

# CHWC 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky



## CHWC Louisville



## Catholic Heart Workcamp in Summer 2024 is Open to all current 8th-12th Graders

Dear Parents and Students,

You are invited to spend a **life-changing week** serving the poor with 300 other teens from around the United States during the summer of 2024. We will be taking a group of teens and adults to Catholic HEART Workcamp in Louisville, KY from Sunday, June 9th through Friday, June 14th. Camp is open to anyone currently in 8th grade or older.

This will be the 19th summer our teens have gone to a Catholic HEART Workcamp and we can't wait to go again! The trip combines fun, music, sacraments, laughter, new friends, hard work, service, prayer, and so much more. We are able to meet people whose needs are much greater than ours and experience the joy of helping in simple ways. In serving these families and organizations, we not only touch their lives, but find that our own lives are profoundly changed as well. This trip requires full participation and commitment from the students and chaperones. **You'll be expected to attend pre-trip meetings, assist in the fundraising efforts, and come home to share your experiences at CHWC with others in the parish.**

Please understand that these camps can fill up quickly, so it is important to let us know of your interest as soon as possible by returning an application with the deposit. Once our spots are filled, a waiting list will be started. Parents, please encourage your teen to consider this extraordinary experience. Far more often than not, even students who start out reluctant come home "on fire" and begin planning for next summer's trip! We look forward to traveling with you and hope you will be with us for this powerful experience.

God's blessings,

*Darci Mills*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## WHAT IS THE CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP?

*Catholic Heart Workcamp* is based in Orlando, FL. The founders are Steve & Lisa Walker who after 16 years as Youth Ministers for their parish were encouraged by their pastor to begin CHWC. The first *Catholic Heart Workcamp* was held in Orlando in 1993 with 100 participants based out of their home parish, St. Margaret Mary. More recently, over 450 parishes participated, bringing over 13,000 adults and teens to camps held in 50 locations around the world. Whenever possible, *Catholic Heart Workcamp* works hand in hand with the local diocese and the social service agencies in the host city. Each Workcamp is equipped with summer staff, including the director, manager, musicians, nurse, and priests to guarantee the Workcamp will run smoothly.

## WHO IS INVITED TO THIS CAMP?

Anyone currently in 8th grade through high school is encouraged to participate in camp. We also need chaperones (over 21 years old) to accompany us and who are willing to work, play, and pray with us.

## WHERE DO WE STAY WHILE AT WORKCAMP?

We will leave for camp on Sunday, June 9th early in the morning and check in for our week of service. We will be staying at: Highland Hills Middle School, 3492 Edwardsville-Galena Road, Georgetown, IN

- **A/C** – Entire school is air conditioned.
- **Showers** – Separate locker rooms for girls and boys with individual shower stalls within each locker room.
- **Sleeping Arrangements** – Campers will sleep in classrooms with males and females separated.

## WHAT KIND OF WORK WILL WE BE DOING?

Exact details are in development, but worksites will involve a variety of tasks with both residents and local agencies. Each resident or agency we serve presents a unique situation. About a third of the projects in Louisville are home repair. We also work with a few child care organizations. The rest of the groups help out at non-profit agencies, senior citizen apartment complexes, and homeless shelters. These agencies work to improve the lives of low-income families, children, and the elderly. We welcome you to arrive with an open and willing attitude, eager to serve wherever the Spirit leads.

## HOW WELL-SUPERVISED & SAFE IS THE WORKCAMP?

The *Catholic Heart Workcamp* staff takes supervision and safety very seriously. Besides the Workcamp adult staff, each group is required to bring one adult sponsor for every five young people to provide supervision at the work sites and the schools. Participants are asked to bring protective safety gear. Every effort is made to match the campers with projects they can handle. To compensate for the hot weather, campers are encouraged to drink plenty of water and given frequent breaks. First-aid kits and emergency care instructions will be available at every worksite. Medical facilities are located a short distance away. Each worksite is inspected beforehand. Home repair projects are well organized and prepared.

## TELL ME ABOUT MY WORK GROUP.

You will be divided into seven member work teams with others from different churches. Each team will have an adult leader. Being in work teams with people from different Catholic youth groups will give you an opportunity to meet other teenagers and develop new and lasting friendships. We will do our best to balance males and females, and experienced and inexperienced people on each team. For many, your work team will be the most memorable part of the Workcamp.

## WHAT WILL THE MORNING AND EVENING PROGRAMS CONSIST OF?

The programs will be filled with activities, music, skits, videos, slides of the work day, testimonies from teens, motivational speakers, and prayer. You will not be bored by any means! Each morning and evening program will be different and special.

## **HOW WILL THE WORKCAMP HELP YOUNG PEOPLE GROW IN THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH?**

Young people and their leaders will be spiritually renewed after participation in the Workcamp. By putting their faith into action, they will be living out Christ's command to love and serve others. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, as well as the Rosary, Adoration, and other prayer services, will be offered throughout the week to help young people become more aware of the presence & love of God in their lives.

## **HOW DO WE TRAVEL TO THE WORKCAMP?**

As we have done in the past, our group will likely use rented minivans. These same minivans will be used to transport teams to their worksites each day. In order to abide by diocesan mandates and state law, the vans will be equipped with seatbelts for all riders. Participants will not be allowed to ride in our vehicles without seatbelts.

## **HOW ARE THE ADULTS FROM EACH PARISH USED?**

Every adult is assigned to a work site. This adult is part of the overall team. We depend on adults to work side by side with the young people in accomplishing the work projects. For the safety of the teens, each parish must have at least one adult chaperone in each sleeping quarter. *Catholic Heart Workcamp* also depends on adults to supervise their own parish young people during the free time and programs.

## **WHAT ABOUT LIABILITY AND INSURANCE?**

Catholic HEART Workcamp employs reputable staff members and takes reasonable precautions to safeguard the participants during the week of Workcamp. However, Catholic HEART Workcamp, the social agencies nor the school that is acting as "home base" will be liable for loss of or damage to property of participants prior to, during or following Workcamp due to theft, fire, accident or any other cause beyond its control. All CHWC participants are required to have personal medical insurance coverage. If for some reason a participant does not have health insurance, you may purchase a temporary policy through <http://www.ehealthinsurance.com/short-term-health-insurance>. It is the sole responsibility of the participants to obtain insurance at their own expense against property loss, damage or injury and against liability for personal injury.

Catholic HEART Workcamp's liability for injury to persons or loss of/damage to property shall be limited to such as may be caused by negligence. The Workcamp participants assume responsibility and agree to indemnify and defend the Workcamp, employees and agents associated with the Workcamp against any claims and expenses arising from negligence, theft, loss, damage or personal injury. Catholic HEART Workcamp has limited General Liability coverage.

## **SPACE AVAILABLE AND CAMPER SELECTION**

Our parish has reserved a limited number of spots for our Catholic Heart Workcamp week. We will be happy to take the campers who return their application with a deposit and who qualify by consistently demonstrating good behavior and responsibility. We encourage all those interested to get their application and deposit in now.

We will review all applications. We may ask for teacher or coach recommendations in choosing our group. We will select students who have demonstrated good behavior and a strong sense of responsibility at school and in other social settings. Deposits for any teens that do not meet this criteria will be returned and the teen will not be invited to join our group.

For further information or details, please check out the Catholic Heart Workcamp website at: [www.heartWorkcamp.com](http://www.heartWorkcamp.com).



## COST

We ask the families to contribute \$595 per teen to participate in the week at Catholic Heart Workcamp. This payment covers meals while at camp, housing, parish t-shirt, Catholic Heart Workcamp t-shirt, and many of the supplies needed at the worksites. Additionally, campers will need to bring some additional money to cover meals as we travel, any free day expenses, and for any souvenirs they wish to purchase. Please include your \$300 deposit with this application. *Checks to be made payable to: St. Michael Parish* and mailed or dropped off at the **Faith Formation Office, Attn: Mrs. Darci Mills, 317 W. Willow Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187.**

## AFFORDING THE TRIP

Campers are encouraged to discuss with their families ways in which they can help with the cost of the trip. In the past, campers have send letters to friends or relatives asking for donations (see sample letter in this packet). Other ways campers can earn money on their own might be to *shovel snow, babysit, wash windows, or save birthday & Christmas money.* Donations contributed by an individual to an individual should go directly towards a family's payment. We would welcome any donations above the \$595 that you receive to go toward the additional expenses associated with the mission. Additional fundraisers to offset the cost to families may be available this spring.

## ADULT CHAPERONES

There is no fee for our adults to travel with us to CHWC. One adult chaperone is needed for every five teens at Catholic Heart Workcamp. We ask our adult chaperones to fill out an application form and return it as soon as possible. If you have questions about the role and responsibilities, please contact Darci Mills.

TEENS:	Deposit	+	Balance	=	TOTAL
	\$300	+	\$295	=	\$595
Paid in full by <b>April 12, 2024</b>					

*We realize that going on this mission trip may present significant financial challenges for many families. There is flexibility in the payment structure. Families can opt for an initial deposit and subsequent installment payments. Additionally, those who can not send \$300 as an initial deposit, families who are considering sending multiple children, and/or those in need of financial aid are welcome to communicate your circumstance to Darci Mills. Please know that limited scholarships are available to those in need.*

## GROUP FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENTS

A portion of the \$595 also covers some of the costs of transportation to and from camp. St. Michael Church. Our group fundraising efforts cover the remaining substantial portion of the transportation expenses and all other costs associated with the trip. Participants are expected to support group fundraising efforts so that the cost to the parish is offset as much as possible.

The mission team will be participating in 2-3 fundraising events this spring. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the **Fish Fry Bake Sale/Fundraiser on the evening of Friday, March 8th.** Additional dates for both fundraising and teambuilding will be forthcoming.

## REFUNDS

If after submitting your application and deposit, your plans change and you discover that you cannot go on the trip, you should notify Mrs. Darci Mills in the Faith Formation Office (317 W. Willow Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187) in writing or by e-mail: [dmills@stmichaelcommunity.org](mailto:dmills@stmichaelcommunity.org) **before April 12th.** After that date we cannot refund any money unless you find a replacement camper.

Sample Fund Raising Letter - remove lines and personalize before sending.



\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I want to tell you about my plans to go to Catholic Heart Workcamp in Louisville, KY this June with other teens from my parish and other parishes around the country. Each day begins at 6:30 AM and we don't quit until lights out at 11:00 PM. In between there is not only a full days service, but music, skits, "carpenter commandos," videos, laughter, activities, motivational speakers, fun, prayer, sacraments, new friends, and so much more.

Recently, one group of teens helped an elderly woman named Elizabeth who couldn't get around without her wheelchair. "I spend most of my days here all by myself," she said. "I was so happy to have the teens around." One of the teenagers explained, "We painted the trim on the outside of her house and a few rooms inside, cleaned the inside, pulled weeds, raked leaves and even surprised her by planting a few flowers in her garden." By the end of the week, the house seemed to be completely transformed, and the joy and hope it brought to Elizabeth will never be forgotten. There were hugs and tears from her and the teens as they had to say good-bye. The teens promised to keep in touch and Elizabeth is looking forward to their letters.

Would you please keep me in your prayers as I plan to go on this trip? I have been told that it will be a life changing experience. I'm a little bit nervous, but at the same time, really excited! It costs \$595 per person. That's a lot of money for me to raise, but I will try to earn as much of it as I can. Would you support me with a contribution to my mission trip fund - perhaps for my birthday or for Christmas?

Thank you so much for your prayers and your help,

\_\_\_\_\_