

Aspire Youth Ministries Summer Mission Trips

Each summer Aspire Youth Ministries offers three mission trips for the youth of Second Presbyterian Church. Mission trips give our youth the chance **(1)** to experience what it is like to give of themselves and their faith to help those in need, **(2)** to further expand their world and world-view, **(3)** to interact with our brothers and sisters in diverse communities and their rich cultural heritage, **(4)** to learn new skills, **(5)** to see the effectiveness of a body of believers who work together toward a common goal, **(6)** to stretch their faith, strengthen their personal relationships with Christ and to gain a better understanding of what it means to be a world Christian. It is our long term goal that students gain an understanding how they can live out their faith through service within their everyday surroundings. They do not have to go some place exotic to serve. There are opportunities right next door.

In an effort to give our young people a wide variety of mission experiences, we have adopted a rotation model for our mission trips.

Middle School – (grades 6-8)

2010 – **Urban Trip** – Students experience a large urban setting and the needs unique to such a setting.

2011 – **Big Ten Trip** – Students experience a city that has a Big Ten University in it. We work with organization located close to the university.

2012 – **Rural Trip** – Students experience a rural setting and the needs unique to the people who live in this setting.

High School – (grades 9-12) – Each year there are two high school trips with over 30 participants on each trip.

2010 – **Mystery Trip** – Students do not know where we are heading on this trip. The focus is on the work and the community rather than the destination.

2011 – **Mexico Trip** – Students travel to work with our partner churches in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

2012 – **Extreme Rural Trip** – Students experience life in a community that is far removed from any big city. The needs and the challenges are unique to such a setting.

2013 – **Urban Trip** – Students experience urban ministry and mission.

Short summer mission trips are transformative experiences for the youth of our congregation as well as their adult advisors. It is a privilege to witness God's work firsthand.

Past trips include – Cincinnati, Oklahoma, Playa Del Carmen, Puerto Rico, Seattle, St. Louis, Louisiana, Chicago, Goshen, Mexico and more.