



**SH MISSION TRIP 2022**

Cherryfield, ME

# **INFORMATION PACKET**

June 11-19, 2022



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June 11-19, 2022 #shmissiontrip2022



December 8, 2021

Dear Possibly Interested in Going on This Trip Teenager!

Are you ready to be forever changed as a person? Are you ready to step out of your comfort zones, embrace the awkwardness, be extremely flexible, and be pushed to your limits mentally, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then I hope you will join us on our 2022 SH Mission Trip.

This June a caravan of 70+ teenagers, 25+ adults, 8 passenger vans, 2 cargo vans, 1 support wagon and a TON of food and gear will be heading to New England for an epic week of serving Jesus. We will be working with the crew at Seacoast Mission – a local mission organization that has been serving this community for over a century.

It's hard to explain why these trips are so...awesome. You kind of just have to experience it. I don't know if it's the fact that we all are forced to do life together for a week or the sweat equity we all pour into helping the people in this community or maybe it's the crazy, off-the-wall games we play or the powerful worship services every night or maybe it's the incredible food we are fed all week long. I don't know what exactly it is, but somewhere in the midst of this week something magical, something spiritual and radical and unexplainable happens. The light bulb comes on, we realize our purpose for being in this place at this time and God starts changing our hearts and our souls and we leave forever changed.

You may have doubts and I get it. All I can tell you is to ask those who have gone before, take a risk, pack your bags and join us on this once-in-a-lifetime, award-winning, Trip Advisor recommended, CDC approved & FDA certified adventure. I have absolutely zero doubt that you will be blowing up your Instagram & Snapchat feed with massive overloads of fun and awesomeness during and after this life-changing trip.

I want to thank you for even considering this trip. It takes courage to serve and it takes endurance and patience and determination to do it for an entire week in the middle of the summer. In this packet you will find everything you need to know to be a part of our team next summer. Don't delay in turning everything in before our February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. We have limited space and those spots will fill extremely fast.

If you have any questions, I am always available and more than willing to talk to you about the trip and help you prepare for this experience. In the meantime I will be praying that you join our team and that this summer's trip will be as beneficial to you and your growth as a person as it is to the people of Maine.

All the Best,

Nate Taylor

Director of Youth Ministries, Avon Lake U.C.C.

440.503.2549

[nate@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:nate@avonlakeucc.org)



**AVON LAKE**  
United Church of Christ

Avon Lake U.C.C. 32801 Electric Blvd. Avon Lake, OH 44012 [www.avonlakeucc.org](http://www.avonlakeucc.org) 440.933.3241



## 2022 SH Mission Trip INFORMATION SHEET

It's SH Mission Trip time. We are excited to open registration this January for next summer's trip to Bar Harbor, ME with Seacoast Mission. This sheet is designed to provide you with a LOT of solid, helpful information that you need to know in order to participate in next summer's trip. **DON'T LOSE THIS PAPER.** Things change often and we do our best to keep you updated on any of those changes. Please be sure to read our weekly Waypoint Youth Ministries email for all the latest information on next summer's trip and follow us on social media @waypointym to stay as updated as possible.

### WHERE ARE WE GOING?

We are going to be traveling to Cherryfield, Maine to spend a week working with an organization called Seacoast Mission ([www.seacoastmission.org](http://www.seacoastmission.org)). Since 1905 this organization has been serving and helping and caring for the people of this community. Bar Harbor is a well-known tourist destination, but the need outside of this community is great. We will be working on wheelchair ramps, siding projects, painting jobs and other home rehabilitation and improvement projects. Seacoast Mission rehabilitates or rebuilds 20 houses every single year.

### WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

We will be doing all sorts of construction work – big and small to help those in this community. It could be anything from framing to painting, siding to roofing, laying carpet, installing windows, removing debris, fixing, tweaking, building, dismantling, creating and so much more. You will be challenged and if you've never touched a hammer in your life...don't worry – we have something for everyone.

### WILL THERE BE ANYTHING FUN TO DO?

This trip is packed with FUN. Top to bottom. We believe that serving others is allowed to be enjoyable. Our goal is to provide an element of fun in everything we do from the van ride to the music we play at meals, to the games we play, to the way our leaders interact and of course all of the unforeseen really, really funny, snapchat worthy hilarity that always ensues. On top of all of this we have some other things planned like hiking in Acadia National Park, souvenir shopping in Bar Harbor, stargazing and dining on some local fare.

### WHO CAN GO ON THE TRIP?

Our Sr. High Mission Trip at Avon Lake U.C.C. is open to all youth currently in grades 9-12. YES, you can bring a friend. You do NOT have to be a member of our church to attend this trip or a member of any church.

### WHEN IS THE TRIP?

The trip is scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2022 to Sunday, June 19, 2022. We will leave at 9:00AM on Saturday and return around 4:00PM on Sunday.

### HOW MUCH WILL THE TRIP COST?

This year's trip will cost \$450.00 per person for ALUCC members. For non-members the trip will cost \$550.00. This includes travel, lodging, t-shirt, construction materials, tools, equipment and food. Meals during travel, souvenirs and similar items are additional expenses for each participant. We have scholarships and financial aid available for ANYONE who cannot afford the cost of our trip. A \$100, non-refundable deposit is due by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to

secure your spot. All balances must be paid in FULL by May 1, 2022. Checks may be made payable to *Avon Lake United Church of Christ*. Please DO NOT let cost affect your decision to go on this trip or not. If you are concerned about the cost, please contact Nate privately and we can discuss your concerns.

### **HOW WILL WE GET THERE?**

We will be traveling to Maine via 15 passenger vans driven by our Adult Leadership Team.

### **WHAT WILL WE DO FOR FOOD?**

While we are in Maine we will be responsible for the purchasing, preparation, cooking and cleaning of our breakfast, lunch and dinner each day. Katie Schulz will be heading up our Food Crew. This team of adults from our church will be traveling with us all week and preparing our meals every day. Two things I can guarantee – you will not go hungry and you will be amazed at the talents of our Food Crew. Meals on the road will consist of your favorite fast food fare.

### **WHO WILL CHAPERON THE TRIP?**

Our trip to Bar Harbor, Maine will be fully chaperoned by members of our Waypoint Youth Ministries Adult Volunteer Team, other parents of youth going on the trip, and myself. All adults interested in going on this year's trip must inform me of their interest by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyone who has not attended an ALUCC Youth Ministries Mission Trip in the past must complete an Adult Leadership Team Interest Form by January 1<sup>st</sup>. All chaperon spots will be filled based on need, skills and the number of students signed up to go on this year's trip. You will be informed by early February if you have been selected to attend this year's trip.

### **WHAT COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IN PLACE?**

Our church council along with our COVID Advisory Team will be actively involved in any requirements and restrictions surrounding these trips. ALL participants must be fully vaccinated for the Covid-19 virus at least 2 weeks before we go on our trip. Your children's safety and well-being is our number one concern. We will have much more information regarding this as we get closer to the summer.

### **PAPERWORK:**

You must have the following forms completed to participate:

- \_\_\_ 2022 ALUCC SH Mission Trip Application & Questionnaire Form – this form along with deposit secures your spot
- \_\_\_ 2021-2022 ALUCC Registration & Waiver/Release Form
- \_\_\_ 2021-2022 SH Mission Trip Medication & Emergency Consent Form – wait to fill out until May
- \_\_\_ Seacoast Mission Volunteer Liability Form – paper form available after the New Year
- \_\_\_ Seacoast Mission Volunteer Permission Form – paper form available after the New Year

### **WHAT ABOUT FUNDRAISING?**

The cost of these trips is significant. The registration costs and support from our Missions Team covers a large portion of our budget. It still leaves us with more to be done. We have three fundraisers that require EVERYONE's help and participation:

EVENT: Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser

WHEN: Spring 2022 – DATE TBD

HELP NEEDED: Tell every single human you know to eat-in or carry out at Buffalo Wild Wings in Avon Lake on this day, all day, three times a day. THEY MUST PRESENT one of coupons (coming soon) at the time of ordering to ensure we get credit for their meal. We will receive 20% of the total. Super easy. Super awesome.

EVENT: 13th Annual Cabin Fever Corn Hole Tournament

WHEN: Saturday, March 19, 2022

HELP NEEDED: Everyone going on the trip is required to sign-up (2) teams for our tournament. The cost for a team to participate in the tournament is \$50. For every team that one does NOT sign-up, they will owe an additional \$100 to go on the Mission Trip. If you are not playing in the tournament, you will be asked to volunteer or help out in another capacity. This is our biggest fundraiser we do every year and it requires all hands on deck.

EVENT: Valet Car Wash

WHEN: Sunday, May 22, 2022 8AM – 12PM

HELP NEEDED: This one day fundraiser usually nets us close to \$1,200. Church members arrive for church, leave us their keys at the front door, adults move the cars to the washing stations and when church is over, church members pick up their keys, make a donation and enjoy their clean car. It's simple, it's easy and it requires everyone's help. We will have two shifts for people to help out during this fundraiser.

### **ARE THERE ANY MEETINGS OR EVENTS I WILL NEED TO ATTEND BEFORE THE TRIP?**

Below you will find a list of all the MANDATORY dates that you need to attend in order to participate in our trip next summer. We have implemented an attendance policy for our SH Summer Mission Trip. Everyone is required to:

- A) Attend and participate in all of our mandatory meetings and events or
- B) If you are going to miss ANY of the mandatory dates for ANY reason, make-up the missed mandatory date by volunteering at the church. For each missed mandatory event, a student is required to make up 2 hours of volunteer work at any of a number of church related opportunities. See opportunities listed below. When you complete your make-up work, you must fill out a Mission Trip Make-Up Work Form, have it signed by the work supervisor and turn it in to Nate BEFORE June 1st. This form will be available online after the first of the year. Anyone who fails to make-up their missed mandatory events by June 1st will NOT be permitted to attend our SH Summer Mission Trip and will forfeit their deposit.

### ACCEPTABLE MAKE-UP WORK OPPORTUNITIES:

- Good Neighbor Thrift Shop - located at 158 Lear Rd. 440.933.8627 \*open six days a week
- Saturday Morning Work Crew - 8:30AM - 12:00PM every Saturday at the church
- SH Mission Trip prep work - as needed. See Nate.
- Buoy work - as needed. See Nate.

### MANDATORY DATES:

- Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 13th Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament
- Wednesday, May 25, 2022 TEAM MEETING 8PM in the Sanctuary
- Trip Commissioning Service – Sunday, June 5, 2022 @ 10AM
- Post-Trip REUNION & Worship Planning – Wednesday, July 6, 2022 @ 7:30PM
- 2022 SH Mission Trip Worship Service – Sunday, July 17, 2022 @ 10AM

### CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Saturday, April 23, 2022 Church Yard Clean-Up 8AM – 12PM
- Sunday, May 22, 2022 Car Wash 8AM-12PM

- \_\_\_ Skill Sessions (MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE if you have NEVER attended an ALUCC SH Mission Trip)
  - \_\_\_ Saturday, April 2, 2022 9AM-11AM
  - \_\_\_ Saturday, May 7, 2022 9AM-11AM

\*All dates are tentative and subject to change

\*Pro tip: It's a really good idea to join us on Wednesday nights for SH Youth Group when you can.

**WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GO ON THE TRIP?**

There are a number of things you need to do to go on this summer's trip. The first and most important is to pray about this opportunity. Are you ready and willing to serve God and the people in Maine? Next you will need to do the following:

1. Complete all of your forms when registration opens on Monday, January 3, 2022
2. Turn in your \$100, non-refundable deposit by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022
3. Sign-up a minimum of 2 teams for our Cabin Fever Corn Hole Tournament
4. Volunteer at all of our fundraisers.
5. Put the entire list of MANDATORY dates on your calendar and don't overbook yourself
6. Attend church and Sr. High on a regular basis
7. Attend ALL of the MANDATORY meetings and/or fundraising events

We are so excited to have you join us on this adventure next summer. It will be life-changing, inspiring, transformational and a realllllly, realllllly good time. If you have any questions between now and June, please don't hesitate to contact me at [nate@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:nate@avonlakeucc.org) or 440.503.2549. Please read our weekly youth ministries email that will have a special section for SH Mission Trip Updates. There will be lots and lots of things you need to know before we get out of here. Be on the lookout and start getting ready. This will be the #bestweekever.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Presbyterian New England Church  
 24 Circular St.  
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
 518.584.6091  
[pniecchurch.org](http://pniecchurch.org)  
 CONTACT: Rev. Annie Reilly

Maine Seacoast Mission  
 127 West St.  
 Bar Harbor, ME 04609  
 207.288.5097  
[seacoastmission.org](http://seacoastmission.org)  
 CONTACT: Scott Shaw

Avon Lake U.C.C.  
 32801 Electric Blvd.  
 Avon Lake, OH 44012  
 440.933.3241  
[avonlakeucc.org](http://avonlakeucc.org)  
 CONTACT: Nate Taylor



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## 2022 SH MISSION TRIP 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament

On Saturday, March 19, 2022 we will be hosting our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament. The event is a one-day fundraiser that brings in over \$12,000 for our SH Mission Trip each year. The tournament has grown to one of the largest tournaments in NE Ohio. In order for this event's continued success we rely on the help of our mission trip students and families. This help comes in many shapes and forms including, but not limited to the following:



**PLAY:** The best and easiest way to help make this event a success is to play in the tournament and get others to play in the tournament. Every team that plays is a big help to the overall outcome of this fundraiser. Every student going on this summer's trip is required to have two teams play in the tournament.

**DONATE:** There are two types of donations we need specifically – items for our concession stand and items for our silent auction. Our silent auction depends on the donations of tickets to events, goods, services, items of value, autographs, rentals, etc. in order to generate any proceeds. If you have something that you would like to donate to our silent auction please contact – Kim Kramhoeller at [kawtoon@aol.com](mailto:kawtoon@aol.com). We have sponsorship & donation packets available that have everything you should need for someone interested in making a donation. Regarding our concession stand we are in need of an assortment of items that can be found on our Sign-Up Genius page. For more information please contact Katie Schulz at [schulz311@hotmail.com](mailto:schulz311@hotmail.com).

**SPONSOR:** Another stream of income for this event is our invitation to local businesses and organizations to be a part of this event through our event sponsorship program. There are several different opportunities for a company to be a part of this year's event. You can sponsor a playing court, an entire room of playing courts, the team number bibs and the World Record Shot among many others. Sponsorships range in cost from \$250 - \$1,500. For more information on how you can become an event sponsor, please contact Nate Taylor at [nate@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:nate@avonlakeucc.org).

**VOLUNTEER:** In order to run an event of this size it requires a lot of volunteers. Another opportunity for you to help out at this year's event is to sign-up to volunteer. We have several different volunteer opportunities including; babysitting, concessions, registration, tournament central, set-up and tear down, game wardens, runners, texting team, world record shot, greeters, silent auction, 50/50 raffle team and more. For more information about volunteering opportunities, please contact Beth Gee at [bfische1@yahoo.com](mailto:bfische1@yahoo.com) and watch for a link to our sign-up genius page coming soon.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

January 3, 2022	Registration Opens
February 22, 2022	Earlybird Registration Deadline – price goes up \$10 after this date
March 6, 2022	Tournament Registration Deadline
March 19, 2022	13 <sup>th</sup> Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.avonlakeucc.org/cornhole](http://www.avonlakeucc.org/cornhole)

@cabinfevercornhole

[nate@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:nate@avonlakeucc.org)



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## 2022 SH Mission Trip PACKING LIST

We have put this packing list together as a recommendation for what you will need to ensure that you have a great week. Please read through this carefully.

**WORK BOOTS:** An absolute MUST! No tennis shoes will be permitted on the worksites. The worksites can be very muddy and may be dangerous if proper foot attire is not being worn.

**APPROPRIATE CLOTHING:** Construction work has a potential for danger and all workers need to be clothed properly. Volunteers must wear field suitable clothing (long pants, t-shirt or work shirt, and work boots. UNSAFE clothing in our typical worksite includes shorts, athletic pants, capri pants, tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, sandals, etc.). 5,6 work shirts and 2,3 pairs of work pants/jeans should be plenty. Don't forget good work socks. Tank tops are permitted as long as the sides of your tank top are still intact.

**TOOLS:** If you bring tools (it is not necessary that you do), please mark them with your identification. Seacoast Mission cannot accept responsibility for your own tools.

### WORK GLOVES

WATER BOTTLE – A MUST!

SUNGLASSES

SUNSCREEN

RAIN COAT (we work in all weather)

TOWEL(s)

TOILETRIES & PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

DEODORANT – Avon Lake U.C.C. Mission Trip Law Section 3-D4368

SLEEPING BAG, PILLOW, TWIN FITTED SHEET

CHANGES OF CLOTHING FOR EVENINGS (shorts, tshirts, sandals, tennis shoes)

SWEATSHIRT or LIGHT JACKET (It's Maine. Early June. The tops of mountains are normally cold. Just sayin...)

TENNIS SHOES

SANDALS

GUITAR OR OTHER MUSIC INSTRUMENTS (drum sets, tubas excluded...sorry!)

INSECT REPELLENT

HAND SANITIZER

SPORTS EQUIPMENT (baseball glove, lacrosse stick) \*at own risk

BIBLE

BOOK

iPod, MP3 Player (not permitted on jobsite)

CAMERA

SPENDING MONEY (you will be responsible for some meals during travel and any souvenirs)

SWIMWEAR (parents, we are trusting your judgment. Modesty & appropriateness is the goal)

### WHAT NOT TO BRING:

Live Animals

Weapons of Any Kind

Illegal Drugs, Alcohol or any controlled substances

Bad Attitude

Jet Skis

Any hope of winning the ping pong tournament

NOTE: Per my policy, I will not comment on possible weather conditions, temperatures, traditional June weather, fronts, systems or any other form or meteorology. For your assistance I recommend [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) or [www.weatherbug.com](http://www.weatherbug.com).







# SH MISSION TRIP 2022

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## 2022 SH Mission Trip ITINERARY

### Saturday, June 11, 2022

8:00AM Check-in (Buoy)  
 9:00AM Photo & Prayer  
 9:15AM Depart Avon Lake, OH  
 7:00PM Arrive in Saratoga Springs, NY @ 7PM  
 Pizza Dinner  
 Icebreakers & Orientation  
 8:30PM FREE TIME  
 10:30PM Small Groups  
 11:30PM Lights OUT

### Sunday, June 12, 2022

7:00AM Wake-Up  
 7:30AM Breakfast  
 8:00AM Depart Saratoga Springs, NY  
 5:30PM Arrive at Seacoast Mission  
 7:30PM Dinner  
 Orientation  
 8:30PM FREE TIME  
 9:30PM Worship  
 10:30PM Small Groups  
 11:30PM Lights OUT

### Monday, June 13, 2022

THEME: Funny Shirt day

6:30AM Wake-UP Call  
 7:00AM Breakfast  
 8:00AM Depart for jobsites  
 5:00PM End of workday  
 5:30PM Arrive back from jobsites  
 6:30PM Dinner  
 7:30PM FREE TIME  
 9:00PM Worship  
 10:00PM Small Groups  
 11:00PM Lights Out

### Tuesday, June 14, 2022

THEME: Red, White & Blue Day

6:30AM Wake-UP Call  
 7:00AM Breakfast  
 8:00AM Depart for jobsites  
 5:00PM End of workday  
 5:30PM Arrive back from jobsites  
 6:30PM Dinner  
 7:30PM FREE TIME  
 9:00PM Worship  
 10:00PM Small Groups  
 11:00PM Lights Out

### Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Theme: Lumberjack Day

8:00AM Wake-UP Call  
 9:00AM Breakfast  
 10:30AM Depart for Acadia/Bar Harbor  
 12:00PM Meet at Cadillac Mountain  
 Lunch & Group Photo  
 Team Hikes  
 3:30PM Bar Harbor FREE TIME  
 5:00PM Dinner  
 8:00PM Arrive Back from Acadia/Bar Harbor  
 9:00PM Worship  
 10:00PM Small Groups  
 11:00PM Lights Out

### Thursday, June 16, 2022

THEME: Throwback Thursday Day

6:30AM Wake-UP Call  
 7:00AM Breakfast  
 8:00AM Depart for Job Sites  
 5:00PM End of workday  
 5:30PM Arrive back from jobsites  
 6:30PM Dinner  
 7:30PM FREE TIME  
 9:00PM Worship  
 10:00PM Small Groups  
 11:00PM Lights Out

### Friday, June 17, 2022

THEME: Mission Trip Shirt Day

6:30AM Wake-UP Call  
 7:00AM Breakfast  
 8:00AM Depart for Job Sites  
 5:00PM End of workday  
 5:30PM Arrive back from jobsites  
 6:30PM Dinner  
 7:30PM FREE TIME  
 9:00PM Worship  
 10:30PM Small Groups  
 12:00AM Lights Out

### Saturday, June 18, 2022

THEME: Browns Backers Day

8:00AM Wake-UP Call  
 8:30AM Breakfast, Clean & Pack-UP  
 10:00AM Depart Bar Harbor, ME  
 7:00PM Arrive in Saratoga Springs, NY  
 Dinner, Free Time, Small Groups & Karaoke  
 11:30PM Lights Out

### Sunday, June 19, 2022

7:00AM Wake-Up Call  
 Breakfast on the road  
 8:00AM Depart Saratoga Springs, NY  
 5:00PM Arrive in Avon Lake, OH



## 2022 SH MISSION TRIP GOALS & COVENANT

### GOALS:

1. Grow – Our hope is that over the course of this trip you will be able to grow as a person and as a Christian. We hope that this trip will provide you with more clarity on this thing we call life and how you are a vital part of the picture and how you fit into God's big, awesome design.
2. Serve – This is not a vacation. Our number one priority while we are here is to help the people of Cherryfield, ME in any way we possibly can. This requires a change in mindset and a realization that first and foremost we are here to serve and secondly to have a ridiculously good time.
3. Connect – There are 100 of us from our church here this week. One of our goals is that each of you would be able to connect with others from our church, that you would step out of your comfort zones to make some new friends, and that you would develop a network of connections of other awesome people who enjoy serving Jesus.
4. Seek – Each and every night we are going to provide you with a chance to participate in a worship experience. During this dedicated time, when we pray before meals, when we pray at the start of a new workday and countless other times during the week we hope that you will make it a point to thank God for making all of this possible.
5. Have Fun – Finally we want to destroy the stereotype that serving Jesus and having fun are two completely different things. We hope that you will make a point to laugh a lot, to sing, to whistle while you work and enjoy yourselves and your time in Maine immensely. We take pride in ensuring that among the very few things we can guarantee, you having fun is one of the most important.

### COVENANT:

1. I will respect everyone and everyone's belongings. I will respect their views, their privacy, their space and their right to be here.
2. I will refrain from using any drugs, alcohol or illegal substances.
3. I will not use undesirable or foul language.
4. I will respect the places we visit and leave them in better shape than they were when I arrived.
5. I will be respectful of the people we meet, their way of life and their beliefs.
6. I will make time daily for God.
7. I will participate in all activities, work projects and daily chores.
8. I will use discretion and common sense in my attire. I understand that shirts must be worn at all times. I will refrain from wearing clothing that expresses alcohol/beer slogans or obscenities.
9. I will avoid gossiping, criticizing or starting rumors.
10. I will not engage in gambling, betting or wagering on anything throughout the duration of the trip.
11. I understand that on a trip like this, things can change often. I will be flexible, understanding and willing to "go with the flow." *Semper Gumby.™*
12. I will do my best to represent myself, my church, my community, my family and Jesus in the best way possible.
13. I will be aware of our schedule and will be on time.
14. I will have a large, ridiculous amount of fun!
15. I will do everything possible to attend all meetings, fundraisers and other events required for my participation in this trip.
16. I understand that failure to comply with this covenant will result in disciplinary action that does not exclude being sent home from the trip at my own expense.



## 2022 SH Mission Trip PREPARING TO SERVE

#1 – Rest – There is nothing more important than taking care of your body. Staying out until 4AM the night before the trip is the exact opposite of rest. I know you think you need to get just one more game in on your Xbox Live, but your international posse of gaming buddies will still be there in a week. Turn off the games and get some rest.

#2 – Research – Take a few moments to Google Maine Seacoast Mission and the impact they have had on their community for over a century. Familiarize yourself with the region of the country we are going to be serving. Contrary to popular belief not everyone in Maine owns a boat, eats only lobster and loves Tom Brady.

#3 – Be Fat – Faithful. Available. Teachable. Come to this trip willing to serve and willing to do whatever we need you to do and willing to learn. Having an open heart and desire to serve in whatever way you can will make your experience better and will make the people we are serving feel more comfortable. I hate painting. Hate it. But if we are asked to paint, you won't find a happier painter in the state of Maine.

#4 – Be there – I know that there may be some major drama developing back in Avon Lake while you're gone. So and so drove so and so's dad's car in their pool at their graduation party. Believe me people will still be talking about it when you get back. There is a time to be online and there is a time to be offline. Prepare your soul to be without social media for large chunks of time for several days in a row.

#5 – Embrace the Awkwardness – We are going to completely remove you from your comfort zones and drop you in the middle of a new town, with a lot of people you probably don't know all that well and we are going to ask you to do life together for a week. We are going to challenge you to be a family. Families don't always agree and families have their share of awkwardness so I challenge you to embrace it. Someone is going to fart in your van and someone is going to say something really strange... embrace the awkwardness!

#6 – Develop Empathy – Many of the people you are going to meet in Maine have never had 92% of the things you have in your home... You lauding on and on about how much you miss your bed or your air conditioning or your friends or your Xbox... just don't. You sound insensitive. These people dream of the same things except they don't get them back in a week. Life has dealt them a rough hand and we can't begin to imagine what living with that hand truly feels like.

#7 – Open your Ears – Teenagers have an incredible ability to just completely tune out. I mean 100% transport themselves mentally to the farthest reaches of the galaxy. You can look a teenager right in the eyeballs and say "we are going to eat at 6PM" and not even a nano-second later they will turn to you completely unaware of what just transpired and ask you "what time are we having dinner?" It's incredible. We will be dumping lots of information on your brains every day and it's critical that you are able to process it all, and on the work sites it's so much more important for the safety of you and everyone you are working with.

#8 – Stretch – Not a good stretch like before or after you go for a run. I'm talking a mental stretch. How many of you hate change? Just absolutely despise anything dealing with change? You need to start stretching now. Mission trips are full of surprises, unplanned events, changes and organized chaos. If there is nothing else that you may do before we leave June 11<sup>th</sup>, STRETCH. I am telling you that your ability to be flexible will make your experience that much more enjoyable.



Hear me out....I know there's a lot here. I know it seems like a lot of work and it's going to cost a lot of money. It may be all overwhelming. I get it. We have a team of student leaders and adults who are all on board and more than willing to help you get from today to June 11<sup>th</sup>. We have a fund to help offset the cost of this trip for anyone who wants to go who may not be able to afford part or all of the cost. We want you to be a part of this team and we are going to do whatever it takes to make that a reality.

And it simply comes down to this...we believe in these trips. I have been leading these trips for over 10 years and I have seen transformation take place and hearts moved and lives changed in ways I never imagined. I am saying a prayer tonight for YOU. I pray that God stirs something inside of you to say yes to this adventure. I pray that God challenges you to step out of your comfort zone and clear a week of your summer for serving others. I pray that God shows you a side of yourself you never knew you had. I pray that you find the courage to answer God's call and I can't wait to serve alongside you this June.

If you have ANY questions...please don't hesitate to get a hold of me. Seriously.

Can't. Wait. For. June.

All the best,

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