



High School Mission Exchange Episcopal Diocese of Maine Youth Ministry Traveling to the Diocese of South Dakota



On this Mission Exchange, a team of up to 20 teenagers and adult chaperones from Maine will travel to the Black Hills in South Dakota, and meet youth and young adults there engaged in living into God's vision for their local community. We will partner with staff at Thunderhead Episcopal Center's overnight camp during their 5th-6th grade session, creating and teaching fun and faith-informed games and activities for the campers. In 2020, camp staff from South Dakota will return to visit and partner with us here in Maine. Teens currently in 9th-12th grade are invited to come and experience God at work between and within these two communities.



Campers and staff at Thunderhead Episcopal Center



Teens from the Diocese of Maine

Why a Mission Exchange? A mission exchange is an opportunity for two communities to get to know one another over time, to learn from one another, and to mutually benefit from working together to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. This is a group exchange, not an individual exchange – we will be hosted by a camp and by the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota, not by individual families.

Who can go? Teens currently in high school in the '18-'19 school year can apply to attend the Mission Exchange (current 9th-12th graders). All teens are encouraged to apply, whether this is your 1st or 99th youth ministry event!

When do we go? Sunday, July 7 – Sunday, July 14. We will meet in Portland. Our first night will be a prep night, and we'll stay together near the airport we fly out of (Boston or Portland). We will fly to Rapid City, SD on July 8 and stay at Thunderhead Episcopal Center for the next five nights. Our final day and night are reserved for sightseeing, including Mt. Rushmore. We will fly back on Sunday, July 14.

What is the cost?

Part 1: \$550 Family Travel and Lodging Contribution (financial aid is available)

This covers a portion of your travel expenses. The full expense for each individual is \$900, so if your family can pay more, that would be helpful. Costs per person include airfare, ground transportation, meals over the course of the trip, lodging at Thunderhead Episcopal Center, and sightseeing at Mt. Rushmore and other local sites.

Part 2: \$450 Individual Mission Fundraising Goal (supported by your congregation)

This is part of the group fundraising goal of \$8,000-\$12,000. The money will support the mission of our trip, which is to have a relationship with young people in South Dakota, and will support Thunderhead Episcopal Center and the campers there, who come from across the state, including Dakota and Lakota tribal lands. Fundraising includes things like talking to your priest about how your congregation can support you, writing letters, optional participation in a spring group fundraising event, and hosting small events like a bake sale or bottle drive. We will have an online meeting once the team has formed to talk about fundraising ideas, and to hear from people with prior experience.

Part 3: Cross-Diocesan Support

Support from the Bishop of Maine, Maine Episcopal Youth Ministries, past donors, and group fundraising in the Diocese of Maine. There will be a group fundraising project that you can be a part of in the diocese in the spring.

When are applications due? The initial round of applications is due on Monday, March 4. After that date, if there are still spots available, applications will remain rolling until we need to buy plane tickets in the spring.

To apply, use this form or go to www.maine-youth.org. Mail application and a \$50 deposit to Episcopal Diocese of Maine Youth Events, 143 State St, Portland, ME 04101. Final family payment and permission forms due in spring.

Questions? Ask Sara D'Angio White, Youth Missioner, at sdangiowhite@episcopalmaine.org or (585) 749-9125.

**High School Mission Exchange
2019 Application
Background Questions**

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Gender: _____

Anything you want adult chaperones to know about your gender or gender identity: _____

Address: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Land line, if you have one: _____ Parent cell phone: _____

Teen cell phone, if you have one: _____ Is it okay to text? _____ Circle the best number to reach you

Parent email: _____ Teen email: _____

Your church and its town: _____

Dietary restrictions, accessibility needs or other considerations: _____

Payment Information:

Part 1: Family Travel and Lodging Contribution: \$550

My family can pay: \$ _____

I am requesting the following amount of financial aid: \$ _____

Total..... \$ 550.....

Optional: My family can contribute more toward the \$900 total expense: \$ _____ Teen initial. _____ Parent initial. _____

Part 2: Individual Mission Fundraising Goal: \$450 (part of the group mission goal of \$8,000-\$12,000)

I have thought about fundraising, and talked to my family,

priest, and church, and I agree to the \$450 fundraising goal.....\$ 450.....

Teen initial. _____ Parent initial. _____

Part 3: Cross-Diocesan Support

The generosity from across our diocese will help us live into our mission this year and next. The optional spring group fundraiser will support our larger goal *and* count toward your individual goal.

(A deposit of \$50 is due with application. Final family contribution payment is due in the spring.)

Parent Signature: _____

References:

Please list a reference at your school who can say you'll be a good team member.

Name of reference: _____ Position at your school: _____

Name of your school: _____

Please talk to your priest about this Mission Exchange, and ask them to support you and your family as you prepare.

Name of priest/pastor: _____

Check here to confirm that your priest/pastor knows you are applying to go on this trip

Please answer the personal statement questions on the following page.

