

Summer 2024 - Youth/Student Packet



Agape Service Project

Agape Service Project fosters service, community, and prayer as participants encounter Christ and uphold the dignity of our farmworker brothers and sisters.

since 2004

Encounter & Kinship

Farmworker Community - relational, direct services include food bank & mobile food distribution, summer enrichment for children, increased access to health & human services

Middle & High School Students - service-learning immersion experiences, put Catholic Social Teaching & prayer into action, empowered to be agents of change

College-Aged Young Adults - servant leadership formation, summer of faith-filled work, leading & serving all aspects of program

Highlights

- Summer 2023: 309 youth & adult participants from 19 Catholic parishes & schools
- Summer 2023: Served an average of 642 families weekly at our food bank
- Over 30 hours of direct service & 11 hours of formation/prayer led by Agape staff for groups in 5-day experience
- Aug. 2023: 507 backpacks full of school supplies distributed
- Always strive to provide culturally-appropriate items served in a bilingual (Spanish-English) setting



Who are Farmworkers?

- Approx. 1.5-2 million men, women, & children who plant, pick, & pack our fruits & veggies; work our dairies, nurseries, & feedlots
- 71% are Foreign-born workers; at least 50% are working without legal documentation
- Age of 12: one can be legally hired to work
- For every \$1 you spend on produce, a farmworker only gets 9 cents
- Agriculture is one of the most hazardous occupations in the U.S.
- Skilled laborers whose work is dignified & essential
- Our neighbors who have touched our food, and therefore our lives

njwm.org

Most dramatically of all, farmworkers too often struggle with food insecurity, meaning the workers who feed America too often cannot feed their own families.

- Rep. Joaquin Castro (TX)
in *America Magazine*

Learn more ...

Follow

- United Farm Workers @ufwupdates
- National Farm Worker Ministry @nationalfarmworkerministry
- Fair Trade Certified @fairtradecertified

Watch

- Food Chains (documentary)
- Cesar Chavez (2014 film)

 /agapeserviceproject
 @agape.service.project
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Welcome to Agape 2024! We are truly excited for you to be joining us in our mission: fostering service, community, and prayer as participants encounter Christ and uphold the dignity of our farmworker brothers and sisters. Our hope is that through service, participants will understand Christ's presence in every person, and through this recognition, encounter the farmworker community.

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A link to the individual registration form will be provided by your Group Leader. After registering, a confirmation email will be sent to you with the required forms that are fillable electronically.

The required forms include:

- **Parent/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver**
 - *Includes Photograph & Video Consent*
- **Code of Behavior and Norms for Youth Participants**

We are excited and blessed to serve alongside you in our 21st year of Agape. Please be in contact with your group leader if you have any questions. Thank you!

In Christ's Love,
Kelsey Harrington
Agape Service Project, Director

Agape Expectations for the Week

These are some basic expectations that we ask everyone (Agape staff, youth, & adults) to follow and keep in mind during our week of service. We will have a great week if we all strive to apply these while we live in community and serve!

- **Be Respectful:** To all group members, adult leaders, Agape staff, Assumption Church/School staff & facility, the farmworker community, and everyone we encounter at service sites.
- **Think About Others While Live in Community:** We are working, living, and eating in community this week. Challenge yourself to think about the needs of others before yourself. Get to know new people! Clean up after yourself and help with chores. Respect the space and items of other group members.
 - a. **Honor Our Hosts** (the teachers who have given us their space this summer) – do NOT touch any of the classroom/school equipment in the rooms & hallways
 - b. Do *not* enter the hallway that you are *not* sleeping on
- **Keep Quiet Hours Quiet (10:30pm-7am):** Be conscious of noise levels in the school building, near offices, & remember that we are in a neighborhood. Sleep is good & critical to our capacity to serve.
- **Be Mindful of Your Clothing:** Please dress comfortably, simply, and modestly, with particular attention to comfort, work, and activity. Many days will include manual labor, lots of movement, and being outside. Be ready to work, play with kiddos, and lift objects.
- **Use the Buddy System:** When we are on service outings, you will need to stay in groups of three and have adult supervision.
- **Be Positive:** Strive to have a positive attitude towards all activities, reflections, and experiences.
- **Serve and Have Fun!:** Do everything with sacrificial God-like love (agape!), embody love & joy.

Additional Notes:

- Expect simplicity during the week, embrace it as an opportunity to learn and enter into solidarity
- Do not bring snacks - all food is shared & eaten as a community striving for simplicity & equality
- Youth will not have their cell phones or other devices during service projects and programming
 - Group leaders may determine their policy during evening free time – Agape encourages a disconnection from technology for the week to best engage and be present.
 - *Suggested Best Practice:* no cell phones at all or a brief evening call home if needed
- Do not bring drugs, alcohol, fireworks, or weapons of any kind

Overall Agape Information

Arrival Time: Please arrive in Bellingham **by 2:00pm on Sunday**. When you arrive, you will unpack your gear and donations. Dinner will be provided Sunday night, lunch will not be provided Sunday.

Packing: Please pack lightly. Everyone will be living in community and sharing rooms.

Clothing: Please dress comfortably, simply, and modestly, with particular attention to comfort, work, and activity. Many days will include manual labor, lots of movement, and being outside. Be ready to work, play with kiddos, and lift objects.

Money: One Agape shirt and all your meals and snacks are provided. There will be an opportunity for individuals to buy an Agape sweatshirt (\$30) or a different shirt (\$15), cash, check & card accepted. Other than that, there will not be any need for money during the week.

Drivers/Groups will be responsible for purchasing gas for their vehicles.

Free time: There is designated free time each day. Youth may not leave the facility to go beyond the campus premises unless are accompanied by a chaperone. We ask that you check in with Agape staff before leaving to make sure there is time to do so. Even on the premises, chaperones should be aware of the activities and location of all group members.

Cell Phones: No cell phones or other devices for the youth during service projects and programming. Group leaders may determine their policy during evening free time – Agape encourages a disconnection from technology for the week to best engage and be present.

Chores: Small groups will be assigned chores each day, ex: meal set up/clean up, straightening common spaces, bathrooms, etc. Each small group, with their adult leader, will be responsible for the various tasks. This is a large part of the experience of living in community, as well as serving those in the group.

Food: In keeping with the spirit of Agape, the meals and lodging are simple. This is to help us grow in solidarity and bring us closer to those we are serving.

- All meals and snacks are provided. The kitchen is not to be used by youth outside of mealtimes, unless there are special dietary reasons. Please do not bring any snacks.
- *Please notify us of any special dietary needs on the participant list; some may require the participant with special dietary needs to supplement their daily meals with food from home.*

Lodging: Groups stay at Assumption Catholic School and Parish in Bellingham. Groups will sleep on separate floors of the school according to gender and will sleep on the floor of classrooms. Twin summer camp mattresses will be provided for each person. Anyone is welcome to bring their own air mattress/camping pad. Short showers will take place on 2 days at a local locker room.

Medications: All medications, whether prescription or over the counter, will need to be bagged and labeled with the participant's name and instructions for dispensing. The Group Leader has the responsibility of holding and dispensing medication for the youth they are chaperoning. Ensure that the parents complete the medication portion of the Parent/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver.

Departure: Plan to **depart by 12:30pm on Thursday** of your mission week, a large brunch will be served on Thursday, but not lunch.

Sample Agape 2024 Schedule

****This schedule is tentative and is subject to change****

Sunday:

2:00 - Groups arrive, unpack & get settled
 2:30-4:00 – Program orientation, community building, intro session
 4:15 – Depart for farmworker housing site
 4:45-6:45 - BBQ dinner & activities at housing site for farmworker families
 7:15 - Return, unpack
 7:30-8:30 - Evening prayer & reflection
 8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting
 8:45 - Group free time
 10:30 – Lights Out

Monday:

6:30 - Wake up & breakfast
 7:30 - Morning Prayer & Reflection
 8:00 - Depart for farms
 8:30-10:45 - Farm work
 11:15 – Return to Assumption & get shower stuff
 11:30-12:15 - Showers
 12:30- 1:15 - Lunch
 1:15-2:15 – Break (hang out, group time, chores)
 2:30-3:30 – Justice formation
 4:15-6:00 – Enrichment activities at farmworker housing
 6:30-7:15 - Dinner
 7:30-8:30 - Prayer & reflection (including snack)
 8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting
 8:45 - Group free time
 10:30 – Lights Out

Tuesday:

7:15 – Wake up & Breakfast
 8:15 – Morning Prayer & Reflection
 9:30-11:30 – Food Bank Prep/Sorting
 12:00-12:45 – Lunch & Chores
 1:00-3:15 – Showers and Break
 3:15 - Prep dinners & pack for farmworker housing
 4:00-8:00 - Food Distribution & Enrichment Activities; Invitation flyers for food bank
Dinner eaten 'on road'
 8:00 - Groups back to Assumption
 8:15-9:15 - Evening prayer & reflection
 9:15 - Adult meeting & group free time
 10:30 – Lights Out

Wednesday:

6:45 – Wake up & Breakfast
 7:45 – Make lunches & pack vehicles
 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Reflection
 8:30 – Depart for food bank
 9:00 – At Food Bank: overview of day & set up
 9:45 - Food Bank roles & get ready
 11:00 - Food Bank Opens
Lunch shifts & snacks throughout food bank
Rotate stations, jobs throughout food bank
 5:00 - Begin tidying & initial packing
 6:00 - Food Bank Closes
 6:30 – Depart Food Bank
 7:00 – Dinner
 7:45-9:00 - Prayer & reflection with Eucharistic Adoration
 9:00-9:30 - Adult meeting
 9:00 – group free time
 10:30 – Lights Out
**We hope to offer showers Wednesday evening, this is dependent on local locker room availability*

Thursday:

7:00 – Wake up, light snack, pack & deep clean
 9:00 - Mass
 10:00 - Celebration brunch
 10:45 - Advocacy Formation & Work
 11:45 - Concluding session & sending forth
 12:30 - Groups depart (lunch not included)

***The schedule is subject to change depending on needs of service projects, facilities, and activities.**

You will be given an updated schedule upon your arrival at Agape.*

Agape Food Bank - Donation List

To serve our food bank guests best, we ask each group collect specific items. Our goal is to have enough to serve **550+ families**. As we strive to provide the most culturally-appropriate food items, all the food for Agape Food Bank is purchased. Please do not collect food from your community, instead focus on the specific item or monetary donations.

Group	Specific Item to Collect	General Items to Collect
Week 1: June 23-27	Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Sponges – new, family size	Monetary Donations
Week 2: June 30-July 4	Clothing, Toys	Monetary Donations
Week 3: July 7-11	Toothbrushes and Toothpaste – new, family size	Monetary Donations
Week 5: July 21-25	Clothing, Toys	Monetary Donations
Week 6: July 28-August 1	School Supplies	Monetary Donations
Week 7: August 4-8	School Supplies	Monetary Donations

MONETARY DONATIONS: Our food bank relies on donations, so any monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Money will be used to purchase items such as diapers & baby wipes (in bulk at a discount), personal hygiene items, backpacks & school supplies – all to ensure that we have enough for each family that comes to our food bank.

CLOTHING, TOYS: Please ensure all is **either new or gently used**

- Clothes for men, women, children, and babies
 - There is a large need for work gear: long sleeved shirts, sweatshirts, long work pants, work hats (bucket hats especially that cover the neck)
 - Additional everyday clothing is needed as well
- Toy suggestions: sports equipment, dolls, art supplies, cars, crayons, action figures, board games, stuffed animals, bubbles, play dough, blocks, Legos, nail polish, stickers, etc.

Please nothing violence related & ideally nothing requiring batteries or electricity

Please no household items (furniture, sheets, blankets, etc.) we do not have room to store them

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- We will distribute fully stocked backpacks at the food bank on August 7
- Our goal is at least 550 of each type of school supply
- The Agape Director will be in contact with a sign-up sheet for each parish to select which items they will collect

AGAPE WISHLIST

In addition, we have made a list of items we need for the betterment of the program. If you or your group would like to donate a program need in addition to the donation list, we would be so grateful!

- Visit <https://tinyurl.com/WishListAgape> to see our wish list.

Agape Packing List

For Sleeping:

- Twin summer camp mattresses will be provided for each sleeper. Anyone is welcome to bring their own air mattress/camping pad
- Sleeping bag (suggested: with a twin sheet to cover the mattress) -OR- twin sheet set & blanket
- Pillow
- Ear plugs for sleeping (suggested)

Personal Hygiene

- Towel/washcloth
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, brush, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Baby/Body wipes (suggested for in between showers)
- Sunscreen
- Small bag (like a drawstring backpack or reusable shopping bag, to carry shower gear)
- Shower sandals (if desired)

Clothing

5 days, 4 nights – *note: with mid-day showers on 2 days, 7 days of outfits are suggested*

- Jeans or other pants (3+ pairs) (make sure to include clothing for farm work)
- T-shirts (if packing tank tops please ensure they are wide straps)
- Shorts (must be at least fingertip length)
- Closed-Toed Shoes (required for food bank, good for activities with kids)
- Underwear and Socks (7+ pairs)
- Sweatshirt & Jacket – check the weather for Lynden, WA (many of our activities are outside)
- Pajamas
- Hat or visor
- Swimsuit for showering (if desired)
 - Showers are in a high school locker room with individual curtained stalls
- Shoes for farm work (ex: tennis shoes or boots that are ok getting dirty)

Other

- Water bottle (A MUST!)
- Work gloves (for farm work)
- Backpack/drawstring bag to carry items to daily service outings
- Book, board/card games for down time, journal for additional reflection (an Agape journal will be provided)
- Cash, check, or card if interested in purchasing Agape swag (sweatshirt \$30, shirt \$15)
- Any medications – follow the distribution guidelines of the group leader
- Good attitude and a servant's heart

Please follow group policy on packing electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.).
No weapons, fireworks, drugs or alcohol.

PLEASE PACK LIGHTLY!

Lodging

Groups will be staying at Assumption Catholic School & Parish in Bellingham. Please arrive and park in the interior lot within the campus.

Note: with 2pm arrival time, the Spanish Mass is still getting out, so park where you can find space & move closer to the school building once Mass has concluded

Groups will sleep on separate floors according to gender. Groups sleep in classrooms (on the floor) in the school. Summer camp mattresses are provided for all youth and adults, anyone is welcome to bring their own air mattress or camping pad.

Group leaders will decide if:

Chaperones sleep in the classrooms with the students **-OR-**

Chaperones sleep in an adjacent classroom to the students with regular monitoring

Assumption Catholic School & Parish

2116 Cornwall Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225

