

# MESCALERO NEW MEXICO



## UNITE MINISTRIES

HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE TRIP: JUNE 22-JULY 1, 2018

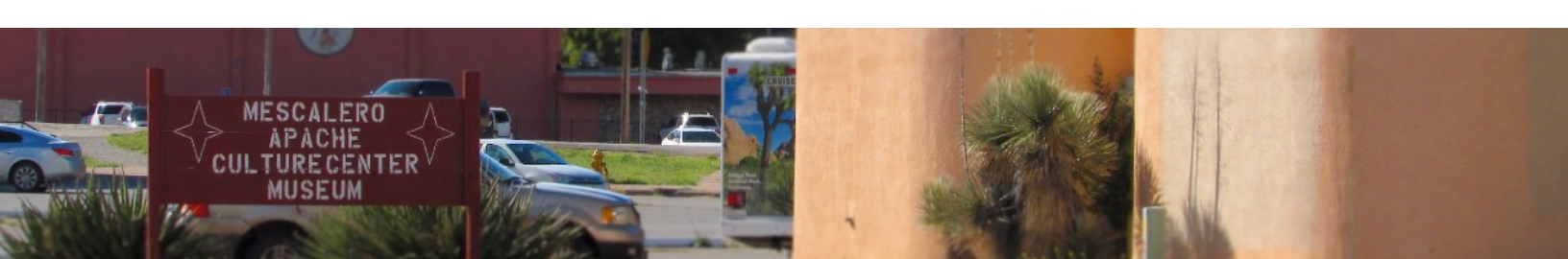
# INFORMATION GUIDE

FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADES 8-12 & ADULT LEADERS



**GROUP**  
MISSION TRIPS<sup>SM</sup>

REGISTER AT [UNITEROCHESTERMN.ORG/TRIPS](http://UNITEROCHESTERMN.ORG/TRIPS)



# ABOUT THIS TRIP

## WHAT IS A HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE TRIP?

The High School Service Trip is an annual summer opportunity offered by local Rochester area parishes. It is open to any high school student, Catholic or otherwise, in grades 8-12 (during the school year before the summer trip). While there are many reasons parishes offer service trips, we are convinced that our main reason is because Christ has called us and has commissioned us to recognize the intrinsic dignity that resides in each and every person with whom we come in contact.

## MESCALERO, NEW MEXICO

Explore the mountain world of the Mescalero people. High above the barren New Mexico desert is the cool, pine-forested mountain homeland of the Mescalero Apache. Historically a nomadic group of hunter/gatherers who roamed across the Southwest, the Apache were well-known for their staunch defense of their lands. And thanks to respected warriors like Geronimo and Cochise, their descendants now live on this land sacred to them, surrounded by their four Sacred Mountains.

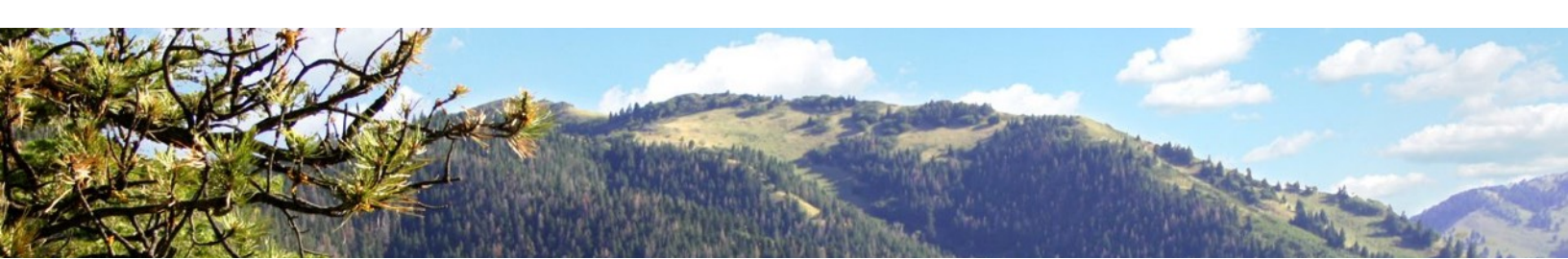
## GROUP MISSION TRIPS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

For years, Group Mission Trips has partnered directly with the Mescalero tribe to serve their respected elders. You and your students will be part of a long-term, sustainable ongoing project to protect the health and safety of people who are looking forward to getting to know you. Like many Native American people, the Mescalero hold a deep respect for their elders—and consider taking care of the elderly to be of the utmost importance. You will be welcome here—everyone on whose home you will be working will have asked specifically for your help.

## ENCOUNTER A NEW CULTURE

This will be an awesome opportunity to explore a rich native culture where many people still hunt for food. Once they get to know you, most residents will be happy to answer your questions, or teach you a bit of their history. Plus you'll have a chance to learn about a traditional ceremony!





# SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE & SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

## FRIDAY: JUNE 22

TBD	Arrival at St. Pius
8:00 am	Mass at St. Pius
TBD	Depart
Overnight	Near Wichita, KS

## SATURDAY: JUNE 23

Travel Day	Overnight near Amarillo, TX
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## SUNDAY: JUNE 24

9:00 am	Depart
3:00 pm	First program, followed by the Adult Meeting
5:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Evening Program, everyone will get to meet their work crews
8:30 pm	Youth group devotions
11:00 pm	Lights-out

## MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

6:45 am	Rise and shine
7:00 am	Breakfast, gather supplies and sack lunches
8:00 am	Morning program and then depart for work sites
12:00 pm	On-site lunch and devotions
3:30 pm	Return to lodging for clean-up and free time
5:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Evening program
8:30 pm	Youth group devotions
11:00 pm	Lights-out

## WEDNESDAY

Morning	Same schedule as the other days until 12:30 p.m.
12:30 pm	Youth groups have free time (dinner is on their own)
7:30 pm	The Variety Show and Evening Program starts.
8:30 pm	Youth group devotions
11:00 pm	Lights-out

## SATURDAY: JUNE 30

Travel Day	Overnight near Oklahoma City, OK
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## SUNDAY: JULY 1

TBD	Arrive Back Home
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# PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

When you sign up for the High School Service Trip you are signing up to be on a team. Just as coaches expect their players to show up for and engage in practices we expect all students and adults on the team to participate in our pre and post trip meetings. These meetings are meant to prepare us for the trip and help us debrief the trip upon our return.

## TRIP MEETINGS SCHEDULE:

### PRE-TRIP

**Mar 4th** 8:00-10:15 am (Meet in the St. Pius X Sanctuary)

**May 6th** 9:30-11:45 am (Meet in the Pax Christi Dining Hall)

**\*Jun 17th** 8:00-10:15 am (Meet in the St. Pius X Sanctuary)

### POST TRIP

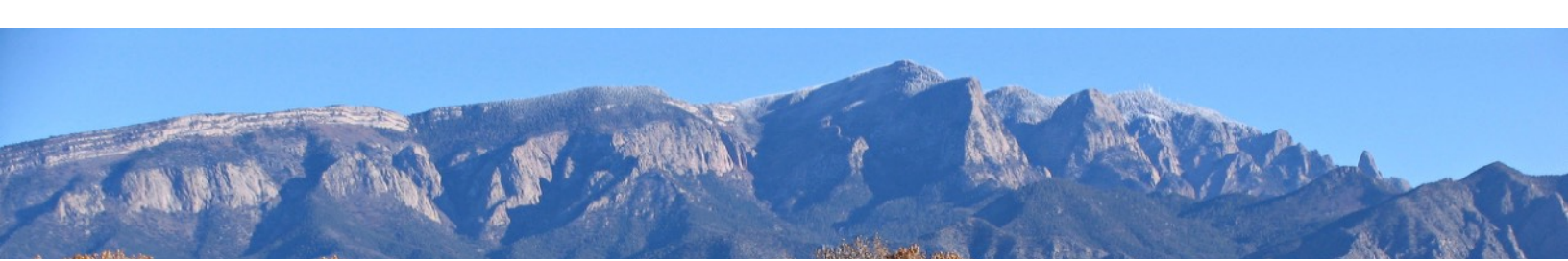
**Jul 22nd** 10:45 am-1:00 pm (Meet in the Pax Christi Sanctuary)

Our pre-trip meetings will include Mass, breakfast, and an activity. Our post-trip meeting will start with Mass and conclude with lunch. Parents and family are invited to attend Mass with us!

\*June 17th will be a travel and logistics meeting, **parents are encouraged to attend.**

Again, the above meetings are very important, **if you know you cannot attend you need to let Youth Ministry Staff know as soon as possible.** We know conflicts sometimes arise so we will be forgiving, but you will be responsible for all the information you may miss if you cannot attend any given meeting.

We will send meeting reminders a week ahead of time.



# COST OF THE TRIP

The cost for this year's trip is set at \$750.00/student. That fee covers: Group Mission Trips registration fee (\$614), transportation (\$75), all group activities, some meals while traveling and any other incidentals.

**A \$200.00 non-refundable down payment is due w/registration.**

*If you register by January 19th we are able to give you an early bird discount of \$50 so your total trip cost would be \$700 and your downpayment would be \$150.*

**Refund Policy:** Down payments are always non-refundable. Furthermore, after April 30th, 2018 all participants will be responsible for paying the full amount of the trip stated above.

All meals will be provided while at our Group Mission Trips site. Students will be responsible for meals while traveling, we usually stop in a place that provides two+ fast food options.

We recommend bringing \$80-\$150 for meals and other stuff students might want to buy.

**WE WANT TO MAKE SURE ALL OUR STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIPS WE OFFER. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS IN NEED. PLEASE CONTACT YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF WITH ANY REQUESTS, WE'LL COME UP WITH A PLAN.**

# FUNDRAISING

If students participate in even just a few of the fundraising opportunities which take place in their respective parishes we are confident that they will raise close to, if not all of, the entire amount needed to go on their trip.

Contact your youth minister for fundraisers specific to your parish. We'll be sure to send you fundraiser information as it comes up so stay tuned for more information about our fundraising opportunities.

Between now and then let our Staff know if you have any questions or concerns.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HOW DO YOU SET THE COST OF THE TRIP?

\$464.00 (Group Mission Trips Registration Fee)  
+ \$150.00 (Adult Leader Subsidy)  
+ \$ 75.00 (Transportation Fee)  
+ \$ 61.00 (Food & Activity Fee)

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\$750.00 Total

## WHAT ARE THE AGE REQUIREMENTS?

This trip is open to students in grades 8-12 during the 2016-2017 school year. Adults need to be 21+ in order to drive. Young adults will be considered for trips, talk to youth ministry staff for more information.

## WHAT IS THE ADULT LEADER/STUDENT RATIO?

One adult leader for every 4-5 students.

## HOW DO WE GET THERE?

This year we'll be taking mini-vans and/or SUVs.

## HOW DO WE GET TO OUR WORKSITES?

Our adult leaders drive their small groups to sites in the vehicles we bring with us.

## WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL WE DO WHILE ON THE TRIP?

Like many Native American people, the Mescalero hold a deep respect for their elders—and consider taking good care of the elderly to be of utmost importance. For that reason, you will most likely be working on the homes of older people.

The repairs your group will be doing are needed to preserve the life of the structures there, as well as provide for the health and safety of the residents. Projects such as building/repairing porches, steps, wheelchair ramps, and painting to protect siding.

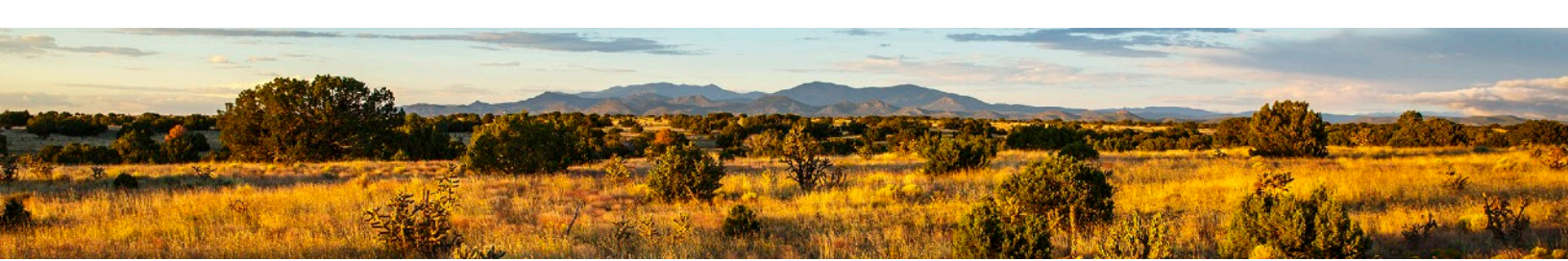
## WILL WE CELEBRATE MASS DAILY?

Yes, of course!

## WHAT ARE THE ACCOMMODATIONS?

The school where you will be staying is awesome! Big, bright, modern, and surrounded by a pine forest. And plenty of showers!





# CATHOLIC IDENTITY

"WE **CANNOT GIVE TO THE OUTSIDE WHAT WE DON'T HAVE ON THE INSIDE**"

—**MOTHER TERESA**

## **PRAYER:**

Through prayer we bring our hearts closer to Jesus, become receptive to the Father's will, and open ourselves up to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. There will be lots of activity throughout the week. We will make sure that participants have time for personal and communal reflection and prayer.

## **ROSARY:**

We will say a decade of the rosary each day. By the end of the week, we will have said a full rosary. We will teach the prayers to participants who may not be familiar with this beautiful and powerful prayer of the Church.

## **RECONCILIATION:**

During the week participants will hopefully have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We invite all Catholic participants to take advantage of this awesome and life-giving Sacrament.

## **MASS:**

We will celebrate Mass everyday with Capuchin friars and priests.

## **COMMUNITY:**

This journey will expose our group to many new people. Participants are encouraged to come with an open mind to create new friendships and grow together in Christ. Most importantly we hope our group will leave the service trip with a stronger knowledge of their faith and a desire to serve our own community back at home.

## **SERVICE:**

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." -Matthew 25:40. As Catholics we are called to serve! Service is not always in the form of cleaning, painting and rebuilding; it is also in the form of listening to those in need, loving the unloved, and sharing the faith!



# NEXT STEPS

## PRAY

There is no better way to discern than to pray. Put yourself in front of Christ in adoration, close the door to your room, be still and silent. Ask God to speak to you. Tell him you want to do his will and then be open go where he is calling you. Use this prayer if you wish:

*Father, help me to know your will for me in all aspects of life. If it is your will, send a sense of calm over my decision making process particularly as I determine whether or not you are calling me to participate in this service trip. Amen.*

## ASK QUESTIONS

Do you have questions about the trip? Talk to your youth minister and/or adult leaders.

## REGISTER AND TURN IN YOUR DOWN PAYMENT

Go to the link below and follow the directions to register and submit your down payment.

## PREPARE YOURSELF

Continue to pray every day. Go to Mass as often as you can. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Meet with somebody who has gone on a service trip before for coffee at St. James. Open yourself to the various ways God is working in your life. Meet with your youth minister(s) to come up with a spiritual plan/goal for yourself as you prepare for the trip.

## INVITE A FRIEND

Put the Gospel into action. Tell a friend about the trip and encourage him or her to participate and journey with you.

## SERVE OTHERS RIGHT NOW!

Begin serving others here in Rochester. Check out: Dorothy Day House; Ronald McDonald House; Gift of Life Transplant House; Community Clothes Line; Catholic Charities; United Way; Boys and Girls Club; Channel 1; Community Food Response; Assisi Heights; Madonna Towers; Family Promise; Faith Formation at your parish; Common Bond; St. James Coffee; etc...

# HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is 100% online this year. Follow the link below. You will be guided through the registration process. Contact Youth Ministry Staff if you have any questions. Be sure to read through this Information Guide for more info. and to find answers to many of your questions.

[www.uniterochestermn.org/trips](http://www.uniterochestermn.org/trips)