

Dear Members and Friends:

We are writing this letter to let you know about our plans for the 2019 Youth Mission Trip and to ask for your help in this very important tradition in the life of our church.

Eighty-plus youth, adults, and children will travel to Black Mountain, NC, leaving here on July 6th and returning on July 13th. We will be working with Black Mountain Home for Children, an organization that provides a stable home for children who desperately need one. During this week, we will be working on their newly acquired facilities that they hope to use as a church retreat camp, with the profits going to help their residents. In addition, we will be doing many other service projects, recreation camps, and helping them cross off various other maintenance items from their list. Our own children will participate in a Day Camp and help around campus.

All those participating--youth, adults, and children--are helping to provide financing for the trip. This will cover about 15 percent of the costs involved. For the balance of our expenses, we need your help. As you may know, YMT is not a part of the church budget and taking a group this large is not cheap. If you would like to make a special financial gift for the 2019 Youth Mission Trip, please mark your check "YMT 2019" and drop your donation into the offering plate or mail it to the church. I am always amazed and humbled at the generosity of this church, especially when it comes to ministering to the needs of others. Another way that you can help is by providing some of the non-perishable food and grocery items needed by our group. A list of these items is included on the back of this letter. Anyone wishing to donate any of these supplies should contact Anna Walker, as per instructions on the list, to prevent duplications. These items can be dropped off in the Youth Room before July 2nd.

One final area you can help in preparing us for this trip is through prayer. We need spiritual support now as we plan and prepare, and especially from July 6th to July 13th, when the rubber meets the road in Black Mountain. Your remembrance of the Youth Mission Trip in prayer means so much to us and is essential to the success of our journey each summer!

As you pray for our trip, we hope you will consider volunteering to be a "Prayer Partner" for YMT 2019. Please contact Anna Walker or myself if you are willing to do this for these participants. You will be assigned a participant or two and we ask that you add them to your daily prayers, especially during the week of YMT. In return, your prayer partner will be praying for you as well. We invite you to attend the YMT Commissioning Service (Morning Worship on Sunday, June 30th) and the YMT Report Service which will be at the morning service on July 28th. At both these services, you will have an opportunity to be a part of your prayer partner's mission experience. There is truly no better way to grow as a church than by praying for each other!

Our church has supported mission trips with enthusiasm and success for over 40 years. These trips have a very positive influence on our youth and on our entire congregation. We know that you will again do all that you can to help us--physically, financially, and spiritually. Thank you in advance for your help and support.

Sincerely,
Kyle Rasco

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