

Information for Parents about YouthWorks Logan, WV

Who is YouthWorks?

YouthWorks is a youth mission organization created to serve youth, communities and the church. It is a multi-denominational ministry that provides youth with a life-changing experience by allowing them to be the hands and feet of Christ and to see God move in a new way. The mission trip opens their eyes to both situations and relationships in different communities and allows them to serve side by side with their peers, learn from leaders and deepen their relationship with Jesus.

For the last sixteen years, YouthWorks has partnered with thousands of churches to provide week-long mission trips to communities across the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico and Canada. In this last summer alone, over 34,000 youth and adult leaders from over 3,500 churches went on YouthWorks mission trips!

Tell me about Logan.

The breathtaking Appalachian Mountains, extending from Georgia to Maine, are scattered with many rural towns, including Logan, West Virginia. Logan, located in the southern part of the state—less than one hour from Charleston—is home to a population of 1,630 people. Visitors can hike, swim or picnic at the 4,000-acre Chief Logan State Park, or walk along the banks of the Guyandotte River. Logan was named in honor of the famous Mingo Indian, Chief Logan. Chief Logan befriended white people until his family was among a group of people killed by white settlers; after that event, he was an important leader for the Natives in defending their land and rights while fighting white settlers. After a bloody and violent period between the two conflicting groups, white settlers permanently moved into the area forming the city of Logan in 1824. This region prospered during the World War II era through a sustained demand for coal, timber and agriculture products. However, improved technology in coal mining and greater competitiveness of alternative fuels eventually reduced the need for labor in the mining industry. Today, jobs are scarce and over 20 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, including nearly 30 percent of those under age 18. Because of the terrain in Logan, many of the homes and trailers also are in need of repair due to flooding.

What happens during a typical YouthWorks day?

Youth will assist in meal preparations, participate in personal devotion time, work at the various ministry sites, experience fun and cultural evening activities and engage in a “Club time” that includes worship, games, skits and a talk. The ministry work incorporates a variety of opportunities to minister to the community of Logan. Participants will run a Kids Club and will have the opportunity to do work projects.

Safety is our top priority.

YouthWorks sets up safe sites in which youth can do real ministry and encounter God. Each site is run by four well-trained, organized staff. Each person is certified in CPR and First Aid. The staff lives in the community all summer long creating relationships and becoming very familiar with the area. Our “rule of three” is set up to ensure that your teenager will never be anywhere alone or without a supervising adult. We also require that each adult leader attending the mission trip (from all groups that attend) has had a background check completed on them within the last three years. Additional rules and boundaries will be explained on site by our staff to ensure that each person knows specific ways to accomplish a safe and meaningful mission trip.

**There is also a page on the YouthWorks website that has been created just for you!
Go to www.youthworks.com and click on the “parents” tab to learn even more about YouthWorks.**

