



# WORKCAMP 2023

## Holy Spirit Church

### What is WorkCamp?

Arlington Diocesan WorkCamp is an intentional Christian Community that provides an experience of direct service for young people within the boundaries of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. Since 1989 WorkCamp has been venturing into underserved areas of Virginia with a twofold objective. First, we seek to provide the teens of our parish with an intense conversion experience through service, community, and prayer. Second, we seek to serve our fellow Virginians by making their homes warmer, safer, and drier.

**When:** June 17 - June 23 2023

We will leave from Holy Spirit in the afternoon on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and will arrive back to Holy Spirit around 4p.m. on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Where:** Frederick County, Virginia

“Home Base” for the camp will be at a high school in Frederick County, VA. The sites the teens work on will be scattered around this general area up to an hour away from our homebase.

**What:** What exactly goes on at WorkCamp?

Short answer: **a lot.**

Saturday and Sunday:

- Orientation, crew assignments, crew building activities and WorkCamp training on Saturday evening and Sunday.
- Everyone will be assigned to a crew which consists of 5-6 teens, one Adult Crew Leader and one Contractor. 99% of the time, you will not know the members on your crew.

Monday through Thursday:

- Monday through Thursday are full workdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We start the day with Mass followed by a breakfast-to-go. Crews will then hop in their vans and head out to their work sites. Work projects will consist of basic home repairs—painting, drywall, roofing, building wheelchair ramps, and indoor and outdoor clean-up.
- After the site work is done for the day, crews will head back to “Home Base” to shower, eat dinner and enjoy some free time.
- Each evening there will be what is known as “Program”. This will include music, different types of entertainment, talks etc. Tuesday night is a particularly special night because the Bishop and priests from all over the Diocese come for Adoration, Confessions and Spiritual Direction.
- We end the night with Parish discussions, preparation for bed and then lights out is 10p.m. This allows a full 8 hours for everyone!

Friday:

- Clean up and pack up all the vans in preparation for our departure.
- Have lunch with the residents we serve and end the day with a celebration in the gym.
- Head home after a great week of WorkCamp!
- Welcome Back BBQ at Holy Spirit!

# Cost

It costs about \$700 to send one teen to WorkCamp. This includes the cost per participant, cost for the Adult Crew Leaders to attend, money needed to rent vans for the week, buy any tools we need, cover the cost of lunches, t-shirts, contractor expenses, gas etc. Through fundraising, we will be able to greatly reduce the cost of our WorkCamp endeavor. Plus, it is also a great way for us to bond as a group!

## Deposit: \$200\*

Each teen must pay a \$200 deposit to secure their spot for WorkCamp. This deposit submitted via the teen registration form. If for any reason you need more time, please talk to Ronan. In the past we've been able to keep the cost at just the deposit amount (plus the money you spend on fundraising supplies). Hopefully this will be the case for this year as well!

## Personal Fundraising: \$200

We hold each teen accountable for raising \$200 on their own. Teens have done this in several ways: letter writing campaigns to friends and family, babysitting, dog walking, snow shoveling, raking leaves and other yard work, saving percentages of their paychecks etc. Each teen needs to come up with a plan to raise their \$200 and it is due to the Youth Office by May 23rd. The longer you wait to fundraise, the harder it is-start now!

## Group Fundraising: \$300 per teen

With the Irish Whiskey Cake Sales, and the money made from the Parish Soup Suppers we are able to raise the other \$300 per teen for WorkCamp.

\*Please note that deposits may not be refundable after March 30th if your teen needs to drop out and a replacement cannot be found.

## Attending High School WorkCamp requires that you do the following:

1. Be an active participant in the high school youth ministry program and life of the parish by attending at least two youth ministry events a month in addition to the WorkCamp meetings. If you are not already active, please contact Ronan Lahiff at [youthministry@holyspirtchurch.us](mailto:youthministry@holyspirtchurch.us) to find out ways you can get involved that work with your schedule.
2. Complete and return all paperwork and raise \$200 of Personal Fundraising Money by May 23.
3. Attend and participate in all the monthly WorkCamp preparation meetings and fundraisers. **All meetings are mandatory. If you cannot make one for a serious reason, you or a parent must notify Ronan prior to the meeting via e-mail or phone.** Our group fundraises include but are not limited to:
  - Parish Soup Suppers: Serving, setting up, cleaning etc. The Men's Club has generously donated to us half of their earnings for the Holy Spirit Soup Suppers each year. A sign up will go out and each WorkCamper is required to help at 2 Soup Suppers during Lent. Dates TBA.
  - Irish Whiskey Cake Sale: This is our biggest and most lucrative fundraiser! Every teen is responsible for making a certain number of cakes and helping sell them after Masses. Dates TBA.
4. Obtain all the necessary tools and supplies, including proper footwear and clothing needed for the week. A detailed list will go home at the April Parents' Meeting.
5. Cooperate with all the guidelines for WorkCamp and be mindful that at all times that you are a representative of the Diocese of Arlington and the Catholic faith.

## How to reserve your spot:

1. Teen Registration & Deposit: REGISTRATION WILL BE OPENED ONLINE ON DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM AND WILL BE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED\*. This can be found on our website at the following link.
  - Teen Registration & Deposit Link:  
<https://holyspirtchurch.us/workcamp-2023-teen-registration/>  
We can only register as many teens as we have adults (1 Adult Crew lead : 5 teens). As Adult Crew Leaders sign up, teens will be added to the roster in the order which they registered (submit your registration soon!) As we wait for Adult Crew Leaders to sign up, you will be placed on a waiting list. \*NOTE: Teens whose parents volunteer as Adult Crew Leaders will take the top spaces on the list.)
2. Parent Registration: With each teen registration, we require a parent registration as well. This parent registration consists of reading through the different volunteer roles(a list is also attached in this handout)and selecting the roles in which you are willing to take on. This can be found on our website at the following link:
  - Parent & Volunteer Registration Link:  
<https://holyspirtchurch.us/workcamp-2022-parent-volunteer-registration/>
3. Waitlist: Sometimes there is a waitlist because we don't have enough adults signed up. This does not necessarily mean you cannot go to WorkCamp. The Diocese gives us until February 17 to add workcampers. Waitlisted folks will have to participate in meetings to maintain their spots until the final list is ready.
4. Attendance: Every meeting and fundraiser event is mandatory. If you cannot make a meeting for a valid reason, you or a parent must notify me prior to the meeting otherwise your name will go to the bottom of the list. These meetings will be monthly, dates and times TBD.
5. Right to Revoke your Spot: If you fail to attend the meetings and fundraisers or show that you are not properly prepared to attend WorkCamp, your spot may be revoked and given to someone else at anytime. Please take this commitment seriously.

## Parent Volunteer Roles

WorkCamp could not happen without the parents' involvement. Every parent must do something to contribute to WorkCamp. These roles will be listed on the online registration form and each parent will be asked to select at least one role to make WorkCamp a success!

1. **Stakeholder:**  
We are in dire need of someone to take over this role! The parish Stakeholder is responsible for planning, organizing, and preparing the parish for WorkCamp by inviting teens to attend, recruiting adult volunteers, and conducting all of the parish meeting necessary to prepare everyone for what they will encounter at WorkCamp. The Stakeholder is required to attend all of the Diocesan Stakeholder meetings and ensure that the adult crew leaders attend a training session prior to WorkCamp. They are also required to attend the entire week of WorkCamp. This can be a challenging role and requires significant time and a high level of commitment. However, you will take on these responsibilities alone! The Stakeholder will be accompanied and guided by Ronan in all the endeavors associated with this role.
2. **Adult Crew Leader:**  
Adult Crew Leaders are people who are excited about working with teens and are not afraid of hard work. These characteristics are imperative since they will be doing a lot of both. Adult Crew Leaders are directly responsible for the safety and well-being of their teens at WorkCamp. You will work daily on site, and in the evenings be with teens from our parish. This is an incredibly rewarding volunteer position because you get to help the teens as well as the residents we serve! We can only sign up teens if we have the proper number of Adult Crew Leaders first. Please consider coming with us! This involves attending the entire week of WorkCamp. Attendance at an Adult Leader Formation Meeting is mandatory:  
There will be 4 training session options. These sessions will last 1 hour, 15 minutes. Two options for each session will be held in February, March, April, and May. Training session options will be held via Zoom at the following times:
  - Session 1: Feb. 23 or 24, 7:00pm – 8:15pm
  - Session 2: March 8 or 10, 7:00pm – 8:15pm
  - Session 3: April 19 or 21, 7:00pm – 8:15pm
  - Session 4: May 17 or 19, 7:00pm – 8:15pm.Attendance at one of the meetings is required. Any Adult Crew Leader that misses this training, for any reason, cannot come to WorkCamp and this will impact the number of teens your parish may bring to WorkCamp. There are multiple options for Adult Crew Leaders to select from, so there are no exceptions.
3. **WorkCamp Contractor:**  
Getting the projects done at WorkCamp requires people who know how to do them. We call them WorkCamp Contractors. You do not have to be a licensed contractor to do this. If you can handle basic home repairs, there is a job for you! The Diocese assigns projects to each contractor based on their skill level. You would be needed from Monday-Thursday of our work week.
4. **Contractor Coordinator:**  
Since Contractors are hard to come by, it would be very helpful to have someone in charge of recruiting contractors for the week.
5. **Security Personnel**  
Our parish is required to send volunteers for one evening (date TBA) during the week from 3-7p.m. as security personnel. We need men and women to come down to patrol the halls during the hours when the WorkCampers are returning from the site, and when the Adult Crew Leaders are in their nightly meeting.
6. **Fundraising Coordinators (2-3 parents)**  
We really need help coordinating the 2 Group Fundraisers of the year: Soup Suppers and Irish Whiskey Cake Sales. Having a couple parents help coordinate makes these fundraisers simple and easy!
6. **Lunch Coordinators** (as many as we can get)  
We are responsible for sending 250+ lunches down for one of the days during WorkCamp. We will need some adults to make a Costco run to purchase the lunch contents and some to help make the lunches and coordinate volunteers to help, etc.
7. **Tool List Coordinator**  
We are responsible for bring a certain amount of tools and supplies to WorkCamp as a group. You will be responsible for compiling the list of tools needed, sending it out to the families and then checking them in the day tool inventory from the workcampers to find out what tools we have and what we still need. You will need to keep track of who sends what tools, and assist in making sure everyone has what they need upon our return. This job requires good organization skills!
8. **Van Donor** (multiple volunteers)  
We need a 7passenger vehicle for every 5 teens we bring to WorkCamp. It saves us a lot of money when families generously donate their vehicle to us for the week of WorkCamp. If you have a 7-passenger vehicle we can use for the week, please let us know!
9. **Welcome Home BBQ Coordinators** (multiple volunteers)  
A couple of years ago we had a "Welcome Back BBQ with all of the families for the return of the WorkCampers. We provide the hot dogs/burgers and each family brings a side to share. It was a wonderful way to end the week and we will be doing it again this year! A sign up will go out later in the year, but we need some volunteers to help coordinate the BBQ.
10. **Phone Tree Coordinator**  
You will need to be on call the day of our return from WorkCamp. Once you receive a call from a chaperone that we are about 45 minutes out, you will call/text the other parents to let them know of our arrival.
11. **I DON'T KNOW!**  
If none of these jumps out at you, or you're just not sure which one you can help with quite yet. We'll call on you when the need arises (and it surely will!)