



*“Sharing our Faith through
Home Repair Mission”*

Adult Guide to Life at ReCreation Experiences

53 Red Oak School Road, Weaverville, NC 28787
828-645-4800 (Office) 888-254-1710 (Toll Free) 828- 645-4811 (Fax)
www.recreationexperiences.org



*“Sharing our Faith through
Home Repair Mission”*

Welcome!

We are glad you have chosen to be a part of the ministry team of ReCreation Experiences. Mission Trips are incredible opportunities for exciting things to happen in the lives of everyone involved.

Our goal is to do everything we can to support you and your team in meeting the objectives and goals you have set for your time here at ReCreation Experiences.

In all things we are involved in, we seek to see and share the witness of Christ in our lives. It is the goal of our staff to serve the needs of your work team, the residents of the community and one another. Please let us know how we can better support you as a youth leader.

We take our role very seriously. We recognize that you are allowing us to play a large role in the life of your ministry. We respect the commitment you have made to us and we will work with you in whatever way possible to insure a quality experience for your group.

It is going to be a great event. Open hearts, open minds, open spirits. Let's see lives changed and memories created. One life and one house at a time.

In order to provide the maximum experience God has planned for us. We have prepared this guide to go with your home repair manual. This guide deals more specifically with your role through the week, living at our base camp, and how you can help make this experience an even greater success. Please read through it and make copies for all of your adult team.

*“For even Jesus, the Son Of God, did not come to be serve,
but rather to serve and give His life as a ransom for many”
Mark 10:45*

Blessings for a great week,
The ReCreation Experiences Staff

TOP TEN LIST

What We Know About This Week

1. Mission projects and mission trips encourage groups to develop faith and community among the participants.
2. God's love is shared among the work teams, the ReCreation Experiences Staff, and the residents. It happens anytime we get away from the common ground of "home".
3. The good news of our faith in Christ gets shared through the love and commitment that is demonstrated by our service and physical expressions of faith in action.
4. Young people and their leaders are able to forge deep bonds with one another as they work together to accomplish a common goal.
5. Youth and Adults achieve a sense of value and self worth as they experience the change they make together.
6. Lifelong friendships and memories are made.
7. God moves powerfully in the lives of the youth, the adult leaders, the ministry staff and especially in the residents we assist.
8. It is physically exhausting, emotionally challenging but well worth the energy expended.
9. You as an adult leader will have a chance to share your faith through your words, actions and deeds.
10. God is worthy of all the thanks and praise we can give.

Your experience here is very important to us. Help us by talking with us, to make this week all it can possibly be for you and your team.

Being an intentional community of faith takes work. We have many churches and doctrines represented here this week. Let us focus on our common goal this week of:

“Sharing our Faith through Home Repair Mission”

ReCreation Experiences Headquarters

Red Oak School Complex

God has blessed us with a wonderful space to work from. It is simplistic, functional and it will serve your needs and the need of your team as a temporary home for one week.

In the summer of 2006, ReCreation purchased the 6+ acre, Red Oak School complex in Weaverville, NC. ReCreation also began the restoration and renovation of the school building as it serves as the main base for operations. The accommodations are simple but comfortable. The small community surrounding the complex is proud to have ReCreation in their backyard and proud of you for being here, and for saying yes to God! The impact you and your team will have on this community will be a long lasting impact because of your witness of faith in action.

It is important that everyone stay on the property and not leave the site unless it is a group experience off site, or, if you or your adults need to leave to get something for your experience.

Please help us encourage respect of the property boundaries, the neighbors, the sleeping areas and the shower areas.

The complex houses our administrative offices, group meeting spaces, sleeping areas, bathrooms, showers, a worship center/multi-purpose area, kitchen and dining facilities, a ball field, basketball court and outside concession area for outdoor recreation activities.

*Love each other with brotherly affection
and
take delight in honoring one another...
Romans 12:10*

Putting it all together

We all have to work together. Serving one another in the name of Christ. The Spiritual success of your and our experience depends on it. Your team experiencing the presence of God requires it. How will we make it happen? A lot rests on the shoulders of you and your adult team. We will covenant with you to do all we can to make this experience the best it can be for you and your youth team. Below are some key things that need to happen.

- **We need for you to help us monitor the activities of the work teams, both at the job sites and the facility.**
- **We need your help in keeping morale and spirits high. All of us are out of our comfort zone. Spirits can sag as the work moves on. Remember, “Youth Model Themselves After Their Leaders!”**
- **Follow the lead of your ReCreature. These people have been trained just for your experience. You may perceive a better way of doing things but we need for you to trust us. After all the years of doing work camps we have developed systems which work well for the situations we find ourselves in when we work with volunteer teams. If you have concerns that you feel you need to address, please talk to one of the Program Staff as soon as possible. Good Communication is the key to an effective experience.**
- **Help your youth and adults learn to use good judgment and make good decisions. Lead by example. You may want to jump in and take over, or you may find yourself ready to blow a fuse, step back, take a deep breath and let God work miracles in your life and the lives of your team.**
- **Most Importantly. Let God be first and foremost in your thoughts and actions. Your hard work and dedication will be remembered long after the job is finished. Your most important role this week will be to provide those around you with a living example of a Servant of Christ.**
- **We are here to serve you, so please let us know what we can do to make your experience great.**

Saturday Morning

Breakfast is served at 6:30am. We need your team to help in the cleaning and policing of the facility and the grounds, but for the sake of time make every effort to clean the night before. Your Staff member will have your assignment. Following the cleaning, Your Staff member will want to meet with your work team and thank them for their hard work. At that time they will distribute the team shirts. Plan on being gone by 9:00 a.m. because the staff will have a full workday.

T-Shirts

Yes! We give them to you as a part of the experience. Yes! Everyone can get the size they want! Make sure you send in your t-shirt sizes in ASAP!

Discipline issues

Work camps are huge endeavors. The Covenant of Conduct everyone signed is necessary to a successful experience. Problems or issues that affect or could potentially affect the safety of your team, or the overall group dynamic will need to be handled with one of our professional staff. If you see or have a problem or issue arise with someone from another group, please communicate with the leadership of that team. If you need our assistance we are more than happy to mediate through situations. Communicate with each other! If you have to step in. Please do so with boldness and sensitivity!

Caravanning Safety Policy

Transportation to and from the jobsite while at ReCreation Experiences is an integral part of the program. While groups provide their own transportation while staying with ReCreation, we would like to encourage and promote safe travel practices, especially for groups traveling with more than one vehicle. Caravanning as a means of travel, has proven to be a method that is unsafe and not good stewardship of our volunteers time and resources. Caravanning by definition, is the mode of travel whereby many vehicles must follow a single or multiple leader vehicle to arrive at a destination. Due to many adverse and dangerous scenarios this method encourages, ReCreation Experiences will adhere to the following policy regarding traveling to and from the jobsite and the process of not caravanning vehicles. Please let us know ahead of time how many vehicles you will be traveling with so that we may provide directions for each driver in each vehicle prior to departure. The directions will include:

- Step by step directions from point of departure to point of arrival and the reverse directions as well.
- Contact phone number of the destination point if applicable
- Contact phone number for ReCreation Experiences.

Sleeping

Guidelines to Pleasant Sleeping

We will provide each participant with a single size, mattress (please bring your linens, sleeping bags etc). We provide high velocity fans, if you need one, so you don't need to bring one.

- **Adults should sleep near the doors to avoid late night “slipping out” and it helps in case of an emergency, you are easier to locate**
- **No food or drinks in the rooms! Doing so guarantees late night visitors of the multi-legged and hairy kind**
- **MP3 players or other “noise playing devices” MUST HAVE headphones kept at an appropriate level, please**
- **Avoid horseplay, no shaving cream wars, water guns, etc.**
- **Avoid sitting in the windows, don't lean against the screen**
- **Respect other people's things**
- **No one is allowed in the dorms during meal times or worship; if you are not at the meal, you might not get fed!**
- **No members of the opposite sex are allowed in the sleeping or shower areas. ZERO TOLERANCE!**

When you register, you will be given your teams sleeping assignments. Every effort is made to keep same sex members of your group together. If you have any questions, please ask at registration and we will do everything possible to accommodate your request. Girls will be placed downstairs and the boys upstairs. Staff members will be on-site, should you have an emergency overnight.

We do not have arrangements available for couples to stay together.

If you have valuables, lock them in your van when you are not at the facility and be careful. There are a lot of people with open access to each others things. If you have need for storing equipment please ask us. We cannot hold money, checks, etc. for you. Our Insurance does not allow for us to hold these items in our office.

*“...all we can do is be happy
and
do the best we can while we're still alive.”
Ecclesiastes 3:12 (TEV)*

Showers

When Ben Franklin said, “Cleanliness is next to Godliness,” he wasn’t talking about a home repair mission camp. It is “dirty” work. There are bathrooms and showers for males and females on site as well some off-campus shower facilities if needed.

- **All shower items must be taken with you every day! The shower will be cleaned due to health reasons daily. Anything left in the shower areas will be thrown away. Sorry!**
- **Showers are not available in the mornings, too much to do, so little time, they are available in the afternoons once groups have left the work sites.**
- **Please encourage everyone to use the five minute rule; help our water supply**
- **No dinner showers because we use a lot of water during meals and we don’t want you not to get fed.**
- **Bring clothes for offsite showers**

Meals

We love to eat! The food is good and plentiful! If you have any special dietary needs please let us know. We can work with it and don’t mind doing so. The meals are designed to provide fuel and replenish the body before, during and after a hard days work.

- **Please encourage and insure your workers are eating three meals a day and not using the time for a few extra minutes of sleep.**
- **Be on time for meals: Breakfast is at 6:30 am and Dinner is at 5:30pm. Seconds get served as soon as the line works its way through.**
- **Coffee is on in the mornings by 6:00 am in the kitchen. Come on down. If the pot is out, feel free to make another.**
- **Your ReCreation Experiences Staff Member will enlist your help for designated clean up times. You will be given your clean up assignments at registration.**
- **Help us keep kitchen traffic to a minimum. So unless you are assigned to help cleanup after meals, KEEP OUT FOR SAFETY!!**
- **Food storage is not available and we cannot allow anyone other than our staff to prep food or cook.**
- **Please be sure to turn in your Wednesday Meal Planning sheet by Monday morning.**

Logistics

Sunday Registration

When you arrive on Sunday Evening you will need to unload your team but have them remain in the parking area. You will be met by a ReCreation Experiences Staff member who will bring you and one of your Adult Leaders to meet with Josh DeGraff or Samantha Belonga for Registration. They will process your information and hand you a packet that contains your assignments for the week. **Please plan to arrive between 4:30pm and 5:30pm for registration. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm followed by Orientation that includes some singing and excitement of the week. A MANDATORY ADULT LEADERS MEETING will take place in the Worship Center at 8:00pm.** This will be a brief meeting to welcome everyone, introduce one another and go over some basics for your experience.

Team Meeting

At the conclusion of the orientation we will introduce each team. (So shout real loud when your group is called on!!) You will meet with your ReCreation Experiences Staffer and they will give your group a brief overview of the week and discuss the project with your team.

Monday

Everyone is excited and ready to go! You and your team are loading, finding the site, meeting your client and getting organized for the week. Our Staff will be guiding you every step of the way. **So be prepared** and the staff will instruct your group to load any equipment **the night before** so that we can have a clean start to the day. We will load water coolers and lunches also in the morning. Coordinate with your Staff member.

End of the Day (Everyday)

Work will start winding down around 4:00pm each day. You will leave the site and head back for showers and dinner.

Wednesday:

ICP groups will head out after worship for their job site. Full Week groups need to vacate the premises for their day off. You cannot take your day off on site. We are cleaning and prepping for the next week of work groups.

Staff

We assign an Intern to your team for the week. They will meet you at the bus, help you through registration, get your group settled in and will be available to you through the entire experience. These young men and women have been with us through two weeks of intense training. They have your client information, have prepped the job site and are ready to meet with your team to talk about your priorities for the week. They are responsible for assisting you in getting to and from your site, keeping your work moving forward and being the resource for you and your team on how we need to get the projects completed. Trust them, they were carefully and prayerfully selected for this experience and were matched to your team. They are great people who have chosen to serve in mission this summer. It is their number one goal to serve you and your group this week.

*A Prayer to Pray When Things Are Not At Their Best
HELP!*

Souvenirs

We will have some really cool “official ReCreation Merchandise” for sale during your experience. Frisbees, mugs, nalgene bottles, hats, t-shirts and other items bearing the Official Logo of ReCreation Experiences are all available at the concession stand after dinner.

Curfew and lights out

We need everyone to be at their housing/sleeping facility no later than **10:00** p.m. so we can have lights out at by **11:00** pm. Keep in mind that we have other teams and staff present, so let’s all strive to be good stewards of each others time. If you choose to go off premises for an evening activity, please make every effort to be back by 10:00 p.m. ready for lights out at 11:00pm. If you will not be back in time, please get in touch with a staff member so that you can be let in the building when you get back.

A new campus quiet hour will go from 9:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. to give groups time to meet for devotions.

Our Staff will come through and begin encouraging everyone to bed. **We need your help in getting everyone to help with lights out.** Remember, youth emulate their leaders!

Free time

The evenings, after dinner, are free for you to plan as you wish. Feel free to bring a softball, baseball, frisbees, volleyball, football and any other gaming gear. The Fun Depot, TCBY, WalMart and adventures downtown are always good ideas. We can also help with the planning of special activities as well.

Other Important Things:

- ALWAYS WEAR SHOES!!
- Please no skateboards in the facility
- No basketball in the gym as it serves as a multipurpose room
- For toilet paper/paper towel/soap needs in the bathroom, please contact a staff member and we will restock.

*“...give yourselves completely to God-every part of you
to be used for his good purposes in the world...”
Romans 6:13b TBL*

Devotions

Evenings

The evenings are left free for your group's devotional or other activity time. Please make yourself at home in a space inside or outside the building (within reason) and use the space as you wish. Posters, banners, care cards are more than welcome.

Morning Celebrations

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings we kick off the day at 7:30 a.m. in the Worship Center. We sing, we laugh and celebrate together what God has done and is going to do in our lives that day. The Devotions are tied to the theme of the summer. We provide each days Scripture and topic for you ahead of time, so if you choose you can develop some of your own themes in connection with ours for your evening or TAG (Time Alone with God) devotions.

On **Friday morning** we gather in the parking lot at 7:30 for a morning prayer and sending forth. **Our Closing Celebration takes place on Friday Evening following dinner.**

*“Pray for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the Gospel..”
Ephesians 6:20a*

For adults

Wireless Internet

There is wireless internet throughout the whole building.
ESSID: 06B403519146
WEPKEY: 3359574C56
This should get you instant and strong access anywhere in the building.

Messages

Check the Dry Erase Board at the main entrance. We will post messages and leave mail for you and your group there. If family and friends from home want to send something to your group please have them mail their items to: 53 Red Oak School Rd. Weaverville, NC 28787.

Copies

No problem. Just check in with the office. A nominal charge for our paper will apply.

Phones

We do not have public phone access for your youth on site. You are welcome to make use of the office phones as needed, but these are for Adult usage only. We are sorry for the inconvenience. Our facility is located close to a gas station and grocery store that your group may use for pay phones to call home. We would also like to ask for your help in policing the use of cell phones by youth. Only the adults for your team should have cell phones on the project site!

Spirit Checks

Throughout the week our Administrative Staff will be by your site on a regular basis to check in. We are also available at the facility to meet with you, grab a cup of coffee, or stand and chat in the parking lot. Please talk with us and keep us posted on how things are going. We will check in with you everyday to make sure everything is working to plan and to see if there is anything we can do to better support you. We want to help resource you with anything you might need to make this experience better. Our Staff is here to support you, help us, help you, by keeping us informed.