

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”

– Proverbs 19:17

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing will be poured into your lap.”

– Luke 6:38



What is AWC?

AWC is a 10-day spiritual work experience for young adults. AWC campers encounter the poor, engage in works of mercy, learn skills, build homes, make friends, camp, play, sing, laugh, and experience the joy of a lived faith.

Learn More

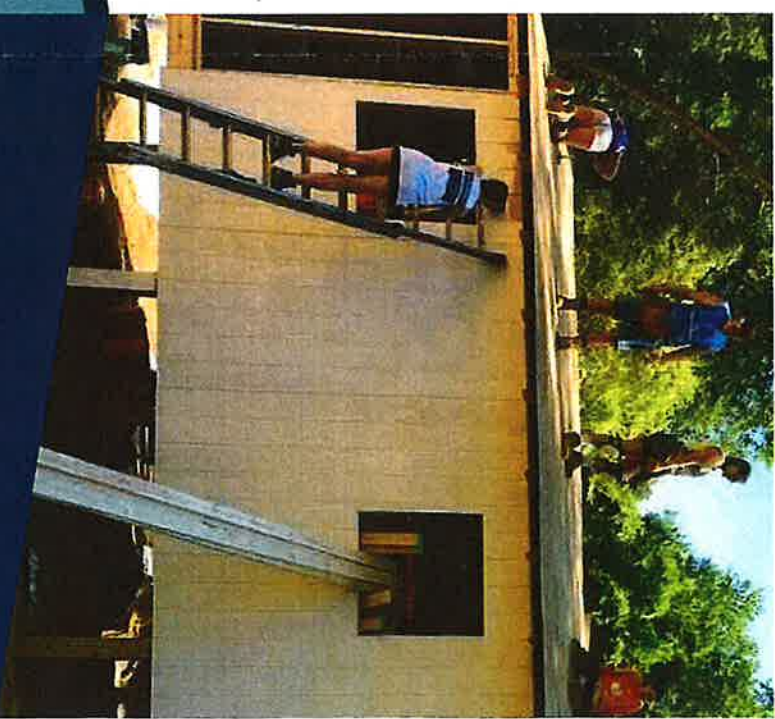
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2025 Mission Trip Dates

St. Thomas the Apostle: 7/3 – 7/13
St. Catherine Labouré: 7/5 – 7/13

Registration/Information:

Fri., Oct. 4, 6:30 pm, Le Gras Hall - STL
(St. Catherine Labouré group)
St. Thomas the Apostle Sun Sep 29, 7:00 PM



Appalachia Work Camp

40 Years and Going Strong



Who Benefits?

The obvious beneficiaries of the Appalachia Work Camp (AWC) program are the families and individuals for whom the camp builds. These are often families who are living in rotted trailers, abandoned vehicles, or dilapidated structures, typically without running water or sanitary facilities. Many wouldn't dare to dream of living in a brand-new house.

The less obvious beneficiaries are the young people who give so much of themselves to help their neighbors. It is amazing and heart-warming to watch our teens befriend, engage with, and include the kids of the families we build for in their experience. It is common to see girls getting together and fixing each other's hair; or boys having a game of catch.

The young ladies and men who participate learn the lessons of sacrifice for someone who cannot pay them back. They return home changed people, and their experience affects their attitudes and their outlook.

What You Do

The first night in camp everyone is assigned to a crew. Some crews like house and addition crews work at the same jobsite for the entire trip, and see the project through from start to finish. Other crews rotate through sites and usually perform specialized jobs, such as electrical wiring, plumbing, deck construction, or excavation. Each crew is led by experienced adults who teach and encourage the campers in the use of their new skills.

Expect a full day of hard work each day. After work, crews return to camp for dinner, games, a camp meeting, a snack, and usually a bonfire (with guitars and singing) till lights out. Other traditions include fireworks on Family Night, a talent show (bring your talent), and the annual beach volleyball tournament at Buckhorn Lake.

Holy Mass is celebrated the Sunday morning after arrival and the Saturday evening before returning home.

“Exhaust the body, refresh the soul.” – AWC Camper

Who Participates?

AWC is for young adults who are moving from 8th to 9th grade before the trip commences in late June or early July. In addition, parents and other adults may attend to serve as mentors and crew members. Many campers who started in high school continue in their college years and beyond. Typical camp attendance is around 100 campers, give or take.

What is Required?

Fund raising. The cost of all construction materials, transportation, inspections, and site preparation is borne by AWC. Money must be raised year-round. All campers and parents of minors must participate in fund raising. AWC groups at St. Catherine Laboure and St. Thomas the Apostle parishes conduct their own fundraisers, details of which are provided at the annual registration meetings.

Affiliation

AWC is directed by a Board of Directors from St. Catherine Laboure & St. Thomas the Apostle Parishes. However, AWC is a stand-alone, non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is not affiliated with any diocesan parish or the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

