



**TAKE
ME
HOME**

JULY

2026

SYF MISSION TRIP

“Take Me Home”

Student Mission Trip Info Packet

July 25 – August 1 | Westminster Presbyterian Church

Welcome, students and families!

I am so glad you're here. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, guardian, or student picking up this packet for the first time — welcome. I am thrilled to invite your family into something truly special this summer.

This trip is about more than volunteering. It's about more than a week away from home. It's about helping young people *finally* go home.

Students will spend a week building, serving, worshiping, and discovering what it truly means to be “home” — with each other, with their community, and with God. We can't wait for you to be part of it.

Our Theme — “Take Me Home”

“Take Me Home” is more than a song — it's our anthem for the week. It captures the heart of everything we'll be doing, building, and talking about.

Throughout the week, students will be making homes for students in need and exploring what it means to be home with God. The story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) will guide our worship nights — a story about leaving, longing, and the overwhelming joy of coming home.

Each morning will have a devotional and every evening will be filled with music, testimonies, and conversations about belonging, grace, and the place God has prepared for each of us.

The Week Ahead — July 25 – August 1

Here's a day-by-day look at what the week will hold. Every day is designed to balance meaningful work, rest, community, and worship.

Day	Date	Activities
Saturday	July 25	Fly out of LAX and drive to The Ridge
Sunday	July 26	Church, creek, community
Monday	July 27	Work starts • Worship
Tuesday	July 28	Work and Worship
Wednesday	July 29	White Water Rafting
Thursday	July 30	Work and Worship
Friday	July 31	Work finishes • Senior Night
Saturday	August 1	Head home

The Build-Up

Great trips don't start on departure day — they start weeks before. These preparation dates are designed to help students connect, prepare their hearts, and get ready for the week ahead.

Date	What's Happening
July 8	Team introductions
July 15	Team building
July 22	Final preparations

Date	What's Happening
July 19	Youth Sunday at WPC — See details below!

What's Required? — C.H.O.R.E.

We don't need your student to be a carpenter, an electrician, or even a morning person. We just need them to bring *themselves* — fully and honestly. Here's what we ask of every participant:

- C Curiosity** — Come ready to ask questions, explore new perspectives, and learn
- H Honesty** — Be real with yourself, your team, and God.
- O Open** — Stay open to new experiences, new people, and new ways of seeing.
- R Resilience** — Some days will be hot, hard, and humbling. Stick with it.
- E Energy** — Bring your whole self. Show up ready to serve and be served.

No special skills needed — just heart and willingness.

The Cost

We believe every student who feels called to this trip should be able to go. Here's the breakdown:

Participant	Cost
High School Student	\$800
College Student	\$500

Financial Support Available

Scholarships are available. No student will be turned away because of cost. Please reach out if your family needs support.

Fundraising letters are available. Pastor Faith is happy to send you a template to send to loved ones for prayer and financial support.

Youth Sunday

Sunday, July 19th • 10:00 AM

A special worship service led entirely by our students.

This is one of the most meaningful Sundays of the year. Before our team heads out, the entire congregation gathers to send them off in prayer and worship — and this time, the students are leading.

- **Students pick the music**
- **Students pick the verses**
- **Students pick the preacher**
- **The church prays for you**

This is a moment for the whole church family to rally around our students. If you attend only one special service this summer, make it this one.

Who Is Going?

WPC is hosting this trip for all students in the presbytery — this is bigger than just our church. We are building a team from across our community, and every student is welcome.

- If your student has a friend who might be interested — invite them! This trip is open, and the more hands and hearts we bring, the more homes we build.
- Wonderful, safe adult leaders will be participating and guiding students throughout the entire week. Your students will be known, cared for, and supported every step of the way.

“If we don’t show up, they can’t go home.”

Somewhere, a student is waiting to go home. A house needs walls. A roof needs raising. A home needs to be born. And your student can be part of making that happen.

This summer, we have the chance to do something that matters — something that lasts longer than a week, longer than a season, longer than us.

Are you ready to go home?

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for considering this mission trip for your student. These trips can be life-changing — full of growth, service, and Christian formation. They can also be challenging, structured, and emotionally stretching. Because of that, we want to ensure that every student who participates is ready for the experience.

In past years, we have had situations where students were:

- pressured to attend even though they didn't want to,
- emotionally unprepared for the demands of the trip,
- disruptive during worship or team time,
- unwilling to work or participate in service projects,
- unsafe to themselves or others.

These situations affect the entire team and can compromise the mission of the trip.

Our goal is to create a safe, unified, respectful environment where every student can thrive. To help you discern readiness, we've created a checklist titled “**Am I Ready for a Mission Trip?**” Please review it together with your student before signing up.

If, after reviewing the checklist, you feel your student may not be ready this year, please know that is not a failure. It is wisdom and discernment. And it often leads to a much healthier, more meaningful experience in the future.

Thank you for partnering with us in creating a trip that is safe, respectful, and spiritually rich for every participant.

Am I Ready for a Mission Trip?

A self-check for students and parents before signing up

My Attitude & Heart

- I want to go — not because someone is making me, but because I’m willing to serve.
- I understand that this trip is not a vacation; it’s a mission.
- I can participate in worship respectfully, even when I’m tired or not “feeling it.”
- I can follow instructions from leaders without arguing, complaining, or pushing back.
- I can be kind and respectful to teammates, even those I don’t naturally connect with.
- I am willing to try new things, step outside my comfort zone, and stay positive.
- I can manage my emotions in healthy ways (no yelling, name-calling, or combative behavior).
- I can handle long days, group schedules, and shared spaces without becoming disruptive.
- I can stay safe — for myself and others — by making wise choices.
- I can be trusted to stay with the group and follow safety guidelines.
- I can handle correction from leaders without shutting down or escalating.

My Work Ethic

- I am willing to work — not just hang out.
- I can stay engaged during service projects, even when the work is hard or not exciting.
- I understand that serving others is the main purpose of this trip.
- I can contribute to the team.

My Spiritual Readiness

(You do *not* need to be perfect or “super spiritual,” but you do need to be open.)

- I am willing to participate in worship, prayer, and group discussions respectfully.
- I can honor the spiritual environment without disruption or disrespect.
- I am open to learning, growing, and listening to what God might show me.

My Team Commitment

- I understand that my attitude affects the whole group.
- I can share space, time, and responsibilities with others.
- I can be flexible when plans change (because they will).
- I can support the team instead of distracting or dividing it.

Parent/Guardian Reflection

Parents, please consider:

- Is my student emotionally ready for a week of structure, teamwork, and service?
- Can my student handle being away from home without significant distress?
- Does my student show respect for authority at home, school, and church?
- Will my student contribute positively to the group environment?

If you cannot honestly check most of these boxes...

It may simply not be the right year — and that's okay. We want every student to succeed, grow, and have a meaningful experience, and sometimes waiting a year leads to a much healthier, more impactful trip.



Packing List

Clothing

- Lightweight t-shirts (5-7)
- Work shirts you don't mind getting dirty
- Shorts (appropriate length)
- Lightweight pants for work sites
- Pajamas
- Sweatshirt/jacket for evenings
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Swimsuit (Two-pieces allowed; must provide full coverage. No string tops, cheeky bottoms, or deep-cut styles)
- Undergarments
- Socks (bring extra – it's hot and sweaty)
- Closed-toe shoes for work sites
- Sandals or slides for showers
- Hat or bandana for sun protection

Work Equipment

- Work gloves (required)
- Eye protection (safety glasses or goggles – required)
- Reusable water bottle
- Small backpack or drawstring bag
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Sweat towel or bandana

Toiletries

- Toothbrush + toothpaste
- Shampoo + conditioner
- Soap/body wash
- Deodorant (please)
- Hairbrush/comb
- Feminine products
- Contacts + solution / glasses
- Medications (In original containers; please be honest about medication with leaders)

Personal Items

- Bible
- Journal
- Pen
- Phone + charger (students will be responsible for their phones)
- Snacks (optional)
- Money for souvenirs or snacks
- Plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Cards/games for free time
- Identification for flight (RealID/Passport Card/etc.)

Bedding

- Sleeping bag or sheets
- Pillow
- Blanket (optional)

Do Not Bring

- Weapons of any kind
- Vapes, tobacco, alcohol, or drugs
- Clothing with offensive or inappropriate graphics
- Anything you would be devastated to lose