

The Youth Voice

Chicago Youth Mission Trip in Review

Thank you all who bought a wreath/swag/ card, enjoyed our spring lawn service or gave donations or support to our youth and their mission trip. We made our dollars go a long way. We were able to accomplish an incredible youth mission opportunity for 17 people on a modest budget. We ate many of our meals at the soup kitchens where we served, slept on a church floor, and took showers at the local community center. If you have ever taken a family vacation, you know how expensive a trip can be for 4 or 5. Add a few more and *high gas prices*. It could get very expensive. Well, this was not a vacation, and we all made sacrifices both to go on the trip and during the trip. As we grow in both faith and in years a great lesson to learn is how to gracefully make sacrifices and have a great time. As we planned our trip we made choices about how much we all wanted to spend on the trip and how much money we wanted to raise for the trip. In the end we decided that the work we would go do was much more important than the accommodations or the food. We had gracious hosts at Church of our Savior, a gracious guide, and lots of great food along the way. It's amazing how blest we are and how important these opportunities can be to those we serve and those with whom we serve. There was no better moment of the trip than when a young man from the group home we were cleaning asked, "Are you doing this for money?" Our youth responded with, "No, we actually paid to come here." The young man responded, "You came all the way from MN to clean up our mess? Dang that's the nicest thing anyone could ever do. Thank you!" And he meant it. The next day he worked along with us on the projects. We had similar conversations with all the boys living in the house, and we hope to find ways to continue some kind of support or encouragement for them. It is through these moments and people that we truly meet Jesus Christ!

- Sheila Foster -



"Safeguarding God's Children"

Safe Church Training Wednesday, 8/20, 5:30-8:30 pm. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet on the activity table outside of the Parish Hall. We need exact numbers to provide the right amount of materials. We are asking for \$10 to cover the cost of materials and your background check. If you have questions about the training please contact Sheila Foster, 651/429-5351 ext. 12 or youth@stjohnwilderness.org, or Rev. Rick Todd, 651/674-5657 or rjtodd@nsatel.net.

Episcopal Youth Music Camp Update

Thank you to St. John in the Wilderness' Episcopal Church Women for the scholarship assistance to all St. John's youth attending music camp in August. The financial support for scholarships and program help is always needed and greatly appreciated.

Thanks to St. John's parishioners who also sponsored youth to attend music camp.

Music camp hosts a final performance on Saturday, August 16th at 1pm which is open to the public. It is a free performance. Feel free to drive up to Camp Heartland and hear the orchestra, band, choir and, new this year, a "mass handbell ring".

This year St. John's will have a record attendance by any one congregation. We have 18 youth camper participants, 1 leadership development participant, and 5 adult staff volunteers. Hurray!

First Year Confirmation

We will have a meeting for parents and youth interested in the first year Confirmation program on Sunday, September 14th from 10 – 10:30 am in St. Bernard's Room. Sheila Foster and Tim Hadley will give an overview of the two-year program. After the meeting each youth can decide if he or she would like to participate in the program. First Year Confirmation is open to youth in 9th grade and above. We meet every Sunday from 10 –10:50 am. Information about our Confirmation program and process can be found on St. John's website, www.stjohnwilderness.org.

Second Year Confirmation

At 7:30 pm on Wednesday, September 17th we will have the youth, parent, and mentor meeting for the youth entering their second year of Confirmation. Materials will be handed out, the program will be explained, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

"Celebrating Our Faith through the Arts"

All 4th – 12th grade youth are invited and wanted to gather on Wednesdays from 6 – 7:30 pm. COFTA will begin on Wednesday, September 17th. We will begin the season performing a series of skits during Wednesday Evening Light Suppers. We will also be developing some dramas to be performed during 9 am worship. Beginning in November we will use this time for the Christmas Play. Watch for updates on future plans and the success of this Wednesday Evening Opportunity.

