

***OHIO VALLEY
YEARLY MEETING***
Teen Group
2014 SERVICE TRIP
Philadelphia, Penn.



The annual service trip is a highlight of the OVYM teen program. Each year we choose a destination, typically alternating between a rural and urban setting, and travel to the site for a week of service work interspersed with community building, play, spiritual reflection and exploration of the area.

Our destination this year is Philadelphia, Penn, where we will engage not only in community service, but also learn more about Quaker history and current Quaker activities.



ACCOMMODATIONS

During our time in Philadelphia, we will be staying at the historic Germantown Friends Meeting, 47 W. Coulter St., in the northwest part of the city. The meeting's website is gmm.gfsnet.org.



Accommodations (cont.)

Our host meetinghouse is adjacent to Germantown Friends School, where we will have access to showers and gym facilities. Historically, the meeting dates back to the 1680s. In 1688, its members were involved in writing one of the first public protests against slavery in the Americas. According to the meeting's website, "Many (Germantown) Friends were leaders in the abolitionist movement, and later active in the struggle for equality and justice for all minorities – a concern that persists to the present day." Currently, the meeting is also involved with the Philadelphia branch of Quaker Voluntary Service, a relatively new organization for young adults with whom we will be spending some time in fellowship and work during our stay.

The meetinghouse is a minute's walk from a city bus stop and several blocks equidistant from two subway lines. The historic Germantown neighborhood is about a 15-minute drive by car from downtown Philadelphia.

FOR THE FINAL NIGHT of our trip, Saturday, June 28, we will travel to Pittsburgh and stay at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, a former mansion at 4836 Ellsworth Ave., near the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. This year's FGC Gathering site is less than an hour south of Pittsburgh, so we can easily drop off those in our group who will be attending this year's Gathering before the rest of us return home on Sunday, June 29.



SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

SHARE WAREHOUSE AND GARDENS: Located in northwest Philadelphia, SHARE provides nutritious food to a network of 550 food cupboards and 250 host organizations each month. In addition to providing food packages and emergency food relief, SHARE has incorporated a community garden at its warehouse and administers Philadelphia's Farm to Families program. Nice Roots Farm has become an opportunity to include locally grown, fresh food in SHARE's food packages and offer residents in the surrounding community increased access to a variety of alternative healthy produce. The garden also helps SHARE educate volunteers and community members on the process of growing food. Find them online at: sharefoodprogram.org



Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership:



TTF's mission, according to its website -- tffwatershed.org -- "is to improve the health and vitality of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Creek and by engaging our communities in education, stewardship, restoration, and advocacy. ... Working with a variety of groups including

residents, schools, community organizations, environmental advisory councils, businesses and policy makers, we build watershed awareness, participation, and stewardship through workshops, lessons, tours, field trips, volunteer activities, and restoration projects. All of our restoration projects serve as watershed classrooms, offering ongoing educational and stewardship opportunities."



PHILLY AIDS THRIFT: According to the organization’s website, phillyaidsthift.com, “Our mission is to sell the lovely, useful, interesting, amusing, and sometimes mysterious stuff generous people donate to our thrift store and then distribute the proceeds to local organizations involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. . . . Our current main beneficiary is the AIDS Fund. The AIDS Fund distributes money to twenty-nine AIDS agencies in the five county Philadelphia region. They pass on the money we give them every month with NO administrative costs taken out.”

ITINERARY

Friday, 6/20

5 p.m.: Gather at Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, Rockford Chapel, on the campus of Antioch College (directions below), for dinner, orientation and community building. Spend night.

Saturday, 6/21

Morning: Simple breakfast, drive to Philadelphia, Pa., stop en route for picnic lunch, arrive early evening.

Evening: After dinner, we’ll stretch our legs with a visit to Franklin Square, one of the city’s five original public squares laid out by William Penn. The park now boasts several family-friendly attractions, including a classic carousel (celebrating the city’s carousel-making past), a storytelling bench, food vendors, and a marble fountain built in 1838.

Sunday, 6/22

Morning: Attend Meeting for Worship with host meeting.

Afternoon: Meet with members of Germantown Friends for an introduction to the meeting, its history and contemporary life in the neighborhood and city.

Monday and Tuesday, 6/23-24

Begin service work. We will spend two days, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at SHARE Warehouse and Gardens, 2901 W. Hunting Park Ave. Evenings will include worship sharing, personal spiritual practice, and group games.

Wednesday, 6/25

Sightseeing and visiting Quaker sites, including FGC offices.

Thursday, 6/26

Service work with the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership.

Evening activities will include worship sharing, personal spiritual practice, and free time.

Friday, 6/27

Morning and afternoon: Breakfast with Quaker Voluntary Service participants. Afterward, accompany QVS folks to Philly Aids Thriftshop, 710 S. 5th St. Work in the store together from noon to 6 p.m.

Evening: Have dinner and explore the stores 'neighborhood, a popular funky, artsy area.

Saturday, 6/28

Pack, clean space, drive to Pittsburgh, spend night at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting.

Sunday, 6/29

Morning: Attend Meeting for Worship with Pittsburgh Friends, head home by way of FGC Gathering, return to Yellow Springs Friends Meeting by 6 p.m for family pickup.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE & PURPOSE

On this trip, it is our hope that OVYM teens will be able to deepen their Quaker spirituality, learn more about Quaker history, and develop a greater sense of what it means to engage in Quaker service while having the chance to meet and work with people whose lives and beliefs may be unfamiliar.

Living in community

Over the week, we will live as a Quaker community, engaging with each other in the manner of Friends. Toward that end, we will establish a “nurture committee,” a teen-led group that will work to make sure teens are feeling connected to one another and to the overall experience. In addition to our service work, we will participate in regular meeting for worship, worship sharing and other reflection activities, games, and side trips.

All participants will help with the cooking of meals and cleaning up. We generally plan meals that are healthy but teen friendly; burritos, burgers, pasta and homemade pizza are possibilities. We are always ready to accommodate vegetarians and vegans, and some meals will be entirely vegetarian. We can also provide for dietary restrictions as well.

We will work together and play together, collectively creating a place where everybody feels comfortable, safe, yet also challenged to grow.

If behavior problems arise (see OVYM Teen Group guidelines included in this packet for behavior expectations), it is our hope that the group will respond appropriately with the guidance of the staff. In an extreme situation – one in which a teen has broken the law or seriously jeopardized the health and safety of him/herself or others -- the teen will be asked to leave the group. Parents/guardians will be responsible for the cost of flying the participant home, and that teen will be under the responsibility and care of his/her parents and the airline once he/she arrives at the airport’s security check.

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

At every Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teen retreat or trip, we ask Friends to endorse the following agreement governing the behavior expected at OVYM events, which was developed in collaboration with teens. It is important that the group recommit itself to these guidelines at each event. In registering, you have agreed to the following guidelines. In addition, specific guidelines will be discussed as necessary with regard to safety appropriate to particular activities. Working in the manner of Friends, the group may make additional rules and agreements, or modify these, so that the experience can be comfortable for all participants.

The Teen Committee of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has approved the following minute on guidelines for the conduct of teen activities under its care. We urge parents and teens participating in these activities to read and discuss these guidelines when registering. The Teen Committee approved these guidelines to fulfill its legal responsibilities and to clearly and equally express its expectations to all concerned. Teen events sponsored by the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are open to all teens connected to the Yearly Meeting and their invited guests. The goals of these gatherings are: to nurture and strengthen the Quaker identity of Yearly Meeting teenagers, to have fun and establish friendships, to worship together, and to participate in service projects. It is our expectation that all those who participate in these events will be guided by the following principles:

1. Games, movies, discussion and other activities will be consistent with Quaker values of equality, simplicity, integrity, peace and service to others.
2. Participants will not bring or use drugs (except for appropriate medications), tobacco, or alcohol at teen events.
3. Participants will not engage in sexual activity at teen events.
4. Participants will focus on inclusive behavior and will avoid exclusive relationships in order to build a unified group.
5. Participants will not bring or use fireworks, weapons, or other objects of a violent or harmful nature at teen events.
6. Participants will be respectful of the buildings and property of retreat hosts.
7. Participants agree to abide by further group-generated guidelines appropriate to a particular event.
8. All Participants – teen, guests, youth leaders, and volunteers – will share in the responsibility of establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of respect, trust, safety, and community.
9. By signing a parental consent form, parents indicate that they retain their responsibility and liability for any injuries sustained at any event sponsored for their teens by the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Also, teens who participated in the November 2011 business meeting at Fall Creek discussed the consumption of high-caffeine “energy drinks” at teen activities. Unity was reached in the feeling that the group does not want to forbid participants from consuming such drinks, but recognizes the negative affect they can have on a person’s health. The teens also recognize that when some participants consume a product that puts them in a different state of mind from the rest of the group, it erodes the shared sense of community that is our goal. As such, the consumption of such drinks is strongly discouraged.

PACKING

In general, the clothes you bring should be durable and comfortable. We'll work out a plan to do some laundry about mid-week. Here is the recommended packing list.

Personal Gear:

- Sleeping bag/bed roll.
- Pillow
- A day pack or small bag
- Water bottle
- Notebook/journal for writing
- Toiletries: Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss; shampoo, conditioner; deodorant, etc.
- Sun block
- A towel and washcloth
- Photo identification (not required, but bring if you have one.)

Clothing: In addition to undies, shirts, and pants/shorts, make sure to bring:

- Rain coat or poncho
- Several changes of clothes suitable for outdoor work (both shorts and pants).
- Comfortable shoes for working and walking.
- Plenty of socks
- Bathing suit (in case we find an opportunity to go swimming)
- Hat for working in the sun

Miscellaneous:

- Musical instruments
- Camera
- Stamps/paper/envelopes/addresses
- Personal spending money for souvenirs and snacks
- Cards and board games
- Snacks

Additional notes:

- Try to fit all your personal belongings (except sleeping bag) into one suitcase/bag, and make sure that you are able to carry your own gear.
- All medication must be described to adults present and a plan made for dispensing them.
- Because the trip will be focused on developing a community as a group, personal electronics (mp3 players, video games) are discouraged, unless they can be shared by the group (such as listening to music together).
- Cellphones are OK to bring, but the group will develop a policy on their use. In an emergency, we encourage parents to call Carol Simmons (937) 232-4250, as teens' cell phones may be off.

PREPARATION

All participants in the service trip will be challenged throughout the experience. These challenges will look different to each teen participating: They may include the physical nature of the trip, exposure to a new environment, living in community for a week, or deepening one's spirituality. To help support each teen facing these challenges, it is our hope that everyone will consider the following queries and bring your reflections to the group at the beginning of the trip.

- What are some concerns I have about the service trip? What am I excited about?
- What has my spiritual journey looked like so far? How do I hope to develop it further during this week?
- How does the history of Quaker activism affect my expectations about the trip?
- What are my expectations of working in the city? What are my preconceptions about Philadelphia?
- What does it mean to me to say I am a Quaker? Why is Quakerism important to me?

Directions to Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, Rockford Chapel, Antioch College campus

From **I-70 (E or W)**, take the **I-675 S** exit toward **Dayton/Cincinnati**

From **I-75 N**, take the **I-675 N** exit toward **Columbus**.

Take **I-675**, to the **Dayton-Yellow Springs Road** exit.

Whether you're coming north or south on **675**, you'll turn right (east) onto **Dayton-Yellow Springs Road**

Travel **Dayton-Yellow Springs Road** about 9 miles into the village of Yellow Springs, where it becomes **Dayton Street**.

At a grassy fork you'll see a large mosaic sign that says **SPRINGS**; veer right onto **Limestone Street**.

Stay on **Limestone** for several blocks. After it crosses **Xenia Ave./U.S. 68**, the next street on the right is **President Street**. (If you hit **Corry**, you've gone too far). This part of **President** is just a stub that leads onto the **Antioch College** campus. **Rockford Chapel** is on the left, just inside the campus.

TRIP CONTACTS

Carol Simmons, Youth Secretary

ovymyouth@yahoo.com

937-232-4250

Carol is also the person to call with questions or concerns before or after the trip.

Gloria Bruner, Adult Staff

gloriabruner@gmail.com

812-320-2670

Medical History and Information

Present Medications, schedule and dosage (also list over the counter medications, e.g. Advil)

Medical History/Concerns _____

Date of last tetanus shot _____

Allergies? _____

Food restrictions/needs _____

Family Doctor _____

Insurance Company _____

Policy Holder's Name? _____

Policy # _____

If an HMO please give phone number _____

Parent or Guardians' Emergency Number during the trip.

Name of Parent/ Guardian Phone number

Name of Parent/ Guardian Phone number

Please have your son or daughter carry a copy (or photocopy) of his or her insurance card to the trip.

Anything else we should know?