

We Exist to Help Students Follow Jesus and Love Like Him

Dear Parents,

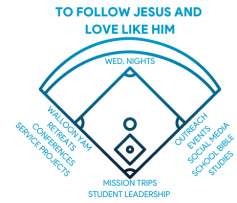
We are excited to invite your student to join us on a life-changing mission trip to Aurora, Illinois. This experience, organized in partnership with LeaderTreks, is designed to challenge students to grow in their faith, develop leadership skills, and serve others. Below, you will find important details about the trip and what you can expect for your child.

Trip Overview

- **Location:** Aurora, Illinois
 - **Who:** Incoming 9th Grade Students- Graduating Seniors
 - **Dates:** Sunday, June 15th at 1pm - Saturday, June 23rd at 2pm
 - **Partner Organization:** LeaderTreks (established in 1994 with an impeccable safety record of no accidents)
 - **Purpose:** Spiritual growth, leadership development, and service
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LeaderTreks Expectations for Participants

1. **Growing Christians**
 - Students should have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a desire to serve Him.
 - They must commit to daily devotions and personal spiritual growth.
2. **Teachable Learners**
 - Students should be willing to learn, assume responsibility, and maintain a humble attitude.
3. **Servant Hearts**
 - A willingness to serve their teammates and others joyfully.
4. **Resilient and Positive**
 - Students will face challenges and are expected to maintain a positive attitude.
5. **Open to God's Guidance**
 - The trip may challenge students to rethink their priorities and deepen their faith.
6. **Prayer Support**
 - Students are encouraged to form a prayer team for spiritual support.



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7. Commitment to Team Expectations

- All participants must agree to the LeaderTreks Standard of Conduct.

Application Process To ensure we have the right team, we've implemented the following steps:

- **Application Form:** Students will complete an application to express their interest and readiness.
- **Reference Forms:** We'll gather input from teachers, mentors, or other leaders who know your student.
- **Interviews:** Each student will have a face-to-face interview to assess their suitability for the team.
- **Deposit and Deadline:** A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required by *February 9th* to secure their spot.

Training and Preparation The team will meet 4-6 times before the trip for training and team-building activities. These sessions will prepare students spiritually, emotionally, and physically for the mission. Dates TBD.

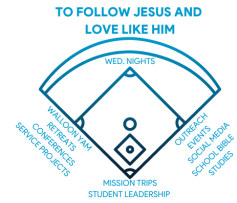
Cost and Fundraising The total cost of the trip is **\$545**, which includes transportation, lodging, meals, and materials. As mentioned above, A **\$100 deposit** is required to secure your student's spot on the trip. The **remaining balance of \$445** is due by **May 1st**. To help your student grow spiritually and take ownership of their commitment, we recommend dividing the fundraising process into three parts:

1. Personal Contribution (1/3)

We encourage students to contribute **\$182** from their own savings or earnings. This personal sacrifice will help them understand the importance of commitment and the value of investing in their spiritual growth. Whether it's setting aside allowance, earning money through babysitting, or picking up extra chores, this step reinforces the significance of their decision.

2. Support Letters (1/3)

Students will write letters to family and friends, sharing their mission trip goals



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and asking for financial and prayer support. This practice not only provides an opportunity to raise **\$182** but also builds accountability and demonstrates their dedication to serving Jesus. When I went to Uganda, my youth pastor encouraged me to write letters, and it became a meaningful way to connect with others in my faith journey. By doing this, students invite their community to partner with them in a step of faith.

3. Youth Ministry Work Projects and Fundraisers (1/3)

The remaining **\$181** will come from youth ministry-organized work projects and fundraisers. These opportunities will allow students to work together as a team while raising funds for their trip. Dates and details for these events are to be determined, and we will provide updates as soon as they are finalized.

This approach not only helps your student raise the funds but also fosters personal responsibility, teamwork, and trust in God's provision. We're excited to see how God will work through these efforts!

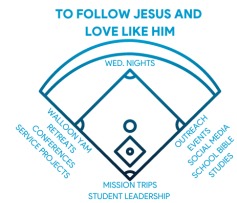
Safety and Supervision Safety is our top priority. LeaderTreks follows strict safety protocols, and their leaders are trained to handle emergencies. In case of any medical issues, we will contact you immediately.

detailed itinerary for our upcoming mission trip to Illinois. This experience is designed to develop servant leaders with a deep burden for people's need for Jesus, a passion for sharing the gospel, and a vision for living on mission in their communities. Below is a tentative schedule of what your student will experience:

Day 1: Sunday – Arrival and Orientation

- **Arrive by 7:00 PM** at our host site.
- Settle in, meet LeaderTreks summer staff, and go over trip expectations.
- **Evening:** Team bonding, worship, and introduction to the week's theme: *Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission.*

Day 2-3: Monday & Tuesday – Serving the Local Community



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- **Morning:** Time in God's Word – learning Bible study methods and prayer journaling.
 - **Daytime:** Serve with local ministries. Possible activities include:
 - Assisting at a food pantry like *By the Hand* or *Pon de Vida*.
 - Helping with VBS programs for children in inner-city neighborhoods.
 - Packing meals for children worldwide through *Feed My Starving Children*.
 - **Evening:** Team Time – Worship, reflection, and sharing three successes and three areas for improvement.
 - **Encouragement Bracelets:** Students will award one another with beads for leadership (red), compassion (green), and risk-taking (blue).
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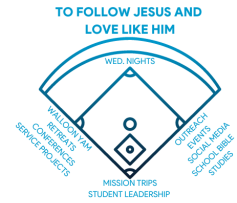
Day 4: Wednesday – Mission Race

- **Morning:** Bible study and prayer.
 - **Daytime:** *Mission Race* in Millennium Park, Chicago – a gospel-focused scavenger hunt.
 - Teams will engage in at least three gospel-centered conversations, sharing their faith with people in the city.
 - The activity fosters boldness, teamwork, and real-world evangelism skills.
 - **Evening:** Celebrate the day's stories, reflect on what God taught us, and pray for ongoing courage.
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Day 5: Thursday – Serving the Local Community

- **Morning:** Devotional time in God's Word and prayer.
 - **Daytime:** Continue serving with local ministries. Activities may include:
 - Home improvement projects for community members in need.
 - Organizing food or supplies at a local pantry.
 - Sharing the love of Christ with children through VBS or creative outreach programs.
 - **Evening:** Team Time – Praise God for what He's doing in and through us, and prepare for the next steps in leadership.
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Day 6: Friday – Outdoor Adventure & Debrief



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- **Morning:** Time in God's Word – reflecting on the week and how God has worked in our hearts.
 - **Daytime:** Adventure outing, things like kayaking on the Chicago River- a memorable experience for the team.
 - This experience provides time for team building and reflecting on God's beauty in creation.
 - **Evening:** Final team debrief and celebration.
 - Students will share how they've seen Jesus move and how this trip has impacted their faith and leadership.
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Day 7: Saturday – Departure

- **Leave by 8:00 AM** to return home.
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Why This Trip Matters

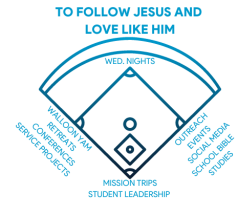
Each activity is designed to develop your student as a **servant leader**. Through these cross-cultural experiences, they'll see firsthand:

- **Burden:** Recognizing the spiritual and physical needs of people around them.
- **Passion:** Experiencing how God moves through their service and interactions.
- **Vision:** Seeing how Jesus encounters people through the gospel.

This trip isn't just about one week of service; it's about inspiring students to live on **mission** for Christ. Our goal is for them to return home with a renewed commitment to help people follow Jesus and love like Him, making an eternal impact in their schools, families, and communities.

Next Steps

1. Review the materials, including the application, reference form, parent release form, packing list.
2. Discuss this opportunity with your student and prayerfully consider their participation.



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To complete your student's registration for the Aurora Mission Trip, please ensure the following steps are completed by **February 9th**:

3. **Student Application**

Submit the completed student application form.

4. **Trip Participant Release Form**

Fill out the release form by visiting this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/243465155108152>

You can also access the form via the QR code provided below.

5. **Reference Form**

Have your student's reference complete the required form.

6. **Deposit Payment**

Submit a \$100 deposit check made payable to:

Walloon Lake Community Church

Include "Aurora Mission Trip" in the memo line.

We look forward to partnering with you in this incredible opportunity for your child to grow in their faith and leadership while making a lasting impact. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ben Wolf at 203-691-0850.

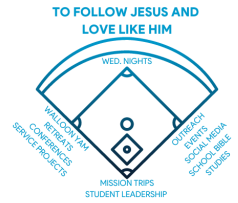
Sincerely,

Ben Wolf

Youth Pastor, Walloon Lake Community Church



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Aurora Mission Trip Application Form

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Grade/School: _____

Parents' Names: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Tell me about your relationship with God. How have you been growing over the past six months?

2. Why do you want to go on this trip?

3. Do you like to work in teams or individually? Why?

4. How would the Lord describe His relationship with you?

LeaderTreks

Personal Reference Form

Applicant Name: _____

The applicant named above is currently being evaluated for participation in a LeaderTreks trip. We would appreciate your candid responses to the following questions to assist us in the evaluation process. Your responses will be kept confidential.

Evaluator Name: _____

Phone (____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

1. How long have you known the applicant? What is your relationship?

2. In which ways do you feel the applicant is a positive influence on others?

3. What do you feel are the applicant's greatest strengths?

4. In your opinion, what weakness does the applicant have?

5. Would you recommend the applicant for a LeaderTreks trip?

Yes ___ No ___



**2025 MISSION TRIP
PARTICIPANT
RELEASE FORM**