

BIG SKY. BIGGER MISSION.

Who Can Go: Any high school student that is interested. It should be noted that our first and primary reason for going is to serve others and, at times, get dirty doing it! Yes, we'll do some exploring and some fun stuff too while we're out there. However, if you're primarily coming for "the fun" or to use this as a bit of a vacation, this probably isn't your trip!

When Are We Going: July 6th-13th, 2021

Where We Are Going: We are planning on flying into Missoula, MT. Missoula is about 2 ½ hours south of Kalispell. We'll primarily be working in the Swan River Valley which is between Missoula and Kalispell. Our plan is to stay in Lakeside, MT. We haven't worked in this area in past Montana trips. We'll also do some group activities in Glacier National Park and the Swan River Valley.

Cost: The cost will be \$475 per person (including adults). We've already had one fundraiser and will try to have another one or two before the trip. Another very effective tool for raising your money is by writing letters to people to help raise the money. We are happy to give you some tips on how to write an effective fundraising letter. We never want money to be an issue, so we'll try and offer as many opportunities as we can! However, if you still come up short after participating in these opportunities, please let us know and we'll work to make things happen! Typically the only other costs are for one meal a day while we're out in Montana and money for any souvenirs you may want to purchase.

Deadline: Because the area fills up so much during the summer months and because of the complexity of planning such a trip, the deadline to sign up for this trip will be January 31st, 2021! If someone wants to come after this date, it will only be if we can get a plane ticket and have room for lodging, etc. There will also be a \$100 late fee for anyone that signs up after January 31st!!!

Where We'll Stay: Lakeside, Montana. We currently are staying in a large house just across from the Flathead Lake. We'll do some evening activities down on the Flathead Lake.

What We're Doing/Who We're Working With: Northwest Montana Veteran's Stand Down and Food Pantry / Camp Ponderosa. This organization does lots of work for veterans and their families. One of their big projects they need help on this summer is working on restoring a former law enforcement training facility that will become a retreat center for veterans and their families (Camp Ponderosa). The plans are for Camp Ponderosa to be a world class escape for veterans to be able to enjoy. In particular, they want it to be available for veterans that have experienced trauma on the battlefield. They will additionally help them with job skills training, any therapy they may need, etc. The organization also currently does a number

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of other things to support the veteran community in Northwestern MT. They have a food pantry, a thrift shop, a medical supply shop for veterans, help veterans secure housing, and do numerous hands-on support activities for the veterans and their families. They have assured us that they have lots of work that needs to be done (especially with working to prepare the new retreat facility)! We also have been talking to a Christian home for special needs adults. This facility is similar to Rainbow Omega on 305 8th Street. One of the unique things about the facility is that it's on a farm and they have the residents help with chores on the farm and have told us there are plenty of great opportunities for groups to work with their residents. We'll get to do some hands-on stuff with the residents as well as do some work around their facilities. We additionally have some other opportunities with several other groups should something prevent us from being able to work with either of these groups. We are, however, quite confident that there will be plenty of work for us to do at Camp Ponderosa and Lighthouse Christian Home. Daniel and Katy will be going out this Spring to meet with the groups and plan to make sure we have plenty to do service-wise while we're out there! The other opportunities are basically there as fallbacks for if we need more work or if something happens with the two primary opportunities. Both of the groups we've talked to took volunteer groups in Summer and Fall of 2020 and plan to continue to do so in 2021 as long as things don't get dramatically worse! Planning anything right now is not easy, but we're confident that we've got some great new opportunities to serve and lead!

Leadership/Teambuilding: We also want to take advantage to be away from the day to day distractions we live with when we're home! We plan to do some new hikes (nothing that you have to be some expert hiker to do) and some other activities to help us grow closer as a group. We are also working on providing ways for everyone in our group to serve and lead within the group. Examples include delivering a devo, helping cook meals, helping clean after meals/activities, etc. While we'll spend a lot of time serving, it's also our goal to use this as an opportunity for some leadership training and growth within our group--- we've got some great high school students that have some amazing leadership potential!

Other notes: We realize that there is a high amount of uncertainty in our world due to COVID-19. Please note that if we had to cancel the trip for any reason that you will receive a 100% refund for anything you've paid! Also, we'll take whatever precautions are recommended at the time to keep everyone safe! We're hopeful that we'll be in a little more normal situation by next summer! Please just know that we'll plan accordingly and welcome any questions you have!