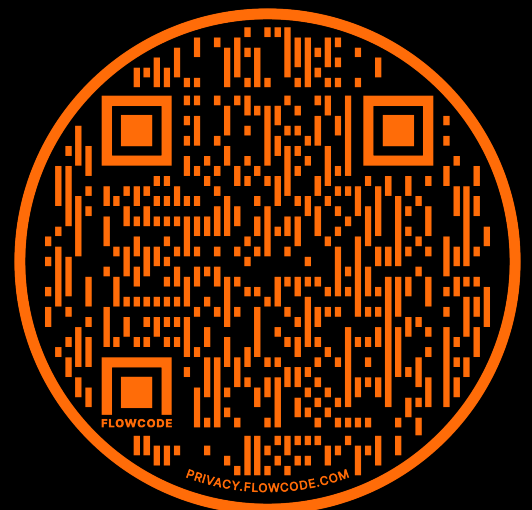




SUNDAY JUNE 2 -
WEDNESDAY JUNE 5
SIGN UP ONLINE:





Dear Summer Group Leader,

We are so grateful that you are considering sending your youth group to Arlington Work Camp this summer! We know there are many places and many wonderful events your church could be a part of this summer; we are thankful that you might choose to spend time planning, preparing, and ministering with us. Our summer as we know it would not happen without you. We hope that this is a life-changing, Christ-filled week for you and your students.

The included packet provides useful information for planning the week you and your co-groups will spend with Arlington Work Camp. If you are a new group, we know that you may have several questions. We hope this packet will begin to answer many of those questions and help you start planning for this trip.

Registration for Arlington Work Camp begins March 17, 2024 and must be completed no later than May 1, 2024. We realize you may not have exact information at this point in the planning process, but if you are interested let us know and we will have you fill out the Summer AWC Interest Form. **If you plan on attending Work Camp a representative for your group must attend our Draft Day Meeting May 9, 2024.**

As always, if you have any questions or if there is anything we can be doing, please don't hesitate to ask. We look forward to working alongside you and your group this summer!

Blessings,

Mike Bingham, George Richards, and Tony Tucker
Arlington Work Camp Directors

We are so grateful that the Lord is sending your group to Arlington Work Camp! This packet should contain (almost) everything you need to prepare for your trip. Please take the time to go through this information carefully. Here is how the information is organized.

Pink Section: Overview

This section gives a brief history of Arlington Work Camp, who is involved, your role as a group, and a weekly schedule overview, as well as some helpful terms you'll need to know. This section will be particularly useful if you are new to AWC!

Teal Section: Guidelines & Other Things

Includes things like safety guidelines, contact information, and helpful locations. This section will be important for you and other adult leaders in your group.

Green Section: Expenses & Prepping

This section includes expense charts for your group, registration information, dress codes, and a suggested packing checklist. This section will help you prepare for Work Camp as we move into April-June.



HISTORY OF ARLINGTON WORK CAMP

Since the summer of 1995 teenagers and adults from local area churches of Christ have gathered together to help serve the citizens of Arlington through Arlington Work Camp. They scrape and paint houses, and do yard work all at no cost to the home owners. Our desire is to serve and bless our local neighborhoods in the name of Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS WORK CAMP

At Arlington Work Camp, teenagers come together to serve individuals and communities while building strong, long-lasting relationships with their friends and youth leaders. In four short days, hundreds of teenagers repair and transform homes while growing closer to Jesus. Arlington Work Camp takes place during one week (usually near the beginning of June) in the summer. Arlington Work Camp gives students a chance to serve community residents in need through home repair, basic construction, and painting.

WHO IS INVOLVED

Arlington Work Camp is a missions opportunity for students in the 6th-12th grade to work alongside adult volunteers who have successfully completed a background check. We typically have students from over twenty youth groups participating together. While the majority of youth groups participating are from the DFW area, we have had several groups come to serve from all over Texas and even out of state. Arlington work camp is currently under the direction of two Dallas/Ft. Worth area youth ministers. George Richards from New York Avenue Church of Christ in Arlington, TX and Mike Bingham from Woodland West Church of Christ in Arlington, TX. Partnering with the city of Arlington TX we select families in the DFW area (mainly Arlington, TX) whose family and their home could benefit from the special love and service our student workers provided.



ROLE AS A GROUP

Your youth group will work alongside at least one or two other groups at your work site. You will be expected to provide transportation for your youth group to and from base camp (Woodland West church of Christ) at the beginning and end of every day, as well as to and from your work site throughout the day. **We ask for you to please plan for an adult student ratio of 1:6,** but if your group is mainly 6th-8th grade students we ask you to consider sending more adults to ensure a safe and effective work site. We will assign an AWC veteran youth minister to be the main point person at each work site.

WHERE DO WE STAY

Most of our groups are from the DFW area so when Arlington Work Camp ends each day (typically around 4:00) they head back to their own homes/church buildings. Each morning we ask for everyone to be at our base camp at Woodland West Church of Christ (around 7:45am). Students from out of town have chosen to arrange housing with local churches close to base camp or stay in local hotels.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

SUNDAY

Typically, groups arrive at Woodland West Church of Christ by 5PM to get to fellowship outdoors with the other campers over refreshments, music, and outdoor entertainment and games. We will be having our traditional kick off dinner at 5:30. We will then move into our Arlington Work Camp Orientation with all adults & students. Finally we conclude the evening in a cappella worship before dismissing to homes/hotels by 8:30.

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

Work Days! Arrive by 8:00 for a morning devotional led by a different sponsoring Christian college each day. On-site work at your home from 9:00AM-12:00PM. Head to back to base camp for lunch and hydration. Return to work site to work from 1:00-3:30. **For 2024, when your site leader has decided you have come to a good stopping point, and has checked in with the camp directors, then you will begin to clean up your work site and leave directly from there.** We typically finish around 4:00 each day, but you could finisher sooner.

WEDNESDAY WRAP UP

After our last day of work, groups head back to base camp to put up the week's supplies. Then you will be dismissed but we hope to see you back up at the building that evening for worship, slideshow, and closing message.

* As the leader of your group you are welcome to organize your own evening activities each night (ice skating, movie night, etc) and/or additional events that week after the conclusion of work camp (Six Flags, Texas Rangers baseball game, etc). We just kindly ask your events during work camp enable students to stay rested for their best service during camp.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Woodland West Church of Christ

3101 W Park Row Dr Arlington, TX 76013
817-275-2657 (office)

Mike Bingham - AWC Director & Youth Minister

682-559-5126 (cell) mikebingham@wwcoc.org

George Richards - AWC Director & Youth Minister

817-308-6710 (cell) george.youthministry@gmail.com

Tony Tucker - AWC Director & Youth Minister

903-530-9828 (cell) friartuck1830@gmail.com

GOOD PLACES TO KNOW

USMD Hospital

801 W Interstate 20 Arlington, TX 76017
817-472-3400

Docs Now Urgent Care

100 W Pioneer Pkwy Unit 114 Arlington, TX 76010
817-688-8273

Wal-Mart Supercenter

915 E Randol Mill Rd Arlington, TX 76011
817-274-1040

OTHER PLACES TO SERVE

- Mission Arlington
- Feed My Starving Children
- New Day Ministries

SAFETY NOTES

- Students are not allowed to use power tools
- Students are never allowed to be on the roof
- Students are not allowed in the homes unless for bathroom emergency
- All students on a ladder must have a spotter
- Students are never to be alone with an adult
- Make sure you take shade breaks and are staying hydrated
- Students must wear seatbelts
- Students should not paint each other, all paint goes on the home



YOUTH GROUP EXPENSE

The 2024 cost per student for work camp is \$60pp for groups that took advantage of the special early bird rate in the fall. This helps pay for: all work site supplies, lunches, closing ceremonies activity, one dinner, and an AWC t-shirt. Breakfasts, dinners (except kickoff dinner), and all other meals not listed you will need to budget and provide for your group.

We ask for adults volunteers to pay a fee of \$25 to help cover food.

Make all Checks Payable to Arlington Work Camp with the name of your youth group in the memo line. **Checks paying the full balance should be received by May 9.**

*If you are a youth group in the DFW area we would appreciate your support at our Spirit Nights at Spring Creek BBQ (Cooper St.) to help ensure the costs of Work Camp can stay as low as possible.

REGISTRATION

Once your group leader has filled out the AWC Interest Form, you will be sent a link to the AWC Individual Registration Form. Their parents will enter the information for each student attending. It is very important that you enter the full and correct allergy/medical issues at this time so our nurses and kitchen staff have adequate time to prepare for your students. **You can begin entering your information on March 16, 2024. No students can be added without permission from the directors after May 1, 2024.** After registration closes we gather later for mandatory Draft Day, May 9, to assign all registered students into their work crews and assign each groups their official work camp site address.

DRESS CODE

We want to share Christ in everything we do this summer, including through how we dress. All the following guidelines are here because they have been issues in the past. We will ask a youth minister or adult sponsor from your group to ask their youth to change clothes if they are dressed inappropriately.

- Wear clothes you are not afraid to get dirty or paint on. We will be working outside where it is hot and humid in the summer, so we will all be dirty and sweaty every day!
- Do not wear clothes that show your breast, belly, or bottom. This means pants/shorts around your waist, and a shirt that covers your abdomen and chest. Shorts must be longer than your fingertips when standing straight up and arms hanging at your side. This is especially important when you are up on a ladder and being spotted by someone underneath you.
- Make sure the words on your clothing are appropriate.
- Make sure you have closed toe shoes on and are not afraid to get them dirty or paint on them.
- Make sure you wear sunscreen, a hat or bandana, as well as bug spray. We recommend wearing work pants on your first full work day so you can be prepared for a worst case scenario very overgrown backyard.
- Masks and other protective gear are optional

VALUABLES

Please do not bring jewelry if you do not have to. Any valuable personal possessions like jewelry, purses, cameras, and/or cell phones should not be left unattended. Youth group members should not be on the phone at the work site (except for obvious emergency situations).

SUGGESTED STUDENT PACKING LIST

- Big water bottle with your name on it
- Cinch backpack to keep your personal items while on the work site
- Sunscreen
- Closed Toe Shoes
- Work pants (for the first day at least) and tall socks (some backyards are especially overgrown)
- Bug spray & Chigger spray (see note above about lawns)
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Bandana or Hat and/or sunglasses
- **One set of work gloves**
- We allow students to be in possession of their cell phones. However, we have seen many cell phones broken while on the work site (dropped in paint, fell out of pocket on ladder, etc). It may be to your advantage to not bring your phone and/or to leave it in your cinch backpack. We do reserve the right to take up your phone if you are not using it responsibly. Adults on site will always have their phones.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

● **ARE YOU A NON PROFIT?**

While AWC is not a recognized 501(c)(3) we are an organization directed by youth ministers, employed by churches who are recognized 501(c)(3), who volunteer their time and oversee the funds collected to completely benefit the mission of AWC.

● **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR WORK LOCATION?**

At draft day in May, we provide pictures and a description of the homeowner's needs for the crew to complete. Most homes are typically between I-20 & I-30 off Collins St.

● **WILL OUR GROUP BE WORKING TOGETHER?**

Yes! You may also be partnered to work alongside another youth group. Our first priority is to make sure that all of the site crews are equally distributed by experience, gender, and age.

● **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**

Any student entering 6th-12th grade that coming fall. Any participants/adults over 18 and wanting to participate will need to complete a background check.

● **ARE BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED?**

Yes. All adults driving or serving on the work crews are subject to a background check every 3 years run by Arlington Work Camp. Results are kept by the directors.

● **WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?**

Typically we repair homes in disrepair. The first day we usually scrape and prep the home for priming and painting on day 2 and 3. We also have crews that focus on specialized tasks like lawn care, repairing skylights, window repair, and/or handicapped ramp construction.

● **WHAT TOOLS AND OTHER ITEMS DO I NEED TO BRING?**

It is helpful when youth ministers bring ladders that will be distributed amongst the crews. Bring one ladder for every 3 AWC participants. You will also need one trailer for your group

- **WHAT IF I HAVE TO LEAVE EARLY OR ARRIVE LATE?**

We would love to have any help you are able to provide. Please communicate that information to your youth minister or group leader. Together with the directors and work site crew leaders we will work out the best plan on a case by case basis.

- **WHAT IF I NEED TO ADD/DELETE A STUDENT AFTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES?**

Any student added or deleted after registration closes will need to be communicated directly to the directors before they are officially registered. Swapping spots without director approval is not allowed. This helps ensure allergy situations, transportation, crew experience, and other factors are kept safe and effective.

- **DO PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO HAVE INSURANCE?**

AWC carries insurance that covers our participants. We do not require your group to have their own policy.

- **I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, WHAT DOES AWC NEED?**

AWC is always in need of ladders. Additionally, if you would like to donate funds to be used toward special projects or scholarships simply make the check out to Arlington Work Camp and give it to one of the directors.



WORK CAMP 2024 SCHEDULE

Kickoff Night Tuesday

- 5:00pm – Arrive/Check-In @Woodland West
- 5:15pm – Kick-Off Dinner
- 5:50pm - Welcome to Work Camp
- 6:00pm - Ice Breaker Games with your crew in classroom
- 6:50pm - Dismiss to Auditorium / Bathroom Break
- 7:00pm – Welcome & Stage game, Work Day Instructions, Safety Video, Worship & Charge.
- 8:30pm – Blessing Prayer & Dismissed

Wednesday & Thursday

- 7:45am – Arrive to Woodland West
- 8:00am – Morning Games/Devo
- 8:45am – Leave for Job Sites
- 9:00am – Arrive to Job Sites
- 11:45pm – Lunch A
- 12:15:pm – Lunch B
- 1:00pm – Arrive back at worksite

Leave your work site at the time that works best for your group to stay on schedule.

*Optional Thursday PM service project at FMSC 6:45-8:45PM (Spots limited)

Friday

- 7:45am - Arrive to Woodland West
- 8:00am - Morning Games/Devo
- 8:45am - Leave for Job Sites
- 9:00am - Arrive to Job Sites
- 11:30am - Lunch at Work Sites/Recap Week
- 12:30pm - Clean up work site and return to Woodland West for supply return

- 6:00pm - Doors open at Woodland West for dinner and games
- 7:00pm - Worship, AWC Slideshow, and 2024 Wrap Up
- 8:15 Dismissed

Hope to see you next year as we celebrate 30 years of Arlington Work Camp
Arlington Work Camp 2025: Act, Love, Walk

