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SIBLEY PARISH TO HOST 2018 MISSION TRIP

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Love, serve and connect are the three words associated with Catholic Heart Workcamp.

Since 2003, youth from St. Andrew Church in Sibley have been participating in Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) mission trips every other summer. Four years ago, youth from Immaculate Conception in Cherokee joined the group and two years ago, youth from Our Lady of Good Counsel in Fonda expressed interest.

"The nice thing is it is Catholic-based, so the majority of the kids who are there are Catholic," said Christy Funk, DRE and parish administrative assistant at St. Andrew's. "When they have Eucharistic adoration, Mass or pray the rosary, everyone is doing it. They don't have to worry about who they are around or the peer pressure that can happen."



The next mission trip will most likely be at the end of July 2018 and will be open to youth from the diocese. The age requirement is the student needs to be going into eighth grade the fall of 2018.

Funk explained planning is beginning now, so individuals are able to start fundraising

"The kids fundraise for a full two years because this is something they do fundraising for or they pay out of their pocket," she said. "The parishioners support it through the fundraisers. The kids have to work to be able to go."

Where the group will go is limited and depends on the week chosen for the mission trip. In the past, the Sibley group has gone to New Jersey, New Orleans, Austin and Dayton.

"There is a possibility we might go to the New Jersey area again," said Funk, who added even if they go there again, they will be doing something different. "We try to get everyone who is interested in going together in probably May to see if we can figure out what week we are going to go."

She will not find out for sure until August what the available locations will be for weeks in 2018.

Catholic Heart Workcamp

CHWC started in 1993 in Orlando, Fla., with 100 participants and has grown to more than 13,000 serving in 2016. CHWC provides parish youth groups, teens and adult leaders service opportunities to restore homes and hearts, feed the hungry, lift the spirits of children, bring joy to the elderly and disabled and offer assistance while partnering with social agencies.

According to the organization website, the aim is "to provide nothing short of amazing Catholic mission trips. Each workcamp is equipped with a summer staff, director, manager, musician, nurse and priests to celebrate Mass and confession. It is a youth-friendly, Christ-centered week of caring for others."

The youth will be divided into work teams and each will have an adult leader. The teams will be comprised of youth from different Catholic youth groups. The days will begin with breakfast at 6:45 a.m. The work teams usually leave for their worksites by 8:15 a.m. and return to the school by 3:30 p.m.

Each day the teams spend time working at their assigned site. They will do any combination of work including painting, yard work, indoor/outdoor clean-up, neighborhood revitalization, helping with children at daycare centers/boys and girls clubs, and helping at centers that distribute food to the needy.

"This gives them a chance to work their faith," said Funk. "They are really seeing the poor and homeless. They seem come back with a much greater appreciation for what they do have."

Evening programs will be filled with activities, music, skits, videos, slides of the work day, testimonies from teens, motivational speakers and prayer. There will be an opening and closing Mass with daily Masses offered throughout the week.

The final day is a free day. The diocesan group chooses what they would like to do, depending on where they are serving.

“They work hard for four days,” said Funk. “Last year, we were in New Jersey, so they actually got to go to New York City. We put together a list of things they are able to do, but they are able to choose their fun day.”

Logistics

The trip will be limited to those who sign up first. Funk explained the plan is to only take one bus, which would be 48 youth and eight adult leaders.

The cost of the trip is \$800 to \$1,000 depending on the number of youth and adults who sign up and the cost of the bus. This includes \$100 non-refundable registration fee. The remaining expenses include registration cost of \$250, cost for five T-shirts (\$50), bus costs and fun day expenses, which will be based on the destination for the day.

“They wear one (T-shirt) each day,” said Funk. “In the evening, this helps our adult leaders see our group pretty easily.”

Registration will officially open in August 2017. Funk explained it is important to make a decision sooner than later, so fundraising could begin. Registration will be open until the camp or the bus is full.

Contact Funk with questions at (712) 577-9635, in the office at (712) 754-2739 or by email at st.andrewsibleyyouth@yahoo.com. Additional information can be on the CHWC website at heartworkcamp.com.

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