

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest Work Trip Manual

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	3
ADVISOR SELECTION CRITERIA	5
ROLE OF AN ADVISOR	6
ADVISOR MEETINGS.....	10
ADVISOR JOBS BEYOND THE WORKSITES	11
GENERAL SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF WT	14
WORSHIP	16
SR NIGHT OVERVIEW AND ADVISOR INTRO'S	17
SMALL GROUPS.....	18
SECRET PALS	19
MEMORIALS.....	20
NOTE CARDS	24
ADVISOR PACKING LIST	25
WORK TRIP SITE INFO:	26

INTRODUCTION

The First Pres WT is unique in that each year we take complete responsibility for selecting the WT location, identifying (with local help) each project or work site, scoping the work, ordering and paying for all materials and hiring local contractors when necessary to complete projects. We also bring a truckload of our own tools including hammers, Sawz-alls, cordless drills, screwdrivers, power miter saws, circular saws, roof rakes, shovels and many others. Our WT is unlike a Habitat for Humanity where they own the project and each group shows up and is instructed on what to do and then leaves. We take ownership of the entire process from beginning to end.

This ownership creates a tremendous sense of pride in the relationships we develop with the communities and the homeowners we serve. For nearly 50 years one man, Jim Cochrane with his wife Jo, made all the WT arrangements – location, site selection, material ordering & delivery, local contractors, etc, etc. Jim retired from managing the Work Trips in 2017. Now a parade of volunteers is stepping in to fill his shoes.

Work Trip begins the Sunday after HS graduation and ends the following Saturday.

WT Location: Any location we choose must be able to house and feed our group of 50-100 students and Adult Advisors. We have also tried to keep the location to a drive of less than 8 hours with a couple of past notable exceptions. Over the years we have developed a rotation among three (now two) locations. They are: Westminster Camp in Roscommon, MI and Camp Wilderness in Iberia, MO. Each camp is located in and around areas of significant need. Camp Crescendo in Lebanon Junction, KY has unfortunately been sold and is no longer available as a Work Trip location.

Each location has its pluses and minuses regarding lodging, food and “ambiance”. This current rotation among the three locations, however, allows the Senior class to return to the location of their Freshman WT. This return sparks some serious nostalgia and reflection on what the four years of Youth Group have meant to these recently graduated Seniors.

Work Site Selection: In each location we are assisted by local members of the community. In Roscommon, MI we work with Suzanne Luck, 898-915-9053, of the Roscommon County Community Foundation and Sarah Pollock, 989-348-7123, In-Home Services Manager, Senior Center of Grayling, MI and Laura McKillop, 989-329-8175, past Director of the County Housing Commission. In Iberia, MO we work with Marsha Dinkins, 573-480-0375. Marsha is retired from the county housing commission but is very plugged into the area. We also work with Lucie Rogers, 414-773-1103. She is a teacher and active in the Iberia community. Lucie’s husband, Nathan, is the Manager of Camp wilderness.

Most Work Site Projects do not involve licensed trades like electricians and plumbers. In cases where such a skill is required, we will hire and pay local contractors to do the work. Typical Projects that we undertake are: residential roofing, remove and install, wood decks and access ramps, painting,

primarily exterior, landscaping, window replacement, vinyl siding and a variety of small construction projects and jobs requiring lots of manual labor!

At least two Adult Advisors are assigned to each Site for the entire week. All the students are individually and randomly assigned a new Site each day. This means that every day the Advisors on each Site will have a brand-new crew of kids to work with. This means that every day those Advisors will need to introduce the new crew of students to the homeowner, explain to the crew the Project and the tasks for the day, redo training on various tools, reemphasize this Site's particular safety issues, etc, etc. (the WT version of "Groundhog Day" for Advisors!)

Work Trip Financing:

Funding of WT comes from five primary sources:

- Current annual operating funds budgeted by Session
- Endowment funds restricted to WT
- WT Donations
- Youth Group Fund Raisers
- WT Participant fees

Major expenses associated with WT include:

- Camp housing and meals
- Transportation – truck/van rentals and gas
- Supplies and materials
- Contractor support
- Misc., e.g. dumpsters & refuse removal

ADVISOR SELECTION CRITERIA

Work Trip Advisors Selection Criteria

Each year the Work Trip planning process involves identifying a project or projects at various Work Sites. Most years the number of projects is in the range of 6-8. We try to have, at most, 2.5 adult Advisors per project, which means a range of 18-24 Advisors per year. Exclusive of that number are recent college graduates who are past Work Trippers and want to participate in the WT as an “Intern” Advisor. We usually are blessed to have three or more Interns each year.

We are extremely fortunate to have a solid core of Advisors who commit to the entire week of Work Trip and have participated for several years. This core group provides stability and continuity for the entire Work Trip experience. Unfortunately, it limits the number of new Advisors needed each year. All Advisors from the previous Work Trip are invited to participate in the next Work Trip and are included for planning purposes unless they decline.

As Advisors decline and roll off the list new Advisors are needed. The prioritization criteria for new Advisors are as follows:

1. The first priority is that a potential Advisor is active in the Church and has expressed interest in being an Advisor in the past, has children in the Youth Group, will attend all six days of the Work Trip AND is willing and able to commit to participating for four consecutive years.
2. The second priority is a past Work Tripper willing and able to attend all six days and commit to four consecutive years
3. The third priority is Past Advisors with children in the Youth Group and unable to commit to four years but will attend all six days of the Work Trip.
4. The fourth priority is Past Advisors with no children in the Youth Group and unable to commit to four years but will attend all six days of the Work Trip.
5. The fifth priority is for someone who is active in the Church, has not been an Advisor in the past and has children in the Youth Group, is unable to commit to four consecutive years but will attend all six days of the Work Trip.
6. The final priority is for someone who is active in the Church, has not been an Advisor and does not have children in the Youth Group but will attend all six days of the Work Trip.

ROLE OF AN ADVISOR

Adult Advisors: Before we get into the roles and responsibilities of the Advisors let's step back from this discussion of the WT basics and talk about the broader purpose of Work Trip.

Work Trip is the embodiment of Christ's command to love your neighbor as yourself. The WTs are opportunities to interact with neighbors unlike any of us have in LF/LB. Their financial circumstances are different, their homes are different, and sometimes their accents are different, but they are all our "neighbors". For the HS students on WT this experience is often a first. They are outside the "bubble" and exposed to new neighbors in a very personal way.

As teenagers in the YG they are trying to come to grips with their faith and what it all means. What was Jesus talking about when He said, "follow me"? What does it mean and how do I live a Christian life in my world? Work Trip is so much more than completing a bunch of projects somewhere. It is about seeing, learning and experiencing God's grace through following the command to love your neighbor and embracing his teaching that as we do this "for the least of my people so you do it for Me".

So, what is the role of the Advisor? It starts with being prepared to actively engage with the students as they begin to explore their faith journey. It is about modeling Christ-like behavior through challenging projects, difficult homeowners, lousy food, poor sleeping conditions, crazy high school kids and all the Advisors! Advisors practice and model how to interact and communicate not only with others outside our usual community but with each other. It also involves active engagement in our daily worship services; sharing, being vulnerable and active listening. The role is about humility and compassion and grace. Be aware, the students watch everything the Advisors do and say.

The Advisors make the WT experience through their interaction with each other, the students, and the homeowners.

Thus, the Advisor has lots of roles; model for the students, bond with the students, bond with the homeowner and last but not least, get the work done!

Bond with students:

Make the effort to learn their names

Sit with students at meals

Engage them in conversations about their life and WT experience

Look for the ones a little confused or intimidated or quiet – engage with them

Remember, this is WT where we are teaching these kids to love their neighbor. Start out by loving the students and Advisors. Be open, be honest, be interested and be sincere. If you won't engage with them why should they engage with the homeowner or each other?

Model for students:

Share your faith with them
Treat the homeowner and property with dignity and respect
Engage the students in the daily work plan
Teach, don't just tell, them how to do things
Do (i.e. roll up your sleeves), don't watch – then watch and let them do
Admit failure, ask for help
Plan ahead
Be real with anger, frustration, discomfort, etc. but all in moderation and with humor
Encourage the students to work together, create unusual teams
Help the students connect with the homeowner

Bond with homeowners:

Introduce them to students each morning
Encourage students to take time outs to spend with homeowner
Spend time with them each day-get to know them
Review work being done and planned to be done
Ask for guidance where unsure
Include homeowner in activities if they are interested

Get work done:

Take responsibility for your site – start to finish
Do homework ahead of time
Seek help and advice from other Advisors
Define for students work to be done each day
Solicit input from students each day on how to complete tasks
Monitor kids to keep them busy
Manage scope creep as best you can
Measure twice, cut once
Don't panic
Communicate during WT Advisor Meetings
BE FLEXIBLE

General Advisor Dos:

Be open to talking about your faith
Be SAFE
BE FLEXIBLE
Be positive
Be present in all things going on, meetings, worship work sites, travel, meals, etc, etc.
Be happy!
Turn off the Type A personality for the week

General Advisor Don'ts:

Project your sense of order, and cleanliness onto a homeowner. The stack of stuff you might think of as trash might be the homeowner's stack of things collected for "just in case"

Expect much down time

Expect much Internet or cell service

Expect to get much day job work done

A Word on Safety:

The health and safety of each Work Trip participant is an important part of a successful trip. We encourage each participant to follow personal health and wellness safety guidelines, jobsite and in camp safety protocols. The Work Trip Advisors are expected to obey and enforce all of the safety precautions and rules established by the Camp and the YML. Advisors are expected to set the example and ensure that all of the students are safe at all times.

General Health and Wellness Safety

Taking proper care of yourself supports the health and safety of the whole group.

The following list includes common sense practices we encourage:

- Liberal use of sunscreen always and bug spray when needed
- Close toed shoes
- Proper Hydration
- Proper rest

Job Site Safety - (Each van and work site is equipped with a First Aid Kit)

Job site training includes the following instruction:

- Use the right tools for the right job
- Ladder safety training
- Safety goggles are available on all job sites (required for power tools)
- Proper unplugging of cords
- Power tool and power saw training
- Be tidy: Job site cleanliness is important for safety and respectful to the homeowner
- We keep tools organized (not on the ground)
- Be alert and aware of surroundings and others
- Check with advisors before modifying anything
- Ask questions if you're unsure
- Gloves when necessary
- Learn how to lift properly

In Camp Safety

- Stay out of Camp areas designated as unsafe
- Obey all instructions issued by Camp personnel at all times
- No swimming in pools, lakes or ponds without a certified lifeguard on duty
- No use of canoes, rafts, floats, paddle boats or boats of any kind without a Work Trip Advisor present

- No running, jogging or exercising off the Camp property at any time
- Observe Youth Ministry Leader's instructions regarding curfews
- No males in female-only designated buildings
- No females in male-only designated buildings

We have a wonderful time working together, creating the Work Trip spirit and serving the local community. Common sense, proper comportment and courtesy keeps everyone safe.

ADVISOR MEETINGS

Before Work Trip

We will hold meetings before the trip to accomplish the following:

- Form a community among the advisors so by the time we get on Work Trip we know each other and have begun to gel as a team
- Introduce the sites we have selected, why they were chosen and the homeowner stories that we have learned along the way
- Assign advisors to each site (at least at the start of the week).

During Work Trip

Morning Coffee – These are not formal, but we will always have a pot of coffee brewing in a designated spot and welcome all advisors to join before breakfast to get the day started with any last minute requests and some early morning fellowship

After Dinner Meetings – These are required to attend, and we need everyone to be on time as we only have a short window to meet between dinner and worship. *(That means if you haven't been able to shower before dinner because you got back to the camp late, don't skip the advisor meeting to shower...do that later) 😊*

During the advisor meeting we review each site to understand progress, issues and what is needed the following day to move the project forward. Come prepared to give a report out and to help us plan for the next day so we can make sure we help each site with materials required, the type of crew you need and any technical help you might need from other advisors.

ADVISOR JOBS BEYOND THE WORKSITES

BEFORE TRIP:	DESCRIPTION
Organize Tool Room	What it sounds like, this is done to make the loading of the tool truck easy and for us to inventory any tools or materials we will need to purchase
Supervise Loading of the Tool Truck (Friday before we leave)	Kids will be there to help, but someone who knows the work we will do on Work Trip will be there to make sure we load what we need. (Usually done by someone on the planning committee who knows the work)
First Aid Kit Check	Make sure each first aid kit is restocked
Purchase Snacks for Vans	What it sounds like😊
Create Games/Activities for the Vans	Kids are assigned vans so we put a bag of games they can play in cars to help break the ice and have fun during the trip
Picture Directory	Create a book with a picture of each kid and their name and make sure each advisor has one before they leave
Group Me App	This is the way we communicate during Work Trip so download the app. Youth Minister will create the group.
Pick Up Truck/Vans	Coordinate drivers to pick up the vans usually the day before Work Trip
Work Trip T-Shirts	Work with youth leadership to design and order, will be passed out right before the group picture on our last day of Work Trip
DURING TRIP:	DESCRIPTION
Senior Night	Coordinate Sr night so that: All Sr's have someone who will introduce them, set expectations with Sr's to how much time they have and help them manage their Sr speech to that time allotment
Group Picture	Coordinate group picture which usually takes place before dinner on our last day. Work with the T-shirt person to make sure

	everyone is wearing their Work Trip T-shirt. We take a picture of the 1. total group, 2. each of the classes individually and 3. advisors
Birthday Celebrations	<p>We will recognize any birthday's that take place during Work Trip. This job has to get the info on who will have a birthday and then on trip each day that there is a birthday either at dinner or before worship coordinate doing something special for the birthday person. Some ideas from the past:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will send a treat we get before we leave (we love bent fork cookies☺) • Get some birthday decorations, a birthday hat and everyone sings HBD with no treats • Day of the birthday get a hostess cupcake and a candle for the birthday person and sing HBD • Sing HBD on day of birthday and then have one bigger celebration on the last day with a treat for everyone. • Treats can be as simple as store bought cookies i.e. Oreos, or some camps will coordinate baking a cake for the group and have that as our group's desert
Memorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>See Below for description</i>
Facilitate Secret Pals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>See below for description</i> <p>This job is to coordinate the picking of names and to make sure everyone has a secrete pal</p>
Organize/Facilitate Affirmation Notecards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>See below for description</i> <p>This job is to coordinate the materials for notecards and the process our last morning for folks to distribute the notecards before we leave camp</p>
Work Trip Shares Postcards (purchase postcards & stamps)	For anyone who has bought a Work Trip share, we send a thank you postcard to them during the week. This job has to find the postcards, have a group of kids write a greeting and then mail them.
Supervise Loading Tool Truck to Return to IL	When vans come back from their worksite on the last day, be there to meet them and have a plan for how to organize the tools to put back into the tool truck for the journey home.

AFTER TRIP:	DESCRIPTION
Supervise/Coordinate Unloading of Tool Truck	Back at church manage the kids to unload the tool truck and put our WT tools back into the storage room...before they go home!
Prepare Vans to be Returned to Rental Company and return Vans	Organize volunteers to return vans, be sure all the vans are cleaned and filled with gas before returning
Organize & Maintain Tool Room	What it sounds like😊
Write-Up for Faith Connections	What it sounds like😊
Bulletin Boards at Church	Create the bulletin board to give the congregation a sense of the work and fun we had on the Work Trip. You get to design and decide which pictures to post. Everyone will contribute pictures, but you will have to get people to send them to you or post them to a site of your choosing.
Post-Trip Gathering	Before Sr's head to college and school starts for others, we host a Work Trip reunion. This job is to coordinate the party with whoever agrees to open their home to host.
Organizing/Recruiting for Work Trip Sunday Worship (PP, Video, Speakers/Testimonials, etc.)	What it sounds like😊
Coordinate Fellowship Hour for Work Trip Sunday	What it sounds like😊

GENERAL SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF WT

Sunday

Underclassmen depart early AM
Graduated Seniors leave around noon

Upon arrival at Camp a van with an Advisor for each site visits the site and meets homeowners
Students unload bags and bedding in lodging
Students unload tool truck with Advisors

M-T-W-TH

Each day we try to assign a different group of students to each site. We also try to get each student to be at a different site each day and to mix the groups as much as we can. Our goal is that everyone will work with as many different people as possible and to do a variety of work during the week. Of course, this isn't always able to happen, but it is a guiding principle in our planning

When you arrive on the site with a new group of kids, start with an introduction to the site. If the owner is home, ask the kids to introduce themselves and then talk to the owner about what you hope to accomplish that day.

Once the introductions are done you have to get the kids working. Depending on the site and type of work, keeping the kids engaged, working and feeling a sense of accomplishment requires some planning by the advisor group.

Friday

The last day of WT the Senior's will work together on a Sr. Project. The goal is to have all other Projects completed by 2pm.

Friday afternoon the following tasks need to complete:

Tool truck reloaded
Students pack clothes
Dorms/cabins cleaned
Secret Pal gift completed
Note Cards completed
Prep for Senior Night

Saturday

Bedding and clothing packed and loaded into vans
Final cleaning of dorms/cabins
Final policing of Campgrounds – trash pickup, furniture replaced, etc.

Return to FPCLF
Unload Tool Truck to tool room
Unload bedding/clothes
Collect First Aid kits, keys, I-passes, etc. etc.
Clean trash, clothing out of vans/trucks

WORSHIP

Worshipping together during the Work Trip week is an essential part of building our spiritual community. The overall structure and guidelines for worship are provided by the Youth Pastor as part of the pre-planning activities. Each evening during the Work Trip week there is a Worship service led by the Senior High youth with coaching by a Work Trip Advisor and/or Youth Pastor.

Typical Worship Service

The Youth Group prayer begins with, “Joy & Peace go with you”. Each worship service explores one or more themes of love, grace, forgiveness, & gratitude which lead to experiencing joy and peace. The group responsible for the evening worship determines the readings, the songs and the discussion questions.

Typical Worship Assignments

Can be modified each year, but helpful to make these assignments several weeks ahead of departure. Also choosing scripture several weeks prior to departure helps in planning and improves the quality of worship.

Also, as part of worship or shortly before or after we have updates from each worksite on status updates. In some years there has been an attempt to show progress pictures but the technology challenges often get in the way with very busy days so we would not encourage this practice during the week.

Worship Music

There are Youth Group songs that are generally used throughout the year for Sunday Evening Senior High meetings. Guitar is typically the accompanying instrument since pianos are seldom available at Work Trip locations which could be inside or outside worship locations. A cappella also works when there is no guitar.

SR NIGHT OVERVIEW AND ADVISOR INTRO'S

This is a very special night of Work Trip and one the kids, look forward to throughout their high school years. After worship on Friday night, the Sr's are given a chance to say good bye to the community they have grown to love.

Here is a picture of what Sr night looks like...the Sr's sit at the front of the room and the underclassmen and advisors are their audience. This can be a long evening depending on the size of the Sr class. We try to manage the night the best we can, but don't be surprised if this night doesn't end until midnight....but trust us it is a highlight of the week and well worth any loss of sleep that comes with it.



Advisor introductions:

Each Sr will be introduced by an Advisor. We try to assign the introductions well in advance so you can be prepared if you are introducing. If you are an advisor parent and have a Sr on the trip, we would expect you to want to introduce your child. For kids who do not have parents on the trip we hope someone who has built a relationship with the Sr over the years would volunteer to do an introduction. These don't have to be long, but they do have to be personal and from the heart. You can reach out to others if you want to provide a wider perspective of what makes your Sr special, but there isn't a template for these introductions so there is no right or wrong way to do them.

SMALL GROUPS

One of the most essential parts of Work Trip is allowing and encouraging our youth to explore their faith throughout the week in various contexts - working with fellow WT participants, talking with homeowners, interactions with advisors or developing relationships with youth during free time. One important way we provide an environment for this faith exploration is through Small Groups. Small Groups are comprised of 2 or 3 advisors and 6 - 8 youth with representation across all grades - Freshmen through Seniors. The small groups also form the first day work teams at each of the work locations, so you work the first day together and then you are together each night for Small Groups for the balance of the week.

Small groups are the last scheduled event of each day and can last from 20 to 45 minutes or more. Typically, there is a group of questions provided for each evening to promote discussion, but the key is to get the youth talking. It is best finding a comfortable spot – ideally outdoors – and stay consistent throughout the week so everyone knows where they are going and develop a comfort level at their Small Group place. Every group is different and sometimes the youth will jump right in and start talking and other times it takes an advisor to start out examining their perspective – each of these scenarios is fine, you just have to be ready for either. A typical starting point is to ask about their day - "What were your highs today and what were your lows?" Once everyone has had a chance to talk, then you can continue with the prepared questions in the handbook or throw out other compelling questions or concepts that will drive interaction and promote thought among the group. A pro tip for advisors is to have a few thought-provoking items in mind before you leave Lake Forest.

Ideally, you would like everyone to share their thoughts and feelings and the advisors should strive to get everyone talking each night. Each youth has a different comfort level discussing issues of faith with others, so you have to get a sense of each of them and encourage some to jump in while others you might need to let them warm up a bit. Ultimately you need to draw them in so they can participate and feel that they are a contributing member of the group.

Our youth have reported that Small Groups are one of their favorite parts of Work Trip. The key is to keep it real and make it comfortable and create an environment for a compelling discussion that does not feel forced or programmatic.

SECRET PALS

Typically, two advisors put all Work Trippers and advisors' names on a small piece of paper and put them in a container for everyone to blindly draw a name. If someone draws themselves, they must put it back. This happens on the first or second day of Work Trip, so everyone has time to try and get to know their secret pal, while not letting them know they are their pal.

The tradition of Secret Pals is a fun way to try and get to know someone individually on Work Trip. You actively seek them out and try to discover their interests and personality, while observing them on Work Trip. Throughout the trip you should be thinking about what you could make for them. It is meant to be a non-monetary token for them to remember the trip by. You need to be creative and think of supplies you might use, like extra shingles, pieces of wood, sticks, paint supplies, etc. Some examples of past Secret Pal Gifts include, scripture written on a piece of wood, cross made from siding, shingles cut into a heart, coasters made from wood, Work Trip prayer written on wood. The gift should try to have the Work Trip location and year written somewhere on it, along with who it was from. We will have a box of supplies (glue, sharpies, string, glitter, etc.) available in the common room space to utilize.

The last morning before we get on the vans to head home everyone gives their Secret Pal gift and reveals who they had. Hopefully everyone has something they can set on their shelf at home and it brings back happy memories of their amazing Work Trip experience.

MEMORIALS

Overview

With all the good we accomplish along the way on Work Trip there has been heartache. We have a tradition that began on our trip in 2000.... it's the best worst tradition we have- Memorials. Early on a parent told me "we just don't want anyone to forget our child." This has been the ongoing motivation to keep our tradition alive.

History

We were about to enter an unknown. How do we even attempt to honor the memory of a Work Tripper? Will this be the last memorial? Please God say yes. Sadly, it was just the beginning.

- In the fall of 1999 a 4-year High School Work Trip veteran, Chris Martinat lost his life in a car accident. Chris was the first of 3 siblings who would partake in the Work Trip experience.
- In 2002, Anne Thomson, a Junior at LFHS and daughter of long time Work Trip Advisor Tom Thomson, passed away.
- In 2011, the youngest of 3 Work Trip siblings, Ellie Burns, another LFHS Junior passed away while on a NOLS trip

Each of these deaths fractured the group in their own way. Our group would leave behind a plaque for each individual and the year of our trip. Collectively, the entire trip, Freshman through Seniors, would generate ideas and share them until we reached an agreed upon memorial. At the beginning we had the HS Juniors take the lead on the memorials for Anne and Ellie (as they were both Jr's when they passed) and Seniors take the lead on a memorial for Chris. As we progressed it made sense to have a single site or location for all 3 memorials. Over the years, kids have selected outdoor wooden deck style furniture (pics below) placing the plaques and decorating the underside of a seat leaving their personal touch on the memorial- similar to how Chris, Anne and Ellie left their personal touch on the group. One year they created an entire outdoor chapel from scratch building the benches, spreading the gravel etc.



Little did we know a new challenge was lying ahead.

- Mindy Bourne, mother of advisors Megan and Amanda Bourne, passed in April of 2017 from Breast Cancer. She also had her 2 boys Graham and Tyler participate on the trip for 4 yrs. In addition to being the Aunt of WT students and Advisors Erica and Sean Jones.
- Long time Work Trip Advisor Bob Reamond passed in Oct. 2017 from Pancreatic Cancer. Bob was a Work Trip Advisor for over 10 years leading all 4 of his kids through the trip.
- In 2021, Kylie Murray, a 2019 LFHS graduate, died in a tragic small plane crash while doing what she loved, flying.

This called for us to pivot in the way we executed our memorials as our roster was growing and sadly, we don't have a way to stop it. We kept the plaques but shifted to an "Angels of Work Trip" theme that allowed us to keep the memories alive for all who have been a part of the trip or supported the trip.

2018 was our first year doing so- pics below:



Evolution

Over the last 20 years First Pres has started to narrow down the locations we attend for our Ministry mostly due to the size of our group- 50 high school kids and about 20 advisors. When we began the memorials, we placed a plaque at worksite sometimes in the community. We learned that over time it made more sense for us to place plaques onsite at the locations we were staying. This allowed future groups returning to the same sites a chance to maintain the memorial. In the last 10 years we have watched the Senior class take ownership of the memorial project on the last day of the trip.

Memorial Presentation

Originally, we took a moment to outline characteristics of Chris, Anne, and Ellie. Challenge has always been to bridge the time gap from their passing to the current group. When Bob and Mindy passed, we needed to pivot and encompass all of them into a single memory hence "Angels of Work Trip" was born.

Each Angel is recognized individually during the Memorial Ceremony and, if available, remembrances written by their families are read by a Work Trip student. That student is responsible for reading the remembrance during their Work Trip years and then passing on this privilege to another student at the conclusion of their WT years.

Opening

Work Trip involves many pillars from our community to achieve success. We rely on the church, our Advisors and of course all of our Work Trippers. Our Memorial Tradition began in 1999 with the passing of Chris Martinat. A few years later in 2002 Anne Thompson joined and then Ellie Burns in 2011. All 3 were amazing, talented & fantastic kids. Mindy Bourne in 2018, former WT advisor Bob Reaumont in 2017, Kylie Murray in 2021 and Lindsay Reed Peeler in 2025 also joined our roster of Angels.

Work Trip is not just about the communities we work in but at its core it's about our community. The community we have been working and living in all week.

Moment for reflection

Death is nothing at all. It does not count. I have only slipped away into the next room. Nothing has happened. Everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and you are you, and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name. Speak of me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference in your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is absolute and unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but wanting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well.

Please take a moment.....breathe.....soak in THIS moment. We have AMAZING people in this group.

This IS a time for celebration and reflection.

We share these memorials together. Today. And go forth with their love and support as we journey through life. We will never forget them.

Closing prayer

Joy and Peace go with you.....

Day by Day,

May the little good things pass your way

May the good lord bless and keep you,

Until we meet again,

I pray.

NOTE CARDS

Notecards have been an evolving tradition of the Youth Group Work Trip. They started when our Senior Nights were growing; the youth would be able to respond back to Seniors in more of a dialogue during Senior Night. As the groups started growing and connections grew deeper, there simply wasn't enough time in one night for everyone to have the dialogue. As a replacement, notecards were born. They were first to be written to seniors who you were unable to wish well or share in a reflection with verbally, so that you could still reach out to the seniors.

They then evolved slightly from being just for the seniors to being for people who you felt you had made a new connection with on the trip. Typically, you would share a bible passage, remember how you got through the day on the roof, or wish them the best of luck in the next year of school. More recently they have again evolved, as the youth have differing ideas on how to best use them, and it has been more mandated that notecards are written for each of the members in your small group and all of the seniors.

Typically, they are distributed the first night of worship within your worship box and the youth is supposed to work through theirs as the week goes on. This usually doesn't happen, since the youth would rather spend time actually connecting with their peers and advisors then scribing away on their notecards. Therefore, they have become a Friday night all night activity, where there is a designated room for those completing their notecards.

Notecards are distributed the morning before we all leave to head back to Lake Forest. There are brown bags set up with each member of the Work Trip's name on it and you plop the cards into the bags. The kids then enjoy reading them in the van ride back and reminiscing on the work they did and then connections they made. More recently, given some time constraints and inability to complete you can also send them after the trip if you would like.

ADVISOR PACKING LIST

Clothes:

- In general pack what will be comfortable, you will get dirty!
- You will want clean clothes for the evenings after you get back from work site and it can get cool and buggy, so a few layers come in handy
- There are 2 theme days tie die and what the kids call “Broh Tank Tuesday”. Not all advisors participate in these days but if you want to, bring a tie die shirt and another t -shirt you can rip the sleeves from (or a sleeveless shirt will do)
- Wear comfortable shoes as you will be on your feet all day. Some folks like to wear work boots, others wear sneakers. Somewhat depends on your worksite which would be best. Bring comfy shoes for after worksite though you will want to get out what you had on during the day.
- Lite weight raincoats might come in handy, but we pray for sunny weather all week
- Flip flops for the shower + towel + any other toiletries needed for the week

Bedding:

- Make your bed as comfortable as you can...bring a sheet/mattress pad to put over the mattress. You can bring a sleeping bag, but you have a bed so if you prefer a blanket/quilt that works fine as well.
- Don’t forget your pillow(s)

Miscellaneous:

- A fold up chair (like the ones you take to a kid sporting event or concert) to sit in during worship
- A small bag to take back and forth to the site to carry wallet, and misc. “stuff”
- If you have small speakers, you can bring them to play music at the work site
- There is typically only a few outlets and a lot of phones that want to be charged, so bringing an extension cord that allows for multiple devices is useful
- Might want to bring a portable charger in case you don’t get an outlet, and an extension cord can be helpful
- If you are picky about what you eat, bring a stash of granola bars or whatever you need to get you through the week. However, there will be stores that you can stock up on if you need anything during the week.
- Some advisors complain about not being able to sleep especially if you are bunking with the kids. If you have sleep aids including ear plugs, you might want to throw them in

WORK TRIP SITE INFO:

Work Trip Site #

Homeowner's Name/Primary Contact:

Contact Ph. #:

Address:

Directions:

Family Members Present during WT:

Others in/out:

Available Sunday afternoon/evening:

Available each morning?

Bathroom available?

Pets – indoor/outdoor free/outdoor penned?

Names:

Firearms, if any, secured?

Project Description:

Owner Wish List