

Y.E.S. & Habitat for Humanity



**Building Better Homes Together
Morgantown, West Virginia
Sunday, July 4 – Saturday, July 10, 2010**

General Information

Thank you for your interest in the 2010 Habitat for Humanity Week of Service in Morgantown, West Virginia from July 4th - July 10th . Taking a small group will help to provide a quality experience. Therefore, we plan to take approximately 24-26 youth. Due to worksite safety issues and space limitations, we will be accepting applications from high school student members, who will be concluding their Sophomore, Junior or Senior years of high school and who will be at least 16 years of age by the first workday (Monday, July 5th).

There are many, many people who are interested. It is possible that qualified applicants will be unable to attend this year, and choosing among applicants no doubt will be extremely difficult. Please only apply if you have every intention of attending this trip, if selected. It would be unfair to apply and take the spot of another if you are unsure.

Applicants must be able to participate throughout the entire duration of the trip. You must be able to depart with our group on Sunday morning, July 4th, and return with our group on Saturday afternoon, July 10th.

You may have heard about how much fun the trip is. While this is true, Habitat also involves hard, physical labor. Before applying, please consider any physical or health conditions, which may be aggravated by strenuous construction work in a hot, humid environment. Please consult with your parents and decide together. I would be happy to answer any questions you or your parents may have about the type of work we do in order for you to make an informed decision.

We ask that participants have a willingness to participate in reflection activities, prayer and journaling before and during the Habitat Week of Service. Once selected, Habitat participants must attend our mandatory Habitat Retreat Day. We will participate in a service project, discuss social justice issues as they relate to Habitat, reflect, and share.

Commitment to Christ, service to others and involvement in Y.E.S., will all be considered. We want our participants to be committed, focused, and active St. Mary of the Lakes parishioners or active parishioners in their home churches, who are willing to do the work of Christ.

Commonly Asked Questions

*What makes a qualified Habitat 2010 participant? Applicants have until the application deadline, **March 28th**, to fulfill all of the following requirements. You must:*

- Be at least 16 years of age by the first workday of the trip (Monday, July 5th);
- Be a high school student who is currently in Sophomore, Junior or Senior year;
- Be an active, registered member of Y.E.S. (if you are not registered, please do so.);
- Be in good, general health;
- Return completed application (attached) and a personal essay (questions are attached);
- Have attended at least five Y.E.S. meetings since Kick Off 2009 – March 28th deadline;
- Have participated in or signed up by March 28th for at least two service projects organized or sponsored by Y.E.S. or the St. Mary of the Lakes parish community. March & April service projects, for which applicants have signed up by March 28th, can be used towards this requirement.

If I haven't yet participated in service opportunities offered by Y.E.S., can I still apply?

Yes, the service requirement can be fulfilled through March & April. If applicants use service projects occurring after the March 28th deadline to meet the minimum requirement of "2 service projects" and subsequently, do not participate, this will nullify an acceptance (if accepted) for the 2010 Habitat for Humanity trip.

Throughout the year, the days of our service opportunities have varied to accommodate busy schedules. Many occurred not only on the weekends, but also weekday afternoons/evenings. Shortly, we will offer 5 additional service opportunities in March and 2 additional opportunities in April to help applicants meet this minimum service requirement. Please be aware that most service opportunities have limited space and it may be difficult to accommodate applicants who still need to fulfill this requirement. All sign ups are on a first come, first serve basis.

If I meet these requirements, will I automatically be accepted?

These are the **minimum** requirements to apply. Acceptances are based not only on the application and essay, but also on applicants':

Overall attendance and contributions made during Y.E.S. meetings;

Participation in service opportunities offered by YES;

Involvement in any additional service to or ministry with St. Mary of the Lakes Church or applicant's church;

Has the applicant taken on leadership responsibilities in YES?

Has the applicant been respectful to peers/adults and acted responsibly throughout YES activities?

Will seniority count?

Seniority is not as important as the requirements stated above.

Will I qualify if I have/have not attended Habitat in the past?

Attendance at previous Habitat trips does not automatically qualify you for the trip. We will focus on the previously mentioned requirements. Therefore, there may be individuals who have gone in the past, but may not be the best candidates for this year's trip. On the other hand, there may be individuals who have attended in the past and are excellent candidates to return.

Do I need to have construction experience? No! Just a good work ethic.

APPLICATION
2010 HABITAT for HUMANITY WEEK of SERVICE
Morgantown, West Virginia
July 4th - July 10th

Please return only the following two pages and your essay by March 28, 2010. You may either return a handwritten copy or you may also e-mail your completed application to jsnyder@smlparish.org. The application can also be found on the parish website www.smlparish.org. Click on Youth Energized in the Spirit and click on Habitat Application.

Again, before submitting your application, please consider your ability to attend this trip. Please apply only: if you are available for the entire Habitat week and have every intention of participating, once selected; and you are in good, general health enabling you to perform strenuous physical labor in hot, humid conditions. I would be happy to answer any questions you or your parents may have about the type of work we do in order for you to make an informed decision.

Name _____ Grade _____

Have you ever attended a Y.E.S. Habitat for Humanity summer project? When?

When is the best day and time of the week to schedule an interview (if necessary)?

Please list St. Mary of the Lakes Parish or your home parish activities, **not related to Y.E.S.**, in which you have been involved during high school. Please be as specific as you can. If you can remember what year(s) you were involved, that would be helpful. Some examples may include: community service, reader/leader at Mass, cantor at Mass, other Mass ministries, Sunday School catechist, P.R.E.P. catechist, Vacation Bible School volunteer, social events, fundraising activities, etc.

Which activity from this list did you enjoy the most? What did you learn from the experience?

List other service projects, **not related** to St. Mary of the Lakes Church or your home parish, in which you have been involved during high school?

Which project did you enjoy the most? What did you learn from the experience?

List other activities in which you are involved (sports, clubs, extracurricular activities...).

Habitat Application Essay

Please incorporate these questions into your essay and be as honest and as candid as possible.

1. The Habitat for Humanity Week of Service is a labor of love. Throughout our Sunday meetings, we've talked about God's description of love. Love is to want the best for another, which often calls for real sacrifice. Describe how you would share God's love by volunteering on the Habitat for Humanity Week of Service. Please keep in mind all of the people with whom you would be interacting: homeowners (possibly), Habitat staff, YES youth members, YES chaperones, staff & parishioners of the church where we stay, etc.
2. Please read the parable of "The Vine and the Branches" (John 15: 1-17) from The Bible. Comment on the themes of love and discipleship in this parable as they relate to your desire to participate in the Habitat for Humanity Week of Service.
3. What growth in your faith do you desire from this experience?
4. The Habitat for Humanity Week of Service requires a lot of patience and ability to be flexible with people and the tasks assigned both on the jobsite and at our "home" for the week. Describe a situation in which you showed patience and flexibility while working or living with other people. How did your actions & demeanor positively affect these people and the situation? If placed in that situation again, is there anything you did that you would change to create an even better outcome?
5. During the 2009 Habitat trip, our group's abilities and character were negatively judged before we arrived at the jobsite and at our "home" for the week. Our hard work, perseverance, love and respectful attitudes quickly changed these opinions. Describe 3 personal qualities that show others that you are a follower of Jesus. How would this trip help you further develop these qualities?
6. SENIORS ONLY QUESTIONS: How would you like to continue to live and to share your faith as you move beyond high school? What legacy would you like to leave the younger members of Y.E.S.?

2010 Habitat for Humanity Requirements

If selected to participate in the 2010 Habitat for Humanity Week of Service, you must:

- **Remain active with Y.E.S. throughout the remainder of the year.**
- **Attend mandatory Habitat Retreat Day.**
- **Pay Habitat fee of \$175.**
- **Fill one food bag.**
- **Attend one mandatory Information Night with your parents.**
- **Hand in all permission slips, payments, parent-teen contracts at the Information Night for parents and participants.**