



WALNUT HILL
YOUTH

PROJECT
SERVE
TRIPS **2024**

Project Serve Trips Summer 2024

What Is Project Serve?

- Project Serve trips with the Walnut Hill Youth Ministry provide a place for students to grow in their faith and walk with the Lord.
- The trips provide an outlet for students to learn cross-culturally and serve outside the context of their everyday lives.
- Opportunities for students include serving locally, regionally and globally.



Philosophy



- **Local and Church Involvement**

By starting with trips here at home, we seek to help students understand that they don't have to go far to serve. Even teams traveling greater distances begin by serving together through opportunities right here at Walnut Hill, such as the Food Pantry, Kids Camp and our Special Needs Ministry.

- **Learning**

Each of our trips emphasizes that students are to go as learners and as servants. We hope that students come away from trips understanding that it's not just about "helping" another community, but about learning from each other as we serve across cultures as well.

- **Long-Term Partnerships**

Most of our trips are born out of a long-term partnership between our church and mission organizations that seek to reach out to the most vulnerable with the love of Jesus, share Jesus where few know Him, and train local leaders for the Church. Our relationships with these partners have been built over years. Therefore, we are able to send our teams to serve with people who we know and trust.

- **Fundraising**

By requiring students on all our nonlocal trips to participate in fundraisers and write support letters, we hope to instill the value of summer trips as a communal endeavor. No student goes alone to serve. Instead, each one is representative of a whole community of prayer and financial support.

Creating Culture

- At Walnut Hill, we are looking to grow students in the area of missions.
- To create this culture, we have developed a missions track for students in Grades 7 through 12.
- This track will allow students to grow as they experience missions and serving others.



Missions Track – Youth Grades 7-12*



- Local Trip (Grades 7-12)
 - 2- to 3-day trip with multiple partners
- Domestic Trip (Grades 8-12)
 - 6-8 days with non-mission partners
- Regional Trip (Grades 10-12)
- 7 days at Joni and Friends. Age requirement of at least 15 years old and maturity level will be taken into consideration.
- International Trip (Grades 10-12)
 - 7-9 days. Partnering with proven missions groups.

**Grades indicated are grades completed by the summer of 2024*

The Benefits



- **These trips provide much needed support to already established local ministries.**
 - Many of the people and places we will serve in struggle with things like poverty and food insecurity. Those issues existed before we got there and will continue after we leave.
 - While we can help with those issues, we don't have the ability to solve those problems. The beauty is we then get to leave the project in the hands of those already established and trusted in the communities.
- **Students become more aware.**
 - The reason we go on these trips is so students can see and experience for themselves things that real people struggle with in real places.
- **Some students may feel God calling them to something more.**
 - The help we will give is real, but the issues will continue. The goal of these trips is that students might get a sense of God's calling on their lives to not just lend a hand for a few days, but to also hear God's heart and call on their lives to make a long-term commitment to changing the world through missions.



The Trips



Local

- Where: Waterbury, CT – www.acts4.org
- When: June 25-27, 2024
- Leader: Tim Blankenship
- Family Payment: \$150 (No fundraising required, but students are encouraged to volunteer at the fundraising events.)
 - **Description:** During this 3-day mission trip, we will stay with a partner church in Waterbury and work with some local ministries in the area (e.g., Acts 4 and the Food Pantry). Students will have the opportunity to come alongside and support these ministries while serving with them.



Domestic



- Where: Portland, Maine - www.thirstmissions.org
- When: July 21-27, 2024
- Leader: Henry Turco
- Family Payment: \$500
- Fundraising:
 - Remainder of cost of trip covered by fundraisers and support letters. (Each student is required to send at least 15 support letters and volunteer at a minimum of 2 fundraising events.)
- Description:
 - Each day, we will serve with an established church or organization in Portland, Maine and its surrounding area.
 - Options while we are there:
 - Serving in the local food bank
 - Running a church kids camp
 - Serving and ministering to the migrant population

Regional

- Where: Joni and Friends
www.joniandfriends.org
- When: August 18-23, 2024
- Leader: Greg Flower
- Family Payment: \$300
- Fundraising:
 - Remainder of cost of trip covered by fundraisers and support letters. (Each student is required to send at least 15 support letters and volunteer at a minimum of 2 fundraising events.)
- Who:
 - This trip is for someone who has done a previous trip and wants to experience a depth of service and impact. This trip is likely outside of your comfort zone, where you will serve the most vulnerable and their families, which is why we believe it is such a great option for those looking for a lasting impact. An age requirement of 15 years old and maturity level will be taken into consideration.

- Description:

Joni and Friends' Family Retreat is a Christ-centered place where families who are affected by disability are able to get away together to find respite, refreshment and connection with other families who understand the joys and challenges of life with disability.

Students serving on this trip are paired one-on-one with a child or teen who has special needs or a sibling from one of the families to provide exhausted parents a needed break throughout the week. Each student will spend each day with the individual and family they are paired with to enjoy camp activities together.



International



- Where: Mainland, Belize with Thirst Missions

www.Thirstmissions.org

- When: August 3-10, 2024
- Leader: Lance Sven
- Family Payment: \$1,200
- Fundraising:
 - Remainder of cost of trip covered by fundraisers and support letters. (Each student is required to send at least 20 support letters and volunteer at a minimum of 2 fundraising events.)

Description:

On this 8-day trip, we will experience mainland Belize, a third world country, where we will interact with some of the most vulnerable with the indigenous Church communities.

The workdays consist of:

- Morning devotional time
- Local service project in the morning
- Bible Club/Sports Camp in the afternoon as well as outreach or visits to hospitals and homes
- Group time and worship each evening before free time and bed
- We will participate in a day excursion midweek to explore the local Mayan ruins.
- Our last night, we will debrief and prepare for the trip home.

Fundraising Philosophy

- Why Do We Fundraise?
 - It helps offset costs to the church and the families.
 - Students learn the importance of raising support.
- Fundraising Goal:
 - Build a team of prayer and support.
- How Are the Funds Raised Applied?
 - *Each student is required to send fundraising support letters to family and friends. The monies received from these letters will be added to the monies raised through Church in Action and fundraisers and then distributed to the youth equally.*
 - *Each student is required to volunteer at a minimum of 2 fundraising events.*



Mandatory Monthly Project Serve Meetings

- The 3rd Sunday of each month after the 2nd Service (January – May) @ Bethel Campus
- Goals for the teams during these meetings:
 - Team building (Your student's attendance is crucial for this goal.)
 - Planning and preparation
 - Information flow



Next Steps/Requirements Timeline

- **December** – Students decide on which trip they would like to attend.
- **December 27** – Applications will be available.
- **January 8** – Applications are due.
- **January 21** – Teams will be chosen and announced at the first Project Serve student meeting (3rd Sunday).
- **January 31**
 - Student trip registration (Realm)/acceptance
 - Trip deposit is due.
- **February 18** – Support letters due.
- **February through May**
 - Mandatory monthly meetings (**third Sunday of each month**)
 - Fundraisers (next slide)



Fundraising Dates

- March 24 and 31 – Easter Bake Sale
- May 10 – Variety Show
- June 9 – Car Wash



Family Payment Plan through Realm



Due Date	Waterbury	Portland, ME	Joni & Friends	Belize
January 31	\$50 deposit	\$100 deposit	\$100 deposit	\$200 deposit
March 31	\$50	\$200	\$100	\$500
May 31	\$50	\$200	\$100	\$500