

Saint Mary Youth Ministry

WorkCamp 2020

Participant Information Packet & Application



Location: To be determined: June 20 – June 26.

Designed for those entering the 10th grade in the fall of 2020 and older

Banica, Dominican Republic: July 11 – 18

Designed for those entering the 11th grade in the fall of 2019 and older

"I truly believe that when the poor meet the rich, riches will have no meaning. And when the rich meet the poor, we will see poverty come to an end." - Shane Claiborne.

What is WorkCamp?

WorkCamp is a week-long mission trip designed to help high school students live out their Catholic faith. This is accomplished through direct service to people in need, communal prayer and worship, small group discussions, talks, and much more. The work you do depends on which trip you attend and to what work site you are assigned, but is typically light to moderate home improvement and/or construction. Some sites have landscaping or work with social service agencies. All work is well supervised and safe.

How can I participate in WorkCamp?

If after reading through this information packet you decide you would like to make the commitment to be involved in WorkCamp this year, please fill out the attached application and turn it in by Sunday, November 10th. Once applications are processed and you are selected for camp your deposit will be due. At that point, you will need to attend ALL mandatory events and participate in fundraising efforts.

Banica Trip Requirements

In order for a youth to participate in the Dominican Republic, Banica trip the following requirements must be met:

- Must be an active member of St. Mary parish as well as registered and participating in St. Mary Youth Ministry via our Wednesday or Sunday programs.
- Maturity level and ability to work in a group, as evident in participation in the Youth Ministry Program.
- Must have attended a Diocesan WorkCamp in the past with our parish.
- Must be a legally documented permanent resident or citizen of the United States.
- Must have a valid passport, and any other documentation necessary for travel outside of the United States.
- Juniors and Seniors in high school will have priority over this trip.

How much does WorkCamp Cost?

Each specific trip has its own unique costs as outlined below. Participant fundraising efforts pay the majority of the expenses, but any leftover costs will need to be incurred by the students and parents. We highly recommend that you discuss your WorkCamp trip with friends and relatives and ask them to support you financially. Adults that go to WorkCamp as Crew Leaders do not have to pay, their fee is included in the campers cost.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• King George: total cost - \$600 deposit - \$75• Dominican Republic: total cost - \$1400* deposit - \$250 |
|---|

**Subject to change due to airfare cost.*

Parent Responsibilities

WorkCamp requires a lot of work that must be delegated to more than a handful of people. We ask that each parent sign up to a minimum of 3 events (fundraisers, lock-in, tool training, etc.) to help share the load. At the November meeting, we will have a list and calendar of all the different jobs for which we require assistance. Please make sure you sign up! If you are attending one of the camps as an adult crew leader you are fulfilling your 3 event requirement.

Can I miss a mandatory event?

No. Participation in one of our WorkCamp trips requires an incredible amount of preparation, formation, prayer, and team building. We are a team and the team depends on everyone! If when you turn in your application you are already aware of a life event that you cannot miss (like your sister's wedding, or your brother's graduation), we can make an exception for these very important events, but you must speak with Leo immediately. Emergency situations that would result in your absence from one or the above (*especially the Formation Night*) would mean you physically cannot move to get to these meetings. A cough, stomach pain or other ailments that do not render you immobile are not acceptable excuses. *We are serious!*

Other extracurricular commitments are important, too, but if there is a conflict, you will need to decide which commitment is more important to you. If you choose the other commitment (*like a sports team, band, drama, etc.*), then you are choosing not to participate in WorkCamp this summer. Some of the most difficult choices in life involve choosing between two things that are good. We understand how difficult it is to say "no" to a commitment. The decision is ultimately up to you, and we support that decision, even if it means you have to miss WorkCamp this year.

Mandatory events that all WorkCampers must attend:

1. *Info & Fundraising meeting* – Sunday, November 10th 2pm – 3:30pm in the Parish Life Center, main hall. We will go over each camp, outline fundraising efforts and recruit adults to help with fundraising and various activities required to make WorkCamp happen. Teen and at least one parent/guardian must attend.
2. *WC Formation Night* – Saturday, January 11th 4pm – 10:30pm. Held at Holy Cross Academy. At the Formation Night, we will go over the required formation sessions the WorkCamps ask of us and we will share team building and fellowship among our WorkCamp participants. This is crucial to building the spiritual and working relationships that form a team of young Catholics who contribute to the faith formation of all with whom they interact every day.
3. *Banica Meeting*- (For those participating in the Banica trip). Sunday, February 8th– 10am – 12pm in the John Paul II house. We will go over the history, unique circumstances and special needs for this trip. Teen and at least one parent/guardian must attend.
4. *Tool Training day* – Saturday, May 2nd 2020– noon – 6pm. Will serve to train our teens to use power tools, ladders, and other safety equipment properly for camp. It is also where we build one of our fundraisers we will raffle. We will have 2 shifts: noon – 3pm and 3pm – 6pm. Shift time to be determined.

Failure to participate in these events will result in your immediate withdrawal from WorkCamp

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Our family does not have a lot of money so we are not sure we can afford WorkCamp. How can we keep out of pocket cost low?** We offer a number of fundraisers throughout the year. Families that participate in our fundraisers on average only have to pay for their initial deposit. The more proactive your teen and family is about fundraising, the more likely your out of pocket cost will be low.
2. **Why do teens need to be involved in St. Mary Youth Ministry in order to attend the Banica camp?** Community is essential to our Church and also to our camps. When a teen only attends a WorkCamp there is no prior history, relationship or context with the adults and other teens attending the camp. WorkCamp is an extension of our youth's communal life at St. Mary. Camps are not meant to be stand-alone experiences. Practically speaking, we cannot take someone to a foreign country when we do not know how they will behave, what their maturity level is, etc. The only way we can know these things is via a relationship with the youth and that happens primarily via our Youth Ministry program.
3. **Why must a teen attend a U.S. based camp before going to Banica?** The Banica trip is intense in many ways. Having been to a U.S. based camp gives us the ability to see that the teen can handle working with a team, has experience with working on a worksite, is comfortable with the spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual demands of a WorkCamp.
4. **I am a parent that is interested in going for the week of WorkCamp. Are there any requirements?** Adult Crew leaders are more than chaperones; they are meant to be companions with our youth on the road to experiencing and sharing Jesus. We expect adult crew leaders to have an active Catholic life that includes frequenting the sacraments. Adults must have background checks and fulfill all Diocesan requirements set by the Office of Child Protection. If you are interested please contact our Youth Ministry Office for more details.
5. **Do Adults Crew Leaders have to pay the full fee as well?** Nope. We factor the Adult Crew leaders cost into each teens fee. You are giving us a week of your life. We could not ask for more.

PARTICIPANT APPLICATION – DUE Sunday, November 10th

Name _____ **Grade** _____ **Date of Birth** _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell. Phone** _____

WorkCampers e-mail (write legibly) _____

E-mail of parent(s)/guardian(s) (write legibly) _____

What is your t-shirt size? (*Note: this is for the shirt you will receive the week of WorkCamp*)

S M L XL XXL XXXL

Have you participated in WorkCamp before? Y / N **If yes, which trip(s)?**

Which trip would you prefer to attend this year? *Note: if more than one trip works for your calendar, please list your order of preference:*

Do you have any health/medical concerns or special needs that we should be aware of? (*Provide separate sheet if necessary*)

Please answer honestly: What role does faith play in your life?

Please answer honestly: Why do you want to participate in WorkCamp?

Covenant for Youth

I, _____, have read the WorkCamp Participant Information Packet fully, and I understand what my participation in WorkCamp entails. I am aware that this is a huge commitment to serve God and to serve others. I promise that if I am selected to be a WorkCamp participant:

- I will attend and fully participate in ALL of the mandatory events.
- I will pray about this experience before, during, and after the trip.
- I will participate in fundraising efforts to raise money for the trip and pay any balance of my WorkCamp trip that is not covered by fundraising.
- I understand that April 1st is the drop date for camp and I will be held responsible for the remaining cost of my fee if circumstances require me to drop out after this date.
- I will behave in a manner appropriate to a maturing Catholic Christian.
- I will share my experiences with the Church when I return.

Note: Do not sign below if you are not willing to make this commitment.

Signature: _____

Date _____

Covenant for Parents/Guardians

As the parent/guardian of the student named above, I have read the WorkCamp Participant Information Packet fully, and I understand what my teen's participation in WorkCamp entails. I am aware that this is a huge commitment for her/him to serve God and to serve others. I pledge to give my teen full support throughout this journey. If she/he is selected to be a WorkCamp participant, I will support her/him in meeting all of the commitments listed above. I will also help with this experience by helping with 3 events in order to collaborate in fundraising efforts and other needs that may arise to the best of my ability.

Note: Do not sign below if you are not willing to support your teen in this commitment.

Signature: _____

Date _____

Signature: _____

Date _____

*[This second signature line is for families with two parents/guardians.
If your household only has one parent/guardian, please disregard.]*

