

Memphis Youth Mission



JULY 9-14, 2017

Join with other youth from around the Presbytery of Arkansas this summer for a week of service through Memphis Youth Mission (MYM)! MYM's Mission Immersion programs are opportunities for young people to dive into the challenges and needs of our neighbors who live on the margins of The Blues City, Memphis, Tennessee. Mission Immersion experiences include service at a variety of local agencies and debriefing that uses Bible Study, group discussion, and art projects led by MYM staff. Through their work and their presence, youth will come to know more about issues of homelessness, poverty, food insecurity, and the unsupported. This is the first youth mission trip Presbytery of Arkansas has offered in a number of years. We hope to send a great group! Learn more at <https://memphis.youthmissionco.org>.

Who can go? Any current 8th-12th grader connected to the Presbytery of Arkansas! Churches can send a group of students, or students can register on their own.

When is it? July 9-14, 2017. We'll depart from Little Rock in the afternoon on Sunday, July 9. We'll get back to Little Rock during the afternoon on Friday, July 14.

Where is it? Located on the corner of Poplar Avenue and BB King Boulevard, Memphis Youth Mission is situated in the heart of Memphis. Groups stay at First Presbyterian Church downtown. Sleeping is on the floor in designated rooms of the church (single sized air mattresses are welcome!). Service projects are at various sites around the city.

How much does it cost? \$320. This includes transportation, a t-shirt, the meal and activity on free-night (tbd) and the MYM fee for lodging, food, and programs. Meals while traveling (1 dinner and 1 lunch) will be out-of-pocket. A \$200 deposit (non-refundable) is due by December 16 and is required to secure your spot. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your registration in early! The balance of the trip fee is due March 15, 2017.* Only those students who are paid in full by March 15 will be fully registered with MYM. Budget monies from the Youth, College, and Young Adult Ministry Area of the Presbytery are supplementing the cost of this trip (reducing the price per person about \$80).

How do I pay for this? We strongly encourage local churches to help individuals fund their trip, whether that be through a fundraiser or from budget funds. Many churches pay for 1/3 or 1/2 of the trip cost. Individuals should discuss this with their Pastor, Educator, Youth Worker, or Clerk of Session. Some scholarship money is available through the Presbytery. Please do not let finances keep you from joining us on this trip! For more information about scholarships, please contact Britton Varn at britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org.

Who chaperones the trip? Adult Advisors from around the presbytery will serve as Advisors. Adult Advisors must be 23 years or older and be active in youth ministry or be experienced in supervising youth excursions. Adult Advisors will complete a background check prior to the trip. For more information, please see the Adult Advisor Information and Application in this packet.

How will we get there? We are hoping to use church-owned vehicles from participating churches.

How many spots are there? We have registered for 21 youth spots and 4 adults spots. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If we have more people register than this, we will gladly attempt to add them (if we are able to increase our lodging and registration spots through MYM). A waiting list will be kept if needed. Get your registrations in early to secure your spot!

Are there any Pre-Trip requirements? Yes! Trip Participants will be required to gather on the Saturday of the June Presbytery meeting (location and date tba—usually early June in Central Arkansas). We will spend some time getting to know each other and preparing for our trip, and we will be Commissioned during Worship at the Presbytery meeting. More details to come as soon as the date and location are known!

Questions? Contact Britton Varn, Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Presbytery of Arkansas, at britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org or 501-663-2424.

**No refunds can be made after March 15, unless we can find someone to fill your spot — We will already have sent in payment to MYM. If you must drop out of the trip after March 15 and we can find another youth to fill your spot (every effort will be made, but no guarantees!), we will refund your trip fees, minus your deposit. Thanks for understanding!*

Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Summer Trips 2017 Registration and Personal Information Form

Mail to:
Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Summer Trips Registration
9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72227
With \$200 deposit
by **December 16, 2016**

MEMPHIS YOUTH MISSION

JULY 9-14, 2017

CURRENT 8TH-12TH GRADERS

\$320

Church: _____ City: _____

Youth name: _____ Grade: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Gender: M F

Youth cell phone: _____ T-shirt size (adult sizes): _____

Youth email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Home phone: _____ Parent cell: _____

Parent/ Guardian Name/s: _____

Parent/ Guardian email: _____

To be signed by the youth participant:

Yes, I am excited to attend a Summer Trip with the Presbytery of Arkansas! I agree to be open and welcoming to new experiences, people, and faith; to be an engaged part of the group; and to have fun! **I understand that attending the pre-trip meeting in June is an important part of the experience!**

Youth signature _____ Date

To be signed by the parent/ guardian:

Yes, I want my son/ daughter to be a part of this amazing, faith-building trip! **I understand the importance of the Pre-trip meeting in June and will make every effort to get my son/ daughter there.**

Acknowledgement of Financial Policy. I understand that a \$200 deposit is due with this registration form and that the balance of trip fees is due by March 15, 2017 (only those paid in full by March 15 will be registered with MYM). I understand that no refunds can be made after March 15 unless we find someone to take my son/daughter's spot. I understand that if my son/ daughter must drop out of the trip after March 15 and we can find another youth to fill his/her spot (every effort will be made, but no guarantees!), I will receive a refund for trip fees paid, minus my deposit.

Parent/ Guardian signature _____ Date

Other Stuff You Might Want to Know About Presbytery of Arkansas Summer Trips

Who is sponsoring these trips?

The Youth Advisory Team of the Presbytery of Arkansas. The Presbytery will handle all registration details, arrange transportation, provide a Trip Leader, and select Adult Advisors (21 or older for Middle School trips; 23 and older for Sr. High trips). The Presbytery's budget supplements the cost of this trip.

What is the Youth Advisory Team (YAT)?

The Youth Advisory Team is made up of youth (10th-12th graders), college-aged students, and adults who care about young people and about Youth Ministry. The Youth Advisory Team plans events and trips, which are open to all youth in the Presbytery. If you are interested in serving on the YAT, or if you have questions, please contact the 2016-2017 YAT Moderator, Geoff Ryken, at geoff@ryken.com.

How is registration handled?

For financial and logistical reasons, space is limited on summer trips, so spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis! The registration deadline for this trip is December 16. Registrations received after December 16 may be accepted if spots are still available, but are not guaranteed. You are encouraged to register early to secure your spot! A Waiting List will be kept if needed.

What happens after I register?

Youth and parents will be emailed within a few weeks of registration to confirm that their registration form and deposit was received. If no confirmation email is received, please contact britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org. Closer to the date of each trip, participants will receive more information about the trip, including trip-specific forms that must be filled out and returned.

How can my church encourage youth to attend?

Please make sure information about these trips gets into the hands of the Youth Ministry team at your church! Churches are encouraged to consider paying a portion of the trip fee for those youth attending from your church. You are also encouraged to support your youth in prayer before, during, and after the trip!

Who do I contact with questions?

Contact Britton Varn, Coordinator for Youth Ministry, Presbytery of Arkansas, at 501-663-2424 or britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org.

How do I find out more about Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Ministry Offerings?

"Like" our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry

Watch the website:

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx>

You'll find information there to keep you updated about these trips and other offerings by the Presbytery!

Presbytery of Arkansas Adult Advisor Information

Churches who send youth on the MYM Mission Trip are invited (but not required) to have one of their adults apply to serve as an Adult Advisor for the trip. Advisor applicants must be invited/ approved by their home congregation.

So, **you're** thinking about applying to be an Adult Advisor? Congratulations on being a part of that small, yet amazingly fun and dedicated group of adults who knows how uplifting it is to chaperone trips with these awesome youth! Read through the following Q&A, and if you still think this job might be for you, fill out the Adult Advisor Application Form and return it to the Presbytery office as soon as possible. You do not need to send any money with your Application Form.

What is the purpose of an Adult Advisor?

- ◆ To accompany youth participants in their overall event experience. To serve as a Christian mentor, guide, shepherd, and model.
- ◆ To encourage youth participants and fellow Adult Advisors to fully experience the event/trip; participating in activities, making a way for youth to offer their thoughts, and to approach the event with fresh eyes of a young person seeing for the first time.
- ◆ To pray for and counsel the youth participants. To serve them with humor, patience, hospitality, firmness, and faithfulness.
- ◆ To help the conference/ trip leadership create a safe and healthy community. To watch for signs of trouble and signs of wonder. To participate in discipline as well as celebration. To laugh and to offer sympathy when needed.
- ◆ To encourage youth and fellow Adult Advisors to care for themselves by taking seriously the times for rest, food, fun, worship, and networking.

Adult Advisors are **full participants** in the conference/ trip and must look out for the safety and well-being of all trip participants at all times! *Adults who attend Presbytery of Arkansas summer trips are Advisors for ALL the youth on the trip, not just those from their home church.*

How are Adult Advisors selected?

Adults Advisors are selected based on the needs of a particular trip. Each conference/trip requires a certain ratio of youth to adults. We must meet that ratio. For logistical and financial reasons, our goal is to send enough adults, but we usually do not have the funds to send "extra" adults. Adult Advisors will be chosen based on the needs (including the gender balance of participants) for each trip. Typically, we send adults who are serving on the Youth Advisory Team or who are from congregations that are sending youth on that trip. For the MYM trip, we have space for 4 adults.

Who chooses the Adult Advisors?

The Youth Advisory Team is responsible for selecting the Adult Advisors for Presbytery of Arkansas Summer Trips. One Adult Advisor (designated by the Youth Advisory Team) will serve as the Trip Leader.

What do Adult Advisors pay?

For the MYM trip, Adult Advisors will pay the same as the youth participants—\$320 (we wish we had the budget to supplement the cost for the adults, but we don't for this trip!). It is the responsibility of the Adult Advisor to pay for his/ her trip, but we **highly** encourage the home church of each selected Adult Advisor to cover all or part of the fee. Please talk to your church about helping to fund your trip.

What responsibilities do Adult Advisors have before the trip?

Adult Advisors are expected to come to the Pre-Trip Meeting during the June Presbytery meeting (location tba) and be commissioned during the Presbytery worship service. In addition, we will have an Adult Advisor meeting that day to discuss trip logistics.

After I send in my form, when will you let me know something?

We will try to let you know something as soon as possible. In some cases, we may need to wait until the deadline (December 16) to know the final number of youth signed up so we can figure the final number of Adult Advisors that we need.

Presbytery of ARKANSAS Adult Advisor Application Form

Mail to:
Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Summer Trips Registration
9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72227

MEMPHIS YOUTH MISSION JULY 9-14, 2017 CURRENT 8TH-12TH GRADERS \$320

Church: _____ City: _____

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Gender: M F

Email: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Please answer the following questions: *Do you have youth from your church attending this trip?* yes no

Why are you interested in chaperoning this trip?

In what way(s) are you involved in Youth Ministry at your church or in the Presbytery?

Have you ever chaperoned a youth mission trip or a youth conference trip?

What other experience do you have that makes you a good candidate to chaperone a Presbytery summer trip?

Please provide us with a reference from your congregation (a Pastor, Educator, Youth Worker, Clerk of Session, etc.).

Reference name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Relationship to applicant: _____

I have read the Adult Advisor Information page in this packet. I can fulfill the role of Adult Advisor for ALL the youth on this trip (not just those from my church), and I would be a team player working with the other trip adults. I understand that it is an expectation for Adult Advisors to attend the pre-trip gathering/ Adult Advisor meeting in June.

Acknowledgement of Financial Policy. If selected as an Adult Advisor, I understand that a \$200 deposit is due by Dec. 16 and the remainder of trip fees is due by March 15, 2017. I understand that no refunds can be made after March 15 unless we find someone to take my spot. I understand that if I must drop out of the trip after March 15 and we can find another adult to fill my spot (every effort will be made, but no guarantees!), I will receive a refund for trip fees paid, minus my deposit.

Signature

Date