



Buddy to Buddy Hoyleton Mission Experience

Sponsored by DuBois Center
Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ

INFORMATION PACKET 2018

YOUTH on a MISSION... Close to Home

This Mission Experience provides the opportunity for youth to be a **Buddy** with a young person from Hoyleton's youth residential program during a three-day Day Camp at DuBois Center. **Buddies** are paired with one or two young people from the residential program and participate in most activities with their buddy—crafts, nature hikes, water mat swims, canoeing, etc. After the campers head for home each day, **Buddies** and their chaperones take time to debrief the day's experience, plan for the next day and complete a physical work project at DuBois Center. There is time each day just to relax and play.

" . . . and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
Micah 6:8

PARTICIPATION

Youth: This program is designed for youth who have just completed grades 8–12 and their adult chaperones.

Chaperones: Adults, age 21 and older. A **minimum** of 1 adult chaperone is required for each 7 or fewer youth participants.

Participation is by church or region group, as opposed to "open enrollment" like summer camp. Chaperones provide overall supervision for their youth.

Churches/regions also provide male and female chaperones in proportion to the male/female breakdown of their group (i.e., 2 male and 6 female youth = one male and one female chaperone). This requirement is related to supervision in sleeping areas. Groups are encouraged to team up to make this work. If you are having a problem with this, please contact Shirley Asmussen at 618.787.2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org.

DATES

Saturday, June 30 - Tuesday, July 3

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

This mission experience begins with check-in from **3:00 - 4:30 pm on Saturday afternoon, July 30**. The program will begin promptly at **5:00 pm**, so plan to arrive in time to get settled, but no earlier than **3:00 pm** as we will be busy preparing for your time at camp. Dinner will be provided on Saturday. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided Sunday through Tuesday. This experience will end by **7:00 pm on Tuesday evening, July 3**.

CONTACTS & IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

BEFORE & DURING the Experience

Shirley at shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or 618.787.2202

DURING the Event

On-Call Cell Phone at 618.314.6553

Please use the on-call cell phone only in case of an emergency. Participants and leaders will be out and about involved in the program during most of the day and evening.

\$ COST \$

\$175 per person (youth participants & chaperones)

The event fee for each youth and adult participant includes three nights' lodging and ten meals.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, May 1

COVENANTS

A covenant for youth participants and a separate covenant for adult chaperones are enclosed. Please take the time to review these carefully. All attendees, youth and adults, will be expected to abide by these. These covenants are to ensure the well-being of all participants and to emphasize their responsibilities toward one another. Please return a signed copy of the appropriate covenant for each youth and adult.

HOUSING

Housing will be in main camp cottages, which have bathrooms off each sleeping room. There is **NO** air conditioning, but there is a window fan in each sleeping room and you are welcome to bring additional fans. Housing will be assigned according to gender (males together, females together). Smaller groups may be combined within cottages. Chaperones should work with neighboring churches—in advance—to ensure adequate supervision in male and female sleeping areas. If you are having problems with this coverage, check with Shirley Asmussen as soon as possible at 618.787.2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org.

HEALTH CONCERNS—VERY IMPORTANT!!

Local church chaperones are responsible for first aid & health issues for their participants. Chaperones should carry *Permission to Treat* authorizations for each adult and youth attendee and come prepared with basic first aid supplies.

NOTE: The authorizations included on the “Registration & Health Information” form include this authorization. Chaperones should keep a copy for their use.

In an emergency, DuBois Center will provide back-up supplies and support.

We recommend that medications be kept by the church chaperones.

It is the responsibility of the family and/or each local church to provide health and accident coverage for their participants.

ADULT LEADERSHIP—SAFE CHURCH/CONDUCT VERIFICATION

The Illinois South Conference and many of our churches have adopted “Safe Conduct” policies as tools to help us provide the safest environment possible for those we serve. Implementation of these policies is on-going. We have instituted procedures for adult chaperones and other adult leaders involved in Conference-sponsored youth programs with an overnight component. Even though youth attend these events with chaperones from their own church, they are often involved with adults from other churches in small group settings and, sometimes, in the sleeping areas.

In addition to the *Registration & Health Information* form and *Covenant*, adult attendees need to submit the following:

1. Disclosure Statement dated within the past 12 months
2. State of Illinois, Department of Children and Family Services AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK, or a completed background check that has been returned from the State, dated within the past 12 months.
 - **If your church already utilizes the DCFS system**, a copy of a current report signed by the pastor, dated within the past 12 months, may be submitted instead.
 - **If you have attended an ISC Youth Event in the past 12 months**, contact Christy Pursell at 618.654.2125 or cpursell@iscucc.org to see if a DCFS check is already on file for you.

POLICY ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

During the summer DuBois Center is a SMOKE-FREE ZONE for youth and adults.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

The possession and/or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs or controlled substances will not be allowed at any Conference-sponsored youth event or retreat. This includes every participant and leader, youth and adult. Such activity is destructive to the spirit of Christian community we hope to build at all our youth events. The possession and/or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs or controlled substances will result in the offending party being sent home **AT HIS/HER OWN EXPENSE**. The one exception might be the provision of wine as an option during communion.

PACKING FOR YOUR MISSION TRIP

A Clothing & Equipment list is attached. It was written for a short-week summer camp, so use your discretion. Do bring some clothes that can get especially dirty or maybe stained with paint for the work project(s). Also, we ask that everyone wear a one-piece swimsuit or tankini AND a t-shirt for this experience. A number of the young people from the residential homes have been sexually abused. In addition, most are below age level in terms of social and emotional maturity. Skimpy swimsuits can be over-stimulating and we want to avoid distractions of this nature.

THINGS NOT TO BRING

- ➔ valuable or breakable items ➔ sandals, flimsy or wedge/platform shoes ➔ fireworks
- ➔ matches or lighters ➔ guns, knives or any type of weapon including utility tools
- ➔ tobacco products ➔ alcoholic beverages ➔ any illegal substances

NOTE:

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Use of electronic devices, including cell phones, is not allowed during any structured program times. Use during “down times” is at the discretion of group chaperones.

FOOD: No food is allowed in the living cottages. Some healthier snacks—to be shared with the entire mission group—may be stored in Oak Lodge. Snacks will be provided.

The Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center and their staff/representatives are not responsible for the loss, damage or theft of property.