – fill in the blank space with the letter corresponding to the tool's name.



- a. caulking gun
- b. slip-joint pliers
- c. paint roller
- d. saber saw
- e. standard screwdriver
- f. crosscut saw
- g. adjustable wrench

- h. steel framing square
- i. hammer
- j. putty knife
- k. circular saw
- l. safety goggles
- m. pry bar
- n. electric drill

- o. mitre saw
- p. chisel
- q. hacksaw
- r. utility knife
- s. carpenter's level
- t. measuring tape
- u. Phillips screwdriver

