



Most frequently asked questions

1. **Where will we stay and sleep during the week?**

Our home site is Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish at 3100 S 41st St in Milwaukee. The parish and school cafeterias as well as the gym are available for our use. Boys will sleep in one area and the girls in another. The sleeping areas are never used for socializing.

2. **Will I be at the same work site all week?**

Yes, youth choose 3-4 (at least), work sites at which they may enjoy serving during the week by using the **worksite preference sheet**. You will find out your work site when you arrive on Sunday, unless you will be at a farm or a site where you might be painting and need to bring appropriate older clothes for those activities. Please be sure to check your email and phone messages to get this notice which will be given the week before SWAP.

3. **Other work site questions?**

Youth travel in the car of the adult leader to their worksite. There will be 3-4 youth in each group depending on the number registering. These youth are from many different parishes. Some parishes send several youth and we divide them into different sites to allow for new friendships and many different experiences to share. If you are coming with a friend, you will have many opportunities to be together.

4. **Who are the work site leaders?**

The staff we have assembled to care for the youth in this program are among our biggest blessing! They are youth ministers, catechists in parishes, teachers and occasionally even a parent of a youth who has attended in the past. Many of them have worked in the program for years. They are very committed to making this a meaningful experience of service and social justice learning. And add to that, they are a lot of fun!

5. **What is the dress code?**

T-shirts with sleeves are needed for all youth. All shorts need to have a **5 inch or longer inseam**. This seems to be our biggest struggle! Please help us with this. Several of our worksites have this length of short as a requirement.

6. What is the reason for the no cell phone policy?

Cell phones are an important part of all our lives. All the adults will have a cell phone in case of emergencies or most likely, just a change in plans that may occur. Youth can ask any adult to borrow their phone to **call HOME**. All other communication with friends should be put on hold or friends can be invited to attend for the week!!

We believe this **fast** from phones to be a great experience for the youth.

While cell phones have many advantages, we are seeing that they keep us from personal interactions with those around us. While this is seen initially as a difficulty for youth, by the end of the week, it is often listed as one of the things youth liked best! This year on a registration form under the area of what youth are looking forward to for the week, one said, "I'm excited to be able to spend a week without looking at my phone constantly." Youth are full of wisdom!

Our days and evenings are so active, phones will not be missed. Also, it is another important reminder of being in solidarity with those we serve, who often cannot afford cell phones.

7. What are the meals like?

Delicious and plentiful! Youth pack their own lunches each day. There are always several choices of lunch meat and always peanut butter and/or jelly. Breakfast has a hot breakfast option and always the choice of cold cereals, bagels and such. Dinners are amazing and very youth friendly. If you have any special needs or allergies, let us know about that before you come. A snack is always available when we return from work sites and in the evening. If you send food from home, it should be brought to the kitchen. No food in sleeping areas for obvious reasons.

8. As a parent of a SWAP participant, how can I help?

We ask that you **pray** for the success of our service and that we serve with joy!

We have had parents provide an evening **snack or dessert** for one day.

****Most evenings we need help in the kitchen or serving.** Our cook could use help from 5-6:30pm. You are invited to eat with us if you can help! Call Taylor, if you would be available.

All parents are invited back on **Friday, 4pm** for our closing Liturgy and a Power Point of the work of the week.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity you are providing for your youth!

If you still have a question after reading this, call Mary Osep at 262-825-6012 or email, osepm@outlook.com. I have never been asked an unimportant question.