



Maine Seacoast Mission

Saturday, June 26 - Saturday, July 3, 2021

A mission program sponsored by
Second Congregational Church of Boxford, UCC

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General Information

WHY CHERRYFIELD, MAINE?

The eastern most county in the United States, Washington County, is also one of the most economically impoverished regions of Maine and the nation. The county covers an area twice the size of Rhode Island with just over 32,000 residents, or about 13 people per square mile.

Washington County residents often struggle to make modest livings from land and sea, frequently working seasonal jobs not paying enough to consistently afford basic necessities. Unemployment in Washington County is higher than in most of Maine. Children in the county are particularly at risk; 27 percent live in poverty and experience food insecurity.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS TRIP COST?

The cost of the trip is \$600 for youth and \$300 for Adult Chaperones. This fee will cover all trip expenses (food, lodging, transportation, entertainment, supplies) except food on travel days and souvenirs. There are scholarships available for those in need. There may also be opportunities to earn money for your trip through work sponsorships.

WHAT ARE THE TRIP'S DATES?

We meet at the church parking lot at 10:30 am on Saturday, June 26th and return mid-day Saturday, July 3rd.

WHAT WILL WE SEE AND DO?

On Sunday morning we will attend worship at a local church. Following worship we will explore Acadia National Park (weather permitting) and enjoy a dinner out. The rest of the week we may be working on roofing, window/door replacement, drywall, light construction projects or a total rehab project. Part of the serving experience is realizing that we need to be flexible so that we can quickly respond to needs as they arise. As we get closer to the mission dates a schedule of our projects and activities will be provided to the volunteers. There may also be opportunities to visit a local swimming hole or participate in a high ropes course or zip line.

WHO IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

- The “Second Church Mission trip” is open to ALL students who will be in grades 9 or older during the 2020-21 school year. College students are welcome to join us!
- Adult Chaperones are 25 years of age or older.
- Friends are always welcome.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF A CHURCH MISSION TRIP?

Our trips include the following three components: service to others; cultural and educational; and spiritual. Participants are asked to consider their willingness to be involved in all three of these aspects before deciding whether or not to go.

One point that is important to understand is that this mission trip is NOT a vacation. Everyone works very hard! While we will have fun along the way, the mission trip should not be viewed as an easy week to hang out with your friends.

One of the specific intentions of our mission trip is to place students into unfamiliar circumstances by being exposed to unfamiliar places and meeting new people. Then we seek to provide the time, the space and the structure for them to be able to deepen their understanding of the world and their own spiritual journey.

IS A MISSION TRIP RIGHT FOR ME?

Ultimately, the decision is up to you and your family. However, here are a few questions that may help you think through your decision.

Are you willing to be open to new points of view and to meet new people? The first thing you will have to do if you decide to participate in this trip is to give up the notion that you know it all. Are you willing to be humble so that you can learn from others of lesser circumstances? Are you willing to see other points of view and to discuss them in a respectful manner?

Are you prepared to be away from your home for a week long trip? Homesickness is very real. You should be prepared to be away from home, and all that means (i.e. missing parents, friends, your own bed, computer, television, iPod, cell phones, etc.).

Are you willing to be uncomfortable? As part of a large group you will not be able to eat when you want or go where you want or do what you want. It may be too hot or too cold for your comfort level. Our planning considerations are for a large group environment – we cannot accommodate individual preferences or needs (unless health related) and you will need to adjust to these situations accordingly. Are you willing to endure these hardships for the sake of a life-changing experience?

Are you willing to grow in your faith? If you are not comfortable with this it does not mean that you shouldn't go. However, you should be accepting and respectful of the spiritual beliefs of others and willing to share your thoughts during our time of Reflection.

Can you afford the trip? I put this last because it should be the least of your worries. I like to think that every student who wants to go on this mission trip will be able to go. We have a mission shares program that allow friends and family to help fund your trip and a work/ scholarship program for our youth interested in earning the cost of the trip. We will work with you to help make the trip affordable.



Student/Parent Requirements

FINANCES

The per person cost of the trip will be **\$600.00** (Chaperones pay \$300). Students can reduce this amount by raising money through our "Mission Shares" fundraiser. Each dollar raised by a student will reduce the cost of the trip for that student. The actual cost of the trip is significantly higher than \$600 and will be offset by three fundraisers - the mum sale that happened in 2019 for the mission trip we were unable to take, the chili sale and possibly a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza. The Board of Christian Education has also approved our using funds from our Youth Mission Trip Fund to keep costs reasonable. On the trip itself, students are advised to bring between \$50 and \$75. The first Non-Refundable Deposit of \$200 will be due on February 15, 2021. The second payment of \$200 will be due on April 15, 2021. The final payment of \$200 will be due on May 15, 2021. Chaperones are asked to pay a Non-refundable Deposit of \$100. A second payment of \$100 will be due on April 15, 2021. The final payment of \$100 will be due on May 15, 2021.

TEAM BUILDING/MONTHLY MEETINGS/SERVICE OUTINGS

Usually our team would meet monthly to begin planning and for team building. This year is different. Covid19 prevents (at least for now) in person gatherings. For that reason, meetings have been kept to a minimum. We will have a Zoom meeting on April 25, hopefully an in-person meeting on May 23 and a final meeting on June 13.

In addition, each student is obligated to participate in at least 1 service outing prior to departing for our trip. Betsey Guest-Natale will organize service outings during the year for the group. Students may serve a meal at Cor Unum (we serve dinner once a month) to help meet their service requirement, volunteer for Dirty Sunday at the church in the spring or volunteer for Community Giving Tree. If you have another opportunity that would fulfill a community service obligation, please discuss it with Betsey.

FUNDRAISERS

In order to keep costs of this Mission trip to a minimum, our group will be engaging in a number of fundraisers throughout the year. **We only have two fundraisers planned during the year so participation is necessary.** Below is a list of the fundraisers we have already scheduled:

- "Mission Shares," Ongoing fundraiser from January through June. (Each dollar raised reduces the cost of the trip for student. *If you raise \$200, you only pay \$400; If you raise \$300 you only pay \$300, etc.*). We will facilitate a Mission Sunday worship service in September 2021 where "stock holders" can hear about our trip and we can personally thank them for their support.
- Mum Sale, Sunday 9/11/2019 (We raised \$539! Thank you if you were there to help.)
- Chili Sale
 - All preorders will be done on line
 - With Covid19 numbers on the rise, we will do things a little differently. We will ask participants to bring supplies to the church by 10:00 am on Friday, January 29. Myself and another adult will make the chili and we will ask a family (adult/child) to package and label that evening. We will ask another family or two to facilitate "curb side" pick-up on Saturday.

- Flatbread Pizza fundraising dinner tbd - not sure what this will look like with COVID restrictions.

PAPERWORK/DEADLINES

This is a rather mundane requirement but it is essential to the success of this trip. Throughout the year there will be forms, permission slips and deadlines that will need to be filled out, returned or observed. Both students and chaperones will be asked to sign and uphold behavioral covenant. By returning paperwork on time and by observing deadlines, it will be easier to maintain a high level of efficiency and safety throughout every step of the Mission trip process. All students will have to have an up to date physical and tetanus shot within a year from the trip dates. As your child has his/her yearly physical remember to get a “camp” form from your doctor so you don’t have to scramble for this information as the trip approaches.

SUMMARY

STUDENTS AND CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS

- Must commit to becoming an active, open and supportive member of the group
- Must agree to follow all trip rules and guidelines
- Must pay trip fees in full and on-time
- Must attend occasional meetings - to start by Zoom, as we get closer there will be one in person meeting
- Must participate in our fundraisers
- Must complete at least 1 service outing (“Cor Unum” qualifies)
- Must sign and uphold a Behavioral Covenant
- Must fill-out and return paperwork promptly and must observe deadlines

PARENT REQUIREMENTS

- Must fill-out and return paperwork promptly and must observe deadlines.
- Must assist in fundraisers.
- Must attend parent/student information meeting (before we leave for trip in June).

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Youth - Fill out the Youth Initial Deposit and Registration Form and mail this form in with your deposit check of \$200 to the address listed on the form or drop off at the church office to the attention of Betsey Guest-Natale.

Adults - Fill out the Adult Initial Deposit and Registration Form and mail this form in with your deposit check of \$100 to the address listed on the form or drop off at the church office to the attention of Betsey Guest-Natale.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS FEBRUARY 15, 2021. We have a deadline not just for our own planning but for Maine Seacoast Mission and their planning. You are not registered for the trip until we receive BOTH your first deposit and Registration form.

CALENDAR

All dates and times subject to change.

Watch your youth e-news and special e-mail notices.

January

- 10 Mission Trip Meeting - Meet in Senior High School House 1:00 Zoom
22-31 Chili pre-sale goes live on-line

February

- 5 Chili ingredients due by 12:00 noon in the parish hall kitchen
Chili cooking (Betsey +1) 12:00 noon
Chili packaging 1 family Anytime after 4:00 pm
6 Chili distribution for curb side pick-up 1-2 per shift
7 "Cor Unum" Trip. Leave at 3:30 PM from the church parking lot to prepare meals to-go for our neighbors in need, return by 7:00 PM. This is optional but will satisfy the service requirement. **(Service)**
15 **1st Deposit for trip due.**

March

- 07 "Cor Unum" Trip. Leave at 3:30 PM from the church parking lot to prepare meals to-go for our neighbors in need, return by 7:00 PM. This is optional but will satisfy the service requirement. **(Service)**

April

- 2 "Cor Unum" Trip. Leave at 3:30 PM from the church parking lot to prepare meals to-go for our neighbors in need, return by 7:00 PM. This is optional but will satisfy the service requirement. **(Service)**
15 2nd **Payment for trip due.**
25 Zoom meeting 1:00

May

- 02 "Cor Unum" Trip. Leave at 3:30 PM from the church parking lot to prepare meals to-go for our neighbors in need, return by 7:00 PM. This is optional but will satisfy the service requirement. **(Service)**
15 **Final payment for trip due.**
23 Mission Trip Meeting - Meet in Park House 11:15 (or if necessary by Zoom at 1:00)

June

- 06 "Cor Unum" Trip. Leave at 3:30 PM from the church parking lot to prepare meals to-go for our neighbors in need, return by 7:00 PM. This is optional but will satisfy the service requirement. **(Service)**
13 Trip Commissioning

13 Final Mission Trip Meeting with Parents – We will meet in the Senior High School House from 11:15-12:15 PM to go over trip details. MANDATORY
26 10:30 a.m. meet at the church to depart for Maine

July

03 Return Home

September

11 10:00 AM Meeting to discuss mission trip 2022 and plan for worship on 9/26

11 11:00 AM Set-up for mum sale

12 Mum sale following worship

26 Mission Sunday Worship



Registration for Youth

Program: Youth Mission Trip to Cherryfield, Maine. We will participate with the Maine Seacoast Housing rehab program serving those in the Washington County area.

Service Projects: Possible work projects include housing rehabilitation through roofing, skirting, drywall, painting.

Transportation: We will have a 15-passenger van and a pick-up truck for the week.

Housing: We will be sleeping in a host church which is partnered with the Maine Seacoast Mission. We are not sure where we are sleeping yet, so we are not sure what showers we will be using. As we get closer to the date we will have more information about that.

Cost: The cost to participants is \$600 per person. This covers only a portion of the actual cost. There will be a number of fundraising activities through the year to cover the balance. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 is necessary to confirm a place on this trip on or before February 15, 2021.

I have read all the time and financial requirements for this trip and I give my son/daughter permission to: Participate in the Senior High Mission Trip to Cherryfield, ME from June 26 through July 3, 2021 as described above. I understand that the above descriptions and itinerary may change without notice due to unforeseen circumstances which may include but are not limited to weather, power outages, or mechanical problems.

Youth's Name: _____ Youth's Cell Phone: _____

Youth's e-mail address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I acknowledge that participation in church-sponsored events involves certain dangers and risks, may expose my child to hazards of bodily injury or property damage, and may result in my child being unable to contact me or unable to receive immediate medical care and assistance if injury occurs. I also acknowledge that by participating in church-sponsored events, my child may become involved in recreational and/or sporting activities. In recognition of these risks and realities, and in consideration of my child being offered the opportunity to participate in and benefit from these church-sponsored events, I agree on behalf of myself and my child to release, waive and disclaim any and all liabilities of, or claims against Second Congregational Church of Boxford, its officers, board members, supervisors, agents, servants, employees, and all private persons or organizations volunteering services without charge to transport, supervise, or chaperone my child while participating in such church sponsored activities including, but not limited to, any or all liabilities or claims for personal injury, property damage, court costs, attorneys' fees and interest, however caused or accrued, as a result of my child participating in the church-sponsored events.

I agree that Second Congregational Church of Boxford, its officers, board members, supervisors, agents, events, and/or employees have the right to terminate the participation of my child in any or all church-sponsored activities for failure to behave and act in accordance with the Church's regulations on conduct, for failure to follow instructions and directions of the activity supervisor(s) and/or chaperone(s), or for any conduct deemed by the church, its officers, board members, supervisors, agents, servants and/or employees, in their sole discretion, to be detrimental to or incompatible with the interest, harmony, comfort, or welfare of other or the activity as a whole. I further agree to indemnify Second Congregational Church of Boxford, its officers, board members, supervisors, agents, servants and/or employees for any and all damage or injury my child may cause to others as a result of his/her participation in the church-sponsored events.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Information for Adult Chaperones

After having organized mission trips for a number of years, we have determined that a ration of 1 adults for every 3-4 students is ideal. That means that for 15 students, we will need 4 chaperones. However, on this trip, given the work we will be doing, additional skilled chaperones are welcome. The following information will help you in deciding whether or not being a chaperone on this trip is right for you.

- **Chaperones pay a slightly reduced fee compared to youth.** We also have scholarship money for those who find paying for students as well as themselves too much of a financial burden.
- **Being a Mission trip chaperone is challenging and rewarding** – I could say that being a chaperone is easy, but I would be lying. As a chaperone you will be responsible for your group's safety and work projects. You will make sure they pack their lunches, wear appropriate clothing, that they follow orders and that they are safe at all times. You may be worried that you may be unable or uncomfortable in taking responsibility for the spiritual formation of your group while on the trip. Let me say that there will be experienced leaders on the trip whose responsibility it is to lead the groups in devotions, prayers and to make sure that the students have the opportunity to make the connection between what they are doing and the Christian basis behind their actions. You don't have to be an expert to be a chaperone – you need only have a willingness live in community and to work through challenges. If you are willing to do these, the rewards are endless.
- **Parents of students going on trip are welcome** – If your child does not mind you going on the trip, then it is fine with us. This has worked successfully in past years and I expect it will again. It works best if a parent and his/her son/daughter are in separate work groups. This way you can share the overall Mission trip experience with your son/daughter, while still allowing for each of you to extend your own comfort zones.
- We will have just a couple of fundraisers and meetings. Chaperones are asked to participate in these as a way to get to know the youth before departing. This year is unusual as we are starting late and have limited the interpersonal contact until things with Covid19 start to settle down.

If, after reading these points, you still have questions about being a chaperone, please call Betsey Guest-Natale at 978-352-2127 or e-mail youth@secondchurchboxford.org for more information. If you want to sign-up, just return the filled out chaperone registration form to Betsey. ***(Please note that all chaperones will be subject to a CORI check.)***

Registration for Chaperones

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Service Projects: Possible work projects include housing rehabilitation through roofing, skirting, drywall, painting.

Transportation: We will have a 15-passenger van and a pick-up truck for the week.

Housing: We will be sleeping in a host church which is partnered with Maine Seacoast Mission. We are not sure where we are sleeping yet, so we are not sure what showers we will be using. As we get closer to the date we will have more information about that.

Cost: The cost to chaperones is \$300 per person. This covers only a portion of the actual cost. There will be a number of fundraising activities through the year to cover the balance. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is necessary to confirm a place on this trip on or before February 15, 2021.

I have read all the time and financial requirements for this trip and would like to participate as a chaperone on the Senior High Mission Trip to Cherryfield, ME from June 26 through July 2, 2021 as described above. I understand that the above descriptions and itinerary may change without notice due to unforeseen circumstances which may include, but are not limited, to weather, power outages, or mechanical problems.

Chaperone's Name: _____ Chaperones's Cell Phone: _____

Chaperone's e-mail address: _____

Address: _____

I acknowledge that participation in church-sponsored events involves certain dangers and risks, may expose me to hazards of bodily injury or property damage, and may result in my being unable to receive immediate medical care and assistance if injury occurs. I also acknowledge that by participating in church-sponsored events, I may become involved in recreational and/or sporting activities. In recognition of these risks and realities, and in consideration of my being offered the opportunity to participate in and benefit from these church-sponsored events, I agree to release, waive and disclaim any and all liabilities of, or claims against Second Congregational Church of Boxford, its officers, board members, supervisors, agents, servants, employees, and all private persons or organizations volunteering services without charge to transport or supervise, while participating in such church sponsored activities including, but not limited to, any or all liabilities or claims for personal injury, property damage, court costs, attorneys' fees and interest, however caused or accrued, as a result of my participating in the church-sponsored events.

I agree that Second Congregational Church of Boxford, its officers, board members, supervisors, agents, events, and/or employees have the right to terminate my participation of in any or all church-sponsored activities for failure to behave and act in accordance with the Church's regulations on conduct, for failure to follow instructions and directions of the activity supervisor(s), or for any conduct deemed by the church, its officers, board members, supervisors, agents, servants and/or employees, in their sole discretion, to be detrimental to or incompatible with the interest, harmony, comfort, or welfare of other or the activity as a whole. I further agree to indemnify Second Congregational Church of Boxford, its officers, board members, supervisors, agents, servants and/or employees for any and all damage or injury I may cause to others as a result of my participation in the church-sponsored events.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Return form and payment to Second Congregational Church of Boxford, PO Box 508 West Boxford, MA 01885 ATTN: Betsey Guest-Natale

Tools of the Trade

All participants will need to bring basic tools that they will need for working during the week. You will need the following:

- Tool belt - home depot has cheap cloth ones or you could invest in a nice one that will last you a life time.
- Hammer
- Screwdrivers (both flat head and philips)
- Measuring tape
- Marking pencil
- Retractable utility knife
- Safety goggles
- Work gloves (not gardening gloves)

COVID19

As we all know, Covid19 has wreaked havoc with our plans and activities this past year. Now that some time has passed, we have formulated a plan that we feel will allow us to safely participate in this year's mission trip.

It is our hope that by June 26 we will all have had an opportunity to be vaccinated and life will be on its way to getting back to normal. If for some reason that does not happen, we will be asking participants to take a Covid19 test on or about June 23. We would then require that you quarantine until we leave. If you happen to come back with a positive result you would have to stay home and your funds would be refunded to you. Negative results will mean you are set to travel. Most of our work is done outside helping to keep those we serve as well as ourselves in a safe environment.

We continue to monitor the public health situation and will communicate any changes as we deem necessary.