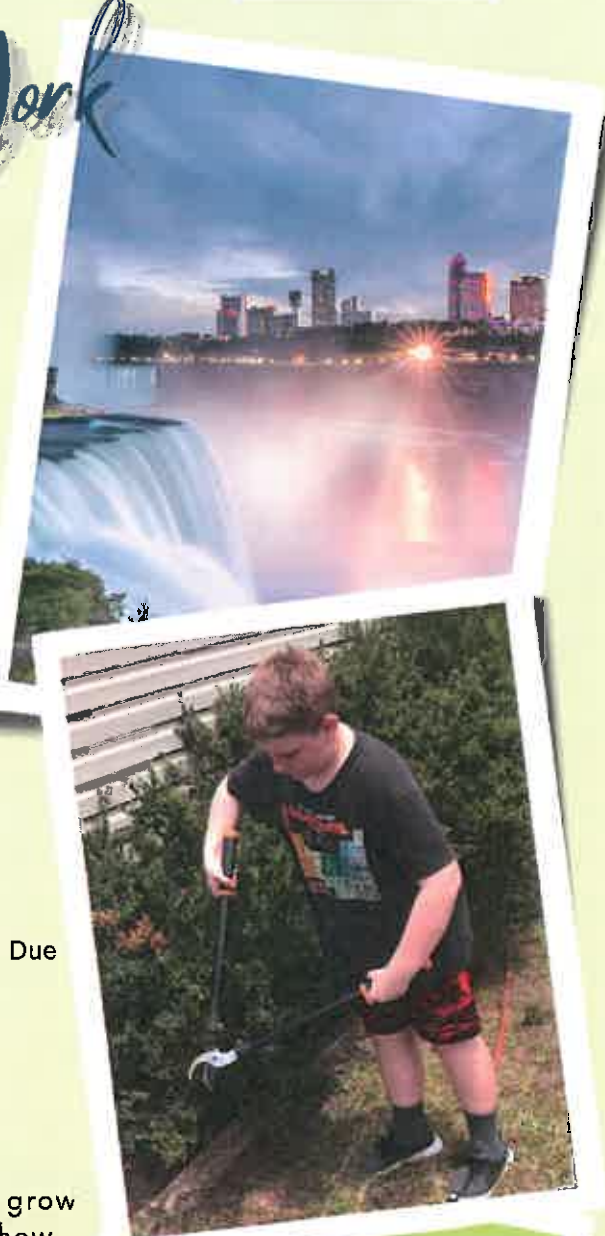


# JUNE 18-23

## Niagara Falls, New York

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP PLANNING



**Sunday**  
**Feb 12**  
**Noon**  
**E-101**

#### 1 Informational Meeting

Attend with a parent/guardian to learn about trip travel details, financial costs and team member expectations. Service on this trip involves yard work, community beautification projects, weeding, gardening, cleaning & painting.

**\$425/pp**  
Fundraisers  
FFC Envelopes  
Support Letters  
Work Days

#### 2 Registration & Forms

March 12: \$50 Deposit. All Forms & Support Letter Due  
April 18: \$125 Due (Can apply fundraising earned)  
May 14: \$125 Due (Can apply fundraising earned)  
May 31: Balance Due

**May 17**  
**May 24**  
**May 31**  
**E-101**

#### 3 Training Dates

These meetings prepare the Mission Team to grow together, understand the NY community and how God wants us to serve its residents.  
May 17 & 24 held from 6:30-8:30 PM  
May 31 held 6:00-8:30 PM (Parents please come at 8:00 PM to pray over the team)

FOR MORE DETAILS  
CONTACT  
LUCAS SHROADES



lshroades@firstfriends.org



330-605-6306



www.greenhouse242.com

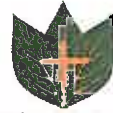
https://youthworks.com/trips/niagara-falls/



We utilize a mission trip model based on servant-leadership that prioritizes what God is already doing through the local Church and community development organizations.

# Niagara Falls, New York

## JUNE 18-23



**GREENHOUSE**  
242

Inviting others to walk with you in prayer and financial support to go "On Mission" helps a Christian community of faith advance kingdom work.

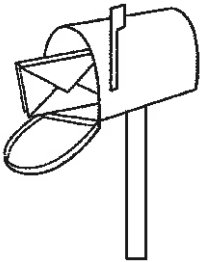
## FUNDRAISING Opportunities

"One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches." (Galatians 6:6 ESV)



### Make a Personal Gift

Talk with your parents about doing chores, or using birthday or holiday gifts to earn the \$50 deposit due March 12th *with trip forms and support letter for review.*



### Write Support Letters to Family & Friends

Paragraph 1 – Write a few sentences about you and your church/school activities.

Paragraph 2 – Tell them about your opportunity to go on a Mission Trip with First Friends Church and WHY this is important to you, and describe how you will be serving others and the sightseeing activities.

Paragraph 3 – Explain how this Mission Trip will help grow your personal relationship with Christ.

Paragraph 4 – Invite them to join you as a prayer and financial partner. Share the cost of the trip and ask them to respond with support. Express your gratitude.

Paragraph 5 - Include Mailing & Payment Info such as: "If you are able to contribute, please write MS Mission Trip 2023 – not my name on the memo line of your check. Mail to Middle School Mission Trip, First Friends Church, 5455 Market Ave. N., North Canton, OH 44714. Consider including a return envelope.



### Sign Up for Envelope Sundays at FFC (March)

Our Church members graciously support youth mission trips. During two Sundays in March, students and leaders will be present at tables and bulletin boards to share information about the Niagara Falls, NY Mission Trip and invite members to take donation envelopes. Funds are shared equally among all participants.



### Sign Up for at least One Service Project (March, April, May)

Local service projects are organized and supervised by FFC Youth Ministries. This is a requirement for MS Students to develop service leadership skills.



### Car Wash Saturday May

Mission Trip Fundraiser - funds will be shared among all participants.



# COMMUNITY INFO SHEET

## Niagara Falls

### Things Niagara Falls is Known For:

The Falls! Millions of tourists come each year to see the natural wonders of the world - the American Falls, the Bridal Veil Falls and the Horseshoe Falls. Niagara Falls is also known for romantic getaways, winning big at the casinos and getting drenched on the Maid of the Mist boat or the Cave of the Winds Tour.

### Niagara Falls History:

The City of Niagara Falls was incorporated on March 17, 1892. By the end of the 19th century, the city was a heavily industrial area, due in part to the power potential offered by the Niagara River.

Tourism was considered a secondary niche, while the manufacturing of petrochemicals, abrasives, metallurgical products and other materials was the main source of jobs and attracted a large number of workers, many of whom were immigrants. Industry and tourism grew steadily throughout the first half of the 20th century due to the high demand for industrial products and the increased mobility of people to travel. Paper, rubber, plastics, petrochemicals, carbon insulators and abrasives were among the city's major industries. This prosperity would end by the late 1960s, as aging industrial plants moved to less expensive locations, and population in the area dropped by 50%.

Conversely, in the 1950s the Falls began to see a huge spike in tourism after the release of the famous movie *Niagara* featuring Marilyn Monroe. Since that time, the Falls has become a favorite spot for honeymooners, landscape artists, tightrope walkers and tourists. Each year the Falls welcomes over thirteen million visitors to the area which brings in two billion dollars to the local economy.

Following a detrimental chemical explosion in the 1970s, Niagara Falls experienced a major economic decline. As a result, the Falls area struggles with large urban issues of poverty, homelessness and addiction. In comparison, the Canadian side of the Falls is booming with production, jobs and larger economic growth. Niagara Falls, USA struggles to be able to bring in industry and provide jobs that allow families to support themselves.



### Niagara Falls Census Stats:

**NIAGARA FALLS POPULATION:** 48,360  
**NIAGARA COUNTY POPULATION:** 211,653

### RACE:

- White (Non-Hispanic) – 69.4%
- Black or African American – 20%
- Hispanic or Latino – 5.8%
- Asian – 1.5%
- Two or more races – 6.2%

### Typical Weather in Niagara Falls:

During the summer months, Niagara Falls enjoys warm temperatures that range from the upper 80s to the mid-90. Mornings and evenings early in the season can be a bit chilly, especially near the Falls. Pack a sweatshirt & some pants for cooler weather in June. Alongside of the heat, the area can be quite humid and at times rainy, making it feel hotter. Participants should pack for hot, potentially rainy, and humid weather.



### **YouthWorks in Niagara Falls:**

YouthWorks opened the Niagara Falls site in 2003. Since then, long-term partnership has grown among our housing partners, community friends and dedicated service partners, who all demonstrate the warmth and hospitality of the area. The community as a whole has incorporated YouthWorks into their regular summer routine and we continue to partner with key leaders in the city that are working tirelessly to restore and bring hope and assistance to those in need. The economic problems and higher levels of poverty in this area are what tend to be overlooked when visiting the Falls. We have an opportunity to see both the strengths and struggles of the community while we serve through social service organizations and hands-on work projects.

### **Issues in Niagara Falls:**

#### **CRIME**

While crime is lower in Niagara Falls than in other cities in upstate New York, crime is still higher than the national average. The large presence of abandoned buildings makes it easy for drugs to be sold in the city and leaves room for other crimes of opportunity. The residential neighborhood where St. Raphael, our housing site, is located does not face these issues of abandoned buildings as much as other neighborhoods, though there are still concerns with petty crime. (Petty crimes can be defined as minor crimes such as theft, trespassing, vandalism, etc.)

#### **ABANDONMENT**

Many people have fled the city over the past few decades. Those who still live here either have strong family ties in the area or don't have the means to move. This has created a sense of despair in other cities, but here it has created a sense of unity in the community. For most community members, the mentality is "we are in this together whether we like it or not." While the city is making strides in urban revitalization, the community is still several years away from seeing the positive impact in the area.

### **Positive Opportunities & Why Partnership in Niagara Falls Matters:**

#### **RELATIONSHIPS**

Many of our community partners have been working in Niagara Falls for years. Outsiders bring fresh energy, willing hands and the chance to build relationships. Relationships are often the vehicle by which we learn about a community and the unique challenges the people encounter. Giving people an opportunity to share their stories communicates value and mutuality between YouthWorks participants and community members.

#### **BROADENING PERSPECTIVES**

By serving alongside a wide range of people who are different and have varying life experiences, you will begin to have your perceptions challenged and changed. Serving in Niagara Falls provides the opportunity to learn from perspectives that may be different than your own. During your time here, you will have the chance to process what you've been learning and be a part of the ongoing growth God has for you and this community.



# CLOTHES TO PACK

*for your Mission Trip*

Participants going to Puerto Rico have an alternate packing list. Check your paperwork page for a copy.

## CLOTHING

During the week your clothes may endure paint, sweat, mud and lots of love from children! Bring clothes that you can work and play hard in. Make sure clothing covers all undergarments when you move around.

- Shorts with at least a three-inch inseam
- Long pants for cool nights. Some service sites require these.
- Short-sleeved shirts
- Long-sleeved shirts, sweatshirts and/or light jacket for cool nights
- Nice, clean clothes for a possible worship service
- Underwear and socks
- Tennis shoes or work boots that cover your whole foot and that can get dirty or wet. You'll wear these to service sites and in the kitchen. You can bring a pair of other shoes or sandals for the housing site.
- Comfortable swimsuit for high levels of activity. You may also want one for additional privacy when showering.
- Towel and washcloth
- Shower shoes - flip-flops are great for this
- Work gloves - optional, helpful if you're working outside

## OTHER STUFF

- Small shower bag or backpack
- Soap, shampoo, deodorant, other toiletries, extra contact lenses, backup pair of glasses, etc.
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Air mattress or camping pad for sleeping on floors; **mattresses must be twin size or smaller**
- Bible and pen
- Reusable water bottle
- Sunscreen, lip balm, hat, sunglasses
- Spending money for snacks and T-shirt purchases  
*talk to your Trip Leader for further details*
- Insect repellent - not every person needs to bring their own; coordinate with others in your group
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered alarm clock not every person needs to bring their own; coordinate with others in your group

## NOTES ON PACKING

Because space is limited in the sleeping rooms, everything but your sleeping bag and camping pad or air mattress should fit in one duffel bag or suitcase.

Please check the weather forecast for the community you are visiting to help you know how to pack.

## PLEASE AVOID BRINGING

- Blow dryers, curling irons or straightening irons because shower time is short and because many of our housing sites do not have the power to run all these small electronics at one time.
- Electronic devices, too much cash or other valuables that you would consider to be irreplaceable. Also, consider leaving your phone at home. These items can distract you from others during the week and may be susceptible to theft. *YouthWorks is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.*
- Clothing with obscene, vulgar, threatening, abusive or discriminatory language or images. Do not bring any apparel that represents hate groups or is gang-related, or any apparel that promotes alcohol, chemicals, tobacco or any other product illegal for use by minors.

## COVID-SPECIFIC PACKING ITEMS

- At least five masks/cloth face coverings. The CDC recommends washing these daily, so make sure you have enough.
- Small bottle of hand sanitizer
- If you have been vaccinated against COVID-19, please bring a photo or copy of your vaccination card as proof might be requested at certain service locations. *Vaccines are not required for participants.*



# BASIC MEAL PLAN

## and Allergy Information

### Breakfast Examples

- Cereal
- Eggs, Sausages and Hash Browns or Waffles and Sausages
- Breakfast Burritos or Biscuits and Gravy
- Friday Morning (an assortment of choices – yogurt, granola bars, cereal, fruit, muffins, etc.)

*Each breakfast menu item has additional accompaniments. Depending on the menu item, this can include hot oatmeal, yogurt, toast, hard boiled eggs, applesauce, small bagels, salsa, muffins, etc.*

### Lunch Examples

- Sub Sandwiches
- Wraps
- Bagels
- White/Wheat Bread Sandwiches

*Each lunch provides a choice of sandwich meat (ham, turkey and salami) as well as fresh sandwich toppings such as tomatoes, lettuce, cheese, etc. Peanut butter and jelly are also offered along with a variety of side options, which may include cookies, chips, granola bars, crackers, fruit, etc.*

### Dinner Examples

- Sloppy Joes
- BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- Pasta with Red/White Sauce
- Taco and Nacho Bar
- Pizza
- Grill Out with Burgers, Hot Dogs and Veggie Burgers
- Cheesy Chicken Casserole
- Chicken Tenders

*Like breakfast and lunch, each dinner menu item has specific accompaniments with its meal. Every dinner meal includes an abundant side salad.*

*\*Meals vary by site because of regional shopping and individual kitchen resources.*

## DIETARY CONCERNS AND FOOD ALLERGIES

Due to the nature of large group meal preparation, we cannot guarantee a participant will not be exposed to any certain food. Nor can we promise to have exactly the right food to meet every special dietary need.

For those participants who are gluten-free, YouthWorks will provide GF bread, GF pasta and GF cereal. We also provide a non-dairy milk option.

Navigating the ingredient lists and having access to the correct foods invites too much room for error for staff that don't know and understand the required diet. **We recommend that participants with severe allergies or special dietary needs bring supplemental food for the week.**

## Dear Friends and Family,

From July 14-20 I'm excited to be headed to Kansas City, Kansas leading a mission trip with my youth group from Calvary Church. We're going through YouthWorks, a short-term missions organization that specializes in setting up life-changing Christ-centered trips for teenagers. The neighborhood we'll be serving in is largely Hispanic, so we'll be participating in bilingual worship and sharing some Mexican food cooked by friends in the community. One of the interesting issues we'll be learning about is how local ministries respond to the many undocumented workers within the community. Additionally, we'll be serving the community through helping facilitate a sports camp for kids, restoring old houses with a local ministry, and serving through partnerships with various local organizations.



As you can probably tell, it's going to be a full week of listening to, learning from and loving on the people we meet in Kansas City, and there is going to be a great opportunity for growth within our group.

I would love it if you would pray for this mission trip experience. Pray for the 17 of us who are going – that we would be open to learning from the community we're visiting and grow closer as a group and closer to Jesus. Pray for the YouthWorks staff who are living in Kansas City all summer long and will be leading us during the trip. Pray for the community members who we meet – that we could love and honor them well. Pray especially for the kids who we'll get to do ministry with – that they would connect the love we show with the love Jesus has for them. Finally, pray for me – that I could really experience this YouthWorks mission trip week in a fresh and effective way. If you will commit to praying for us, please let me know. I would love to share that news with my team.

Also, many members of our team are still working on fundraising for this trip. Please consider supporting us financially. I recommend a gift of \$50 or \$100, but of course, any amount is more than welcome.

Gifts are tax deductible and can be made out to **"Calvary Church"** and mailed to:

**Attn: Sam Townsend  
c/o Calvary Church  
1234 Calvary Way  
Roseville, MN 55113**

If you do send a check, please do not write anything in memo line as this could (because of laws I don't quite understand!) jeopardize the tax-deductible status of your gift.

Thank you for considering supporting us through prayer and/or giving. This trip would be impossible without the generosity of so many.

I'm excited for this new opportunity, and I'm looking forward to sharing about it with you when I return.

Grateful for the places God draws us,

**Sam Townsend**

### KANSAS CITY, KS FACTS & STATISTICS

Kansas City, KS is the lesser-known twin of the city of the same name just across the border in Missouri. The two cities join each other at the Missouri/Kansas border, the junction of the Missouri and Kansas rivers. Being a river town, Kansas City is a port of entry for farm products, and is a large commercial, industrial and agricultural seat of the Midwest.

With a community tagline of "Kansas City, Change Your Perspective," it is clear that Kansas City would like to climb out of the definitions it has had to bear over the years. Poor economy, low median income and high unemployment coupled with high dropout rates, increasing teen pregnancy and homelessness make life difficult for many Kansas City residents. In fact, among the homeless population in Kansas City, 56% are families with children.

- The population of Kansas City, KS is 143,320.
- Kansas City is the third largest city in Kansas.
- The median household income is \$36,211, compared to \$47,451 statewide.
- 21.6% of the population is living below the poverty level.
- The racial makeup of Kansas City is 48.9% White, 30.1% African American and 16.8% Hispanic.
- The unemployment rate is 7.8%.



# TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

## Overview

*This schedule is an example of what you might expect on a YouthWorks site. Because every community is different, the schedule may vary at some sites and on certain days.*

### SUNDAY

4:30–6:00 pm	Your Group Arrives at Housing Site
6:15 pm	Dinner
7:15–8:30 pm	Orientations for Adult Leaders and Students
8:30–9:30 pm	The Gathering
9:30–10:30 pm	Church Group Time (a time to process the day as a group)
11:15 pm	Lights Out

### MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

6:45 am	Breakfast Crew in Kitchen
7:00 am	Wake Up
7:15–7:45 am	Breakfast (Everyone also packs their own lunch during this time.)
7:45–8:15 am	Breakfast/Building Cleanup
8:25–8:50 am	Personal Devotion Time
9:00 am	Gather and Depart for Service Sites (Lunch is around noon at service sites.)
3:30 pm	Depart from Service Sites
3:30–5:30 pm	Showers, Afternoon Snack, Adult Leader Meeting, Dinner Crew Prepares Meal
5:30–6:30 pm	Dinner and Cleanup
6:30–8:30 pm	Evening Activity and Snack*
8:30–9:30 pm	The Gathering
9:30–10:30 pm	Church Group Time and Prepare for Bed
11:15 pm	Lights Out

*\* Some sites include one option night during the week, where scheduled events end around 7 p.m. and church groups can choose between additional free time or options in the community provided by YouthWorks staff.*

### FRIDAY

6:30–7:00 am	Wake Up and Load Vehicles
7:00–9:00 am	Breakfast, Building Cleanup and Send-Off





# Niagara Falls, New York



**GREENHOUSE**  
242

## JUNE 18-23

## INTEREST Form

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to text & email students regarding mission trip details/assignments? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Medical Conditions/Medications/Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

Initial each line

\_\_\_ I have been informed that the cost of the MS Mission Trip to Niagara Falls, NY is \$425 and the responsibility of my family to pay for the trip in full. Fundraising is available. The deposit & payments made for this trip are nonrefundable.

\_\_\_ I give permission for my child named above to participate in the FFC Mission Trip July 18-July 23, 2023.

\_\_\_ I give permission for my child to be photographed and videotaped by First Friends Church while on this trip.

\_\_\_ I give permission for First Friends Church to transport my child for this mission trip and related activities.

\_\_\_ I give permission for First Friends Church leadership to make decisions for medical care while on this trip.

\_\_\_ I give permission for my child to follow Youth Works COVID-19 protocols. <https://youthworks.com/covid-proofing-trips/>

\_\_\_ I will not hold First Friends Church, its leadership team, or volunteers responsible for payment of emergency medical treatment involving my child, or liable in any way for harm to my child for participation in activities on this trip.

\_\_\_ My student agrees to respect the guidelines for behavior expectations for this trip. Any behavioral issues that arise are subject to appropriate disciplinary actions. If necessary, any costs to transport my child home is my responsibility.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement of Above Statements and Trip Financial Responsibility:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note an additional online medical form & covenant are required by YouthWorks. A link will be emailed to you.

Niagara Falls, New York  
**JUNE 18-23**



## **STUDENT** *Questionnaire*

Please complete the following & Turn in With Your Deposit and Student written Support Letter for review by March 12, 2023.

1). Please describe your relationship with Christ and how it affects the way you live your life.

2). Why do you want to go on this mission trip to Niagara Falls, NY?

3). What talents and abilities do you have that can contribute to the team and trip experience?

4). Have you had any previous mission trip experience? If yes, please describe what impact it has on your view of short-term mission trips.



## PARENT/GUARDIAN *Questionnaire*

Please complete the following & Turn in With Your Deposit with your son/daughter's written support letter for review by March 12, 2023.

1). What are your thoughts about your child/grandchild going on the Niagara Falls, NY Mission Trip? What do you hope they learn or discover on this trip?

2). What strengths does your child/grandchild have to contribute to this team?

3). How can we help serve your child/grandchild on this trip to be successful at work sites, in group situations, or while we travel?

4) Please visit [www.youthworks.com](http://www.youthworks.com) and list any questions you may have, or write none.