

# High School Summer Mission Trip Parent / Student Informational Meeting

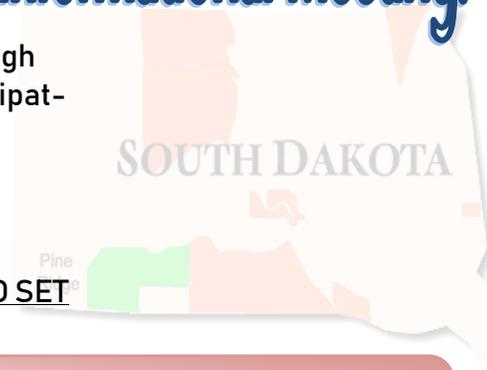
for all students entering 9th grade through those exiting 12th grades interested in participating in this summer's mission trip to:

Pine Ridge Reservation South Dakota  
June, 23-30, 2018.

CONTACT AMY BURNS (YOUTH MINISTER) TO SET UP A TIME TO MEET... SOON!



MISSION TRIP



**Amy Burns- Youth Minister**

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Although it is preferred that parent (s) and teen (s) attend meeting together, if this is not possible than either a parent (s) or a teen (s) should still attend a meeting on their own.

**On the open prairies of the northern Plains lies the Pine Ridge Reservation, the present-day home to the Oglala band of Lakota Sioux.**

The Lakota, although a resilient people group, encountered many historical difficulties and trauma since their land was inhabited by white settlers. Due to many historical factors, including the Wounded Knee Massacre, the wholesale slaughter of the bison, and the violation of the Treaty of Fort Laramie by the United States' government, the Lakota people are, to this day, dealing with the aftermath of these events. It has been said that these factors are the cause of pervasive generational poverty, loss of language, culture and forced assimilation into mainstream culture. These things have potentially led to other problems such as insecure or inadequate housing, hunger, substance abuse, and mental health issues.

Due to the remote location of the Pine Ridge Reservation and lack of environmental resources, there is lack of local infrastructure and economic opportunities for the Lakota people.

YouthWorks exists in **Wanblee** to serve alongside the community to assist wherever is needed and to learn about the local culture and history. The primary avenue of service is to assist Crazy Horse School and the local non-profit Families Working Together in furthering their missions within the community. This takes the form of kids' club and work projects.

However, as wounds from the past are still present in many ways, the primary reason we are in Wanblee is to listen and to learn from the community.

Although we are not able to fully make amends for past wrongs, it is important to recognize and understand the impact of hearing someone else's story and to be immersed in the Lakota culture- even for a short amount of time.

A strong relationship with Crazy Horse School is a defining characteristic of mission trips to Pine Ridge,

Site Two: Beyond being our housing site, the school invites YouthWorks to come alongside them with our Kids Club ministry and other service projects.

Your group will serve through painting and simple work projects. In addition to serving, your students will see the rugged beauty of the Badlands, experience Large Group Gathering beneath a 40-foot cross in South Dakota's rolling prairie-lands, grapple with issues of poverty, take part in a community cookout and hear the history of the area.

YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 1999.

**2018 YOUTHWORKS THEME: ONWARD**

We all want to be on a journey that's moving forward. No one wants to live their life just wandering around – and there's a reason for that! Every day, God is moving to broaden our perspectives, ignite our passions, expose new possibilities and inspire worthy pursuits. And He hasn't just left us to figure it out on our own.

*Paul tells the church of Philippi that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)*

Even when you don't realize it, God is working in your life to move you onward.

This summer as you learn about a new place, serve the community and interact with each other, pay attention to the way God is working in, through and around you. Maybe God will change the way you see things, open new doors and spark new desires in you. So, let's not be satisfied to stay where we are with God. Let's move onward together.

"My mission trip profoundly impacted both my faith and my outlook on life. Over the course of a week, I learned lessons and had experiences that will stick with me forever. I was able to step out of my comfort zone, learn about a different culture, and witness God each day as we served others and socialized with one another."

"Each day that I served, I witnessed God in some way, whether it was obvious or discreet."



We (YouthWorks) seek to listen to local ministry partners as we return to the same communities year after year. It is our desire to walk side-by-side with our friends in service, helping support the work God is already doing through them. We realize every community we enter has both struggles and strengths, and we have



**SPACE IS LIMITED  
REGISTRATION MUST  
CLOSE WHEN SPOTS  
ARE FILLED.**



"I began to step out of my comfort zone and meet new people. After several hours, we had our first random van switch. I found myself in a van with a few students that I did not know very well. After only a few minutes, the van was filled with chatter and laughter. I began to find out that this trip was not just another ordinary activity that several friends sign up for together and stick like glue for the duration of the activity."