TPP WEEKEND FAQ'S

THE PITTSBURGH PROJECT 2801 NORTH CHARLES STREET PGH, PA 15214
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Where Are We Staying?

The Pittsburgh Project campus is located in a residential neighborhood on Pittsburgh's North Side. Our facilities include a three-story converted school building, a renovated former church and a dormitory. We are in the biracial residential neighborhood of Perry South across from a city park. Many of The Project's staff members live here on the North Side, in close proximity to the building.

Where Do We Sleep And Shower?

In 2005, we completed our new Guest House. Lodging is separated by floor for each gender. The first floor is recreation space with ping-pong tables, etc. Each of the 20 dorm rooms sleep 14 people, on bunk beds. With youth groups, please make sure that at least one of your adult leaders is lodging in each room with the students. There are adequate showers and bathrooms facilities on each floor. Shower shoes are recommended. You are required to bring your own towels, bed linens or sleeping bag and pillow for the bunk bed.

Where Do Families Call In Case Of An Emergency?

The Project's offices are open Monday through Friday from approximately 8:30 am to 6:00 pm EDT. The voice mail system at the office is available 24 hours a day. The phone number is 412-321-1678. Please leave messages for Lauren at extension 153 or Amy at extension 126. Please give this number to your group's families and to your church office.

What Leadership Should Our Church Provide?

For high school weekends, we require a 5:1 minimum student/leader ratio. You and your leaders provide hands-on supervision at the worksite, and they offer nurture and discipline in the evenings. Our board's policy requires that your leaders are at least 21 years old. Make sure your adult leaders represent the gender of students that are attending. While we welcome older students or junior leaders who are out of high school but who are not yet 21, we can't give them assignments as worksite leaders. Moreover, please ensure that the same worksite leaders are available for the whole weekend.

For college/adult/familiy weekends, please designate 1 responsible adult 21+ for every group of 5 people. They will serve as worksite leaders at the worksite. We welcome family participation but ask that children be at least 10 years old. While there can be age appropriate work for children, (cleaning, raking,) they will be at a worksite for approximately 7 hours of the day and will require parental supervision and guidance.

When Should We Get There?

Please arrive as close to 5:30 as possible. Directions are enclosed. Please call if you encounter delays and will arrive late. We will eat dinner at 6:00 and meet with worksite leaders at 6:30.

How Do We Register? What About Tuition?

When you arrive, park in the lot in front of the school and check in at desk in the dorm building behind the school. Please introduce yourself and give Project staff your registration forms. As a reminder, tuition for the weekend is $85 per participant and $200 per family (parents with children.) Please pay your balance due in one check at least 10 days before your weekend.

Are You Insured? What About Medical Insurance?

The Project maintains a general liability policy in case of lawsuits against The Project for damage done by Project participants. However, The Project maintains no medical coverage for Project participants. Thus, participants must be covered by their own medical policies. We will ask participants for medical insurance information on their registration forms, which you should collect and bring with you. If we don't have a completed and signed registration form for each participant, we cannot allow that participant to go to worksites. Also, don't bring already-ill participants who will spread germs and viruses, and who will end up spending the weekend in bed.

How Will You Know Our Construction Skills?

Please distribute the enclosed Worksite Leader Skills Inventory Sheets, and ask each of your 21+ year old adult leaders to fill it out. Adult groups--please designate one worksite leader for every 5 participants. Mail or fax these back to The Project 10 days before your weekend. We will then be able to schedule the various projects in accordance with the skills that are available that particular weekend.

What Is Your Safety Record?

Praise God, our record is quite good. We take safety seriously and we need you and your leaders to take it seriously as well. When you go to your worksites, we will send you with a list of nearby hospitals and emergency telephone numbers. There are 2 hospitals within ten minutes of The Project's headquarters.

What Will We Eat?

Morning meals are either hot or cold breakfasts including but not limited to cereal, bagels and fruit. Lunches are packed in coolers to take daily to the worksites and typically will consist of cold sandwich fixings, juice, and chips. Dinners are hot meals, including entrées like chicken, spaghetti, bread, vegetables, and a beverage. If you have questions regarding food, please contact us.

Do We Need Any Spending Money?

The tuition that you are paying covers the costs of all materials, meals and lodging and a Project T-shirt. You may need spending money for our coffeehouse—The Charles Street Café, in which we sell specialty coffee, cold drinks, desserts, CDs and T-shirts.

What Vehicles Shall We Bring?
Will We Use Our Vehicles During The Weekend?

Your vans and minivans are needed to transport teams of approximately seven (7) people to and from the worksites Saturday and Sunday. Only the adult leaders from your group are permitted to drive minors; licensed minors are not permitted to drive other participants. It's always a great help if any of your leaders are authorized to drive any of your group's vehicles. If you bring 15 passenger vans, it is very likely that you will be carrying 2 work groups--one of which will be dropped off and will not have access to a vehicle all day at their worksite. Also, you may wish to refrain from bringing Grandpa's Buick, since participants get dirty, and so do vehicles.

What Else Do We Need To Bring For Our Group?

1. Please bring with you one (1) medium-sized first aid kit for every worksite leader in your group. You will take these to your worksites with you.
2. Please remind everyone in your group to bring a canteen or plastic water bottle. It can also be helpful to have work gloves, a dust mask and a pair of plastic safety goggles.

Do We All Receive The Same Size Free T-shirt?

No. 10 days before you come to camp, you will send us the enclosed Summary Sheet with the sizes that your group needs. Participants indicate preferred shirt sizes on their registration form. T-shirts are distributed on Sunday.

Can We Use Radios/Ipods/C.D. Players?

No. We have found that a retreat from normal TV and music can be valuable. We have a sizable sound system through which we play --and blare music, so please leave ipods and radios at home. Also, please discourage your participants from non-essential cell phone use, particularly while working at the worksite.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call!
412-321-1678
Amy, extension 126; Lauren, extension 153