

Weekend of the Cross Youth Group Leader Information Sheet

Weekend of the Cross is an opportunity for youth and adults from different churches throughout the state to come together for four days of service, worship, and community. By answering the call for us to be the hands and feet of Christ, we go out to serve the community to show God's love to those who need it most.

Projects range from painting the outside of homes, repairing deteriorating porches, and building wheelchair ramps for people with disabilities. This mission weekend is a great first-time experience for middle school youth and a chance for high schoolers to develop as leaders. Join us as we come together to change the lives of people and families forever.

The Weekend of the Cross planning team looks forward to providing a safe, fun, and memorable mission trip experience. Each participant is responsible for acting in a way that is respectful to God, themselves, and others.

- The cost of Weekend of the Cross is \$150.00 per participant which covers the following cost:
 - Lodging at a host church, meals based on the schedule below, mission project, and a worship experience.
 - Meals provided:
 - Wednesday: Dinner
 - Thursday: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 - Friday: Breakfast Lunch, Dinner
 - Saturday: Breakfast

2024 Information:

- Host Church: First United Methodist Church Alexandria: 2727 Jackson St. Alexandria, LA 71301
- 2024 Speaker: Austin Rinehart, Pastor Zachary UMC
- Band: TogetherAbiding

Other Guidelines and Information:

- Following the current best practices from national accredited camping ministries, Weekend of the Cross provides gender separated, dormitory-style sleeping arrangements in which at least 2 unrelated adults will be assigned to sleep in each room with youth participants. Lodging rooms are arranged by church (all females from the same church will be together, all males from the same church will be together, and they may be in a room with other churches based on numbers of youth and adults.) Each participant will need to bring no larger than a twin-sized cot or air mattress (sleeping space is limited), as well as bedding, towels, and toiletries.
- Adults are not allowed in shower rooms when a youth are present and vice versa.
- Proper attire must be worn at all times with no exceptions. T-Shirts with suggestive slogans, low cut shirts, midriff exposure, short shorts, shirts, skirts, or see through clothing are not allowed. Youth leaders are asked to ensure participants follow the Student Code of Conduct.
- The WOC experience depend on adults attending to transport youth back and forth to worksites. Adult drivers must be at least 21 or older and have required car insurance as required by Louisiana State law.
- Adult leaders are encouraged to bring personal work tools such as saws, drills, hammers, etc.
- Attendees are arranged into work groups by WOC leadership considering adult knowledge of work projects (as well as past experiences with the event). Most participants from a church group will be assigned to different work groups, but depending on the size of your groups, you may have some of your church group with you. If there are extenuating circumstances that require a youth from your church

group to be with a particular adult, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements.

- Student participants are required to submit the proper registration form and signed student code of conduct to attend.
- Each youth group is encouraged to bring snacks for free time.
- Please share this information sheet with your pastor, and let your church get excited to support and pray for your youth and youth leaders who will be attending this weekend.

One final thing to know about Weekend of the Cross—while registration fees cover some of the materials needed at the job sites, we also rely on and appreciate donations to help with this. If your church or any individuals would like to make a donation, our finances are handled through Faith Crossing UMC, and a check can be made to them with the memo “WOC.” We also have business sponsorships available.

Additional questions can be referred to James Lirette at Jam4425@yahoo.com or Sheantel Baker at sbaker6@lsu.edu