



2014 INFORMATION PACKET

RED BIRD MISSION WORK CAMP

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We appreciate your interest in the Red Bird Mission Work Camp Program. The Work Camp is the community service arm of the Community Housing Improvement Department of the Red Bird Mission. The Work Camp makes valuable contributions to the ministries offered to the community by Red Bird Mission. The work, the enthusiasm, and love shared during the Work Camp experience have a profound effect on the lives of the participants, staff and community.

The goals of our Work Camp program are fourfold. **First**, we hope the time spent working and sharing together will help your group to grow in Christian love. In addition, we hope each individual will use the time away from their normal environment and routine to reflect and pray about the problems and joys in their own life and be enriched spiritually. **Second**, we wish to help each individual understand what Red Bird Mission is and why it is important to the Appalachian region of Southeastern Kentucky. **Third**, we want to make the daily work beneficial to the Mission and the surrounding community. **Fourth**, we hope during your stay here, you will learn to appreciate the enriching beauty of the mountains and the people who live here, and will compare their struggles and problems with those of your own communities.

The following information will assist you as you begin to think about a Work Camp experience at Red Bird Mission. Please read it thoroughly, copy it, and **distribute it to each person involved in your group.**

NOTE:

AS of this time, Cell Service is not available at Red Bird Mission
WORK CAMP TEAMS NEED TO ONLY FILL OUT THE WORKCAMP APPLICATION
PLEASE DO *NOT* FILL OUT INDIVIDUAL FORMS FROM THE VOLUNTEER SITE

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The Work Camp program at Red Bird Mission welcomes both youth and adults. We accept youth fellowships, young adult and adult groups, intergenerational groups, district and conference groups. We ask for every five youth, there be at least one adult. We find it is best if the youth have completed at least 8th grade and keep in mind, it is the **responsibility of the group to supervise any young children**. We generally schedule 120-150 people each week with individual group sizes ranging from 2 to 150. **Presently, our work camp facilities are not handicapped accessible.**

ACCOMMODATIONS

We are a Work Camp in the Appalachian Mountains. Our cabins are located within walking distance from the main dining area. Work groups stay in air-conditioned / heated cabins set up as bunkhouses with multiple bunk beds suitable for regular twin mattress sheets or sleeping bags. The typical bunkhouse is set up to accommodate between 10 and 20 people with men in one cabin and women in another.

Note: We have **BUNK BEDS** in **all** of the cabins. Some members of your group will be on top bunks. You can bring sleeping bags or linens and pillows. Fitted sheets for regular twin mattresses fit nicely.

FOOD SERVICE

We feed all groups together in our dining hall, the "Cardinal House." Cost for meals is included in the total Work Camp fees. This includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, Sunday evening through the following Saturday morning except for Wednesday lunch and dinner. Each group participates in meal clean up during the week according to an assigned schedule. Saturday breakfast is a continental self-serve style breakfast; we will provide cereal, bread for toast, milk and coffee. You should plan to provide for anyone who requires special dietary needs. Please let our staff know. We have refrigerators and storage available if needed.

Wednesday is the day off for both staff and work camp volunteers. Please plan sightseeing and meals away from campus on Wednesday. Breakfast is the only meal available Wednesday. It is a continental self-serve style breakfast.

GROUP DEVOTIONS

Prior to breakfast each morning, we begin by meeting for devotions in the Cardinal House at **7:15 am**. Each group may be asked to participate in the devotions. We encourage groups to plan other times when their members can share their daily experience to be enriched in their spiritual lives. We would encourage you to consider asking other groups to join your times of sharing.

WORK

We will have a variety of projects each week. Red Bird Mission will work with you to assign projects that match the skills of your group. When organizing your group it is helpful to have some individuals who are properly skilled to perform construction tasks to lead the group as some groups could be working independently. We do have staff to assist you, but they may be working 2 or 3 jobs and rotating from project to project. Our crew leader staff is excellent, but are not experts in all areas of building. They will know the basics and what the project your crew has been assigned encompasses.

Projects are both in the community and on-campus. All maintenance projects help with the maintenance of our Mission infrastructure permitting us to continue ministry in this community. Both are vital to Red Bird Ministries.

Please plan to provide transportation for your group to and from the projects. In some instances, qualified drivers from your group may be asked to drive a Mission vehicle to assist with the delivery of tools or materials to the jobsite. A valid driver's license is required and drivers are asked to meet our insurance requirements.

One last note about the work assignments; Please remember what God has planned for you the week you are serving here may have little to do with the construction project we ask you to complete. It is really all about relationships and your relationship with the Lord. Sometime the “**just being there**”, visiting or listening may be more important than the assigned project. Items like cleaning, visiting, weeding, praying and just being there with someone are absent on the project scopes. In other words, those that don't feel they have anything to offer relating to construction may be key members of your team. We encourage all of you to be involved with the assigned project[s].

WORK SCHEDULE

The work schedule consists of four days of work and one day for touring the area. Work hours will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Wednesday is a day of rest for the entire Work Camp including staff, so please plan to sightsee and to schedule lunch and dinner away from campus on Wednesday.**

DRIVING MISSION VEHICLES

You need a valid driver's license to drive mission vehicles. We will make a copy of your driver's license for our insurance on **Monday morning**. Drivers are required by our insurance be at least 25 years old and under 80 years young. Persons from your group may be asked to drive a Red Bird Mission vehicle.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Our evening activities begin at 7:00 or 7:30 each night and usually end by 9:00 PM. Evening programs are designed to help you understand the Red Bird Mission and its importance to the Appalachian region of Southeast Kentucky, to have fun and to Worship God.

Some free time is available in the evenings. During your time at Red Bird Mission, you will have the opportunity to interface with community residents both on and off campus. The area surrounding the Red Bird Mission has few activities available so the Mission campus is open to the public and frequently youth from the community utilize the recreational facilities in the immediate vicinity of the Work Camp. **Visiting groups need to be aware of this and should provide adequate adult supervision for their own youth.**

One of our evening activities we refer to as talent/no talent/fun night. We encourage all to participate. Individual and group talents include singing, playing instruments, skits, jokes and “whatever” ranging from serious to hilarious.

We will conclude the week with a time of sharing and Holy Communion on Friday evening. Often we ask attending clergy to assist in the communion service.

CURFEW

Lights shut off on the ball court at 10 PM. We ask all Work Campers to be in their cabins, quiet enough for those that wish to sleep can do so by 11:00pm. Your group may be sharing the cabin with others. It is important for you to get adequate rest and to be a good neighbor with other campers.

INSURANCE

Each group must provide their own health and accident insurance covering travel to and from Red Bird Mission, and while you are here. Low cost insurance may be available through your church or conference office.

SMOKING

Smoking is not allowed in the Red Bird Mission vehicles or buildings. **THE USE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS IS PROHIBITED** on Mission grounds or while participating in Work Camp activities.

COSTS

There is a non-refundable application fee of **\$100.00** (for the group) to help cover administration costs and assure your group's commitment to a Work Camp experience. **This fee is not part of your work camp fees.** If you submit your application via e-mail or fax, please send your application fee within **30 days** of your application so we can hold that date for your group. If mailing your application, please send the application fee with your application. You will receive written confirmation of your scheduled reservation after receipt of your application.

We have a single rate fee of \$375.00 per person. The \$375.00 individual fee will cover all food & housing and basic project supplies. Estimate as closely as possible the number of people you expect to have in your group. **If your group is scheduled to be here before Aug 1, 2014, your deposit is due (\$187.50 per person) by March 15, 2014. If your group is scheduled to be here after Aug 1, 2014 your deposit is due by June 15, 2014. Balance of \$187.50 per person will be due upon arrival at Work Camp. **Groups scheduled before March 15, 2014, please send your deposit no later than 30 days prior to your arrival.**

Group cancellations have been higher than normal. Although we understand there can be good reasons to cancel, in order to be good stewards of God's resources with both people and dollars we are instituting a new cancellation policy. This is so we can offer another team a chance to participate if a team must cancel. If a team cancels 90 days or more before their scheduled arrival all fees except the application fee will be refunded. 60 to 90 days 2/3 will be refunded, 30-60 days 1/3 will be refunded. Less than 30 days notice prior to scheduled arrival date will result in a forfeit of work camp fees. If your numbers change by more than 20% the first half of fees paid for those members will be forfeited and non transferable. Normally, by this time, project materials and food have been ordered or purchased.

We ask your group leader to take care of handling payments. The payment should be made with one check or by credit card. Payment from individual team members should be handled through your group leader. It is almost impossible for us to keep individual records with over 3000 work campers blessing us each year.

Work Camp Cabins - Standard cabin (Bedding - not supplied) lodging is included in the Work Camp fee. **Private Rooms & rooms for couples** may be available on a limited basis- These will be in separate housing (Bedding-not Supplied) and have twin beds [no bunk beds] 2 to 3 to a room. There is an up-charge for these accommodations. \$50.00 per person (\$100.00 per room maximum) for the week. Please let us know as soon as possible if you desire these rooms and we will confirm with you 30 days prior to your arrival.

The Work Camp program is not set up to handle small children and youth under 14. However, we do not know your children like you know your children; our focus is as a Work Camp more than as a Youth Camp. We work on community and campus facilities. We want to stress the importance of safety at the job site and your responsibility for your youth in your group. Our goal is for all groups to enjoy the experience of Work Camp. We do not want to dissuade anyone from attending.

The following rates apply: 0-5 yrs of age –Free.

Children 5-9 years of age are ½ the standard Work Camp fee

Youth and Teens 10 and older @ Standard Work Camp rates

Red Bird Mission has **10 full hookup spaces available for campers or motor homes**. If you would like to bring a camper to stay in, please let us know at least 4 weeks in advance so we can reserve a spot for you. There is no extra charge to use these spaces as costs are covered in the work camp fees.

***If your group size changes please let us know, your change may allow another group to attend the work camp. It **may** be possible to increase the number of people in your group over the amount that you send in, but **please call and make sure there is space**. ***It is also important to let us know as soon as you can, but at least **3 weeks** prior to your arrival, what your group numbers are by gender. This is important for us to arrange your lodging.

TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL

Each group will be responsible for providing their own transportation to and from Red Bird Mission, **the job sites**, evening activities and tour day. *Cars and vans are more convenient than large buses* since groups have work assignments in different locations. Some locations are not accessible via bus.

Please try to arrive between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. If you arrive early, please wait at the Cardinal House, a staff member will be there at 3:00 p.m. to greet you. Cabin check in is after 3:00 p.m. with the help of a staff member. Please call our office @ 606-598-5133 to let us know your estimated arrival time if arriving after 5:00 p.m. Evening meal is served at 5:30 PM Eastern time.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

We suggest each group obtain medical information and a release form from the parent or guardian of each youth who participates. The group leader should keep this information.

TETANUS SHOTS: If you have not had tetanus shot in the last several years you might consider having one. Each youth and adult should consult his or her doctor or health center on this point. Many county health departments will give free tetanus shots.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS: If anyone in your group has any unusual medical problems, be sure all the adult counselors are fully aware of the situation. A medical release should be obtained, in case medical attention is required while at Red Bird Mission. Please let Red Bird Work Camp staff know of these conditions prior to arrival.

GROUP LEADERS

The group leader plays an **important role** in the Work Camp program. His or her enthusiasm, and willingness, sets the tone for the entire group. We depend on the group leader to lead your group's work team, to make the people assignments, meet with the staff, to discuss needs and to supervise the workers on the projects. Our staffing limitations are such we may not always have a staff crew leader to work with your group. Please choose your leaders in this area carefully.

Following registration with the Work Camp program at Red Bird Mission, we will e-mail you a leader's packet with resources and suggestions to stimulate discussion. You, the group leaders, are familiar with the capabilities and interests of your group. We rely on you to make certain you schedule time for the group to study the material we send, to prepare your group spiritually and intellectually for their time at Red Bird Mission. Experience has shown those groups who have given time, and study, to their purpose in coming to Red Bird Mission have had the more fulfilling experiences. **If your group leader changes, please contact us with the new name and contact information of the new group leader. This is important, so we can send the information needed by your group before you arrive here at the mission.**