

URBAN SERVANTS

What is Urban Servants?

Urban Servants are youth and adults working together in the name of Jesus Christ to meet the needs of God's people in the urban environment. Our project uses the talents, skills, and energy of mid-high youth (grades 5-7) and Sr. High youth (grades 8-12) to meet the needs of the urban environment. Urban Servants is an outreach project of Camp Kingswood and the Minnesota Camps, Conferences, and Retreats Action Team of the United Methodist Church. We fight poverty in three ways.

1. Urban Servants works with homeowners to improve living conditions. Whether it is painting, fixing a leak, cleaning, or building a porch, we strive to help the people of the Minneapolis / St. Paul Metro area.
2. Urban Servants fights poverty by supporting existing agencies. Some groups that we send out will work to better the facilities of agencies that are working in the city. For example, Minneapolis has a home for homeless teens. Urban Servants worked to build new shelves and paint bedrooms. We also put down a new tile floor for a local church that is used as a community center.
3. Urban Servant groups will work with agencies as part of their workforce. We may send a group to a soup kitchen, out to organize donated clothing, or to help take care of whatever else needs to be done.

In these three ways, Urban Servants shows participants how they can fight poverty. They learn three ways of reaching out. They learn that no one way of fighting poverty is best, that there must be many programs at work to serve the needs of the people. We try to inspire campers to find their own way of serving.

Urban Servant Foundations Scripture: In The Promise (Contemporary English Version of the Bible), James 2:17-18 says this: Faith that doesn't lead us to do good deeds is all alone and dead! Suppose someone disagrees and says, "It is possible to have faith without doing kind deeds." I would answer, "Prove that you have faith without doing kind deeds, and I will prove that I have faith doing them." Urban Servants is built on the belief that a strong faith feeds the desire to reach out to others. We do not want to say to someone with no food or clothes, "I hope all goes well for you. I hope you will be warm and have plenty to eat." What good is it to say this, unless you do something to help? (James 2:16). Through experience of service, worship, and fellowship, we seek to build bridges that will make a connection between "the talk, and the walk" of our lives. We seek to give examples of what it means to live the life that Jesus asked us to live.

A Typical Day at Urban Servants:

7:00am wake up

7:30am breakfast (build your own lunch)

8:30am group devotion

9:00am leave for work project

3:00pm leave work site for camp

4:30pm open beach time, free time

6:00pm supper

6:30pm adult meeting

7:00-10:00pm night time schedules change, but include: worship, sharing, group games, free time and more.

10:30pm lights out

One unique aspect to Urban Servants is the flexibility. The adult leaders of each group meet each night to talk about the day's work. There is time for input on how the week is going and how the program is affecting the work teams and youth groups. Depending on the projects to be done, work teams may change each day. This offers an opportunity for the campers to see many projects and work with many people. At night, the group spends time in small groups, which remain the same all week. There is time for sharing and study. Additionally, these groups serve around camp; each group helps with camp cleaning and meal serving.