

2009 Maine Mission Camp

Westminster Presbyterian Church – High School Youth Group
Hartford Community Church, Maine
June 29 – July 6, 2009

General Information: WPC enjoys a long-standing relationship with the Hartford Community Church near White Mountain National Forest in eastern Maine for an annual work-long Mission Camp, which offers our high school youth an opportunity to work with volunteers from the church and each other on a diverse range of service projects benefiting individuals and families with varying circumstances of need.

Costs and Fundraising: The cost of the week varies depending on the number of youth participants and other expenses (generally estimated at around \$350 per youth participant). Through three key fundraising activities – the Fall Apple Pie Bake Sale, the sale of Maine Mission Shares, and parking for the Allentown Art Festival – “tuition” is usually reduced to about \$200 per youth participant. This cost may increase slightly depending on fundraising success and participation; more information TBA as the trip approaches. Tuition is due by June 14.

Adult Leadership: Customarily volunteer adult members of WPC are joined by a Westminster staff member to provide the adult “advisors” for the week. Additionally, young adult alumni may also participate as “junior” advisors. Adult leaders from Hartford Community Church provide direct supervision and guidance for the work sites.

Transportation: Depending on the number of participants and advisors, we traditionally journey as a caravan of 12-passenger vans. We gather in the WPC Parking lot at 5:30 a.m. Monday morning, photos are taken, parents gleefully wave “bye-bye” and the vans roll out by 6 a.m. Miles down the road, some eleven hours later, the vans roll into the parking lot at their destination in rural Maine.

Accommodations & Meals: There is another small church in East Sumner, Maine, which serves as home of the Maine Mission Camp. A spacious Parish Hall serves as Dining Room and, in conjunction with a couple side rooms, as Dormitory. Meals are prepared in the church’s adjoining kitchen facilities, and showers are available at the local elementary school about a half-mile down the road.

Beyond the Service Work: Projects are scheduled Tuesday through Friday, concluding by 4 p.m. or so to allow access to the local school for showering. Saturday is usually reserved for fun and exploration (including time at the ocean, and even a Lobster dinner). One Sunday morning our Westminster youth lead worship and host brunch for their friends from Hartford Community Church. Throughout the week, everyone shares responsibility for meal preparation and clean-up, as well as final preparations for Sunday Worship. And, of course, there is always time for fun and games!

In Preparation: What do you need to do? First, say “Yes, I want to be a Mainiac!” Then, mark your calendars for the upcoming dates and deadlines, shop for the things you don’t already own, talk with those who have already gone, encourage those who are uncertain