



## United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY)

Looking for a great Mission experience for youth,  
young adults, or yourself? Only have time to commit to a weekend? Want to experience U.M. ARMY  
for a shorter trip to prepare for Summer 2023?  
Our U.M. ARMY Pop-Up Weekend Camp May Be for You!!!

U.M. ARMY is offering a high-quality weekend mission programs for youth, young adults and adults that serve people in need, build leadership skills, build relationships, and build spirituality.

### Our Program

Participants serve, eat, worship, and enjoy fellowship at a local United Methodist church beginning on Friday evening and ending on Sunday evening. We start Friday evening with a meet and greet, followed by team building and worship. Saturday and Sunday, small teams consisting of adults, young adults, and youth set out to a worksite in the local community. Additional adults act as support to the teams bringing needed tools, supplies, technical expertise, and safety checks to the site each day.

- We are offering a day-camp for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up (Participants will shower and sleep at home)

**\*\*Adults are needed for all camps to participate, mentor and chaperone**

**\*\*Youth and young adult participants earn 16 hours of consecutive community service**

### Projects

We believe our relationship to those being served is the top priority and central to our work. Local social service agencies and churches refer our clients. Generally, they are elderly, but some are families who are unable to do the work themselves due to financial concerns or disabilities. The work is anything from simple projects such as yard work or painting to small home repairs on doors, windows, stairs, porches and construction of handicap access ramps. The teams bring a lunch to share with their client each day and are encouraged to interact as much as possible.

***Often the idea that someone cares is as important as the work itself!***

### Activities

We begin each day with a brief devotional service and end each evening with a contemporary worship service that is uplifting to all. Even activities will be planned for Friday and Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening, we will hold a Community Celebration Dinner with the homeowners we've assisted. Sunday morning, we will join the host church for service and share our experience with the host congregation. Sunday evening, we will close camp with a worship service and prayer journey.

### Participants

People of all denominations and beliefs are welcome. While our primary participation has been from United Methodist youth groups, most programs will have a blend of faith traditions in attendance. Participants do not need to belong to a church to attend. **For this camp model, it is recommended that groups be within a 20–30-minute drive to the host church.** Church groups of all sizes can attend – *no minimum and no maximum!* Some churches will send groups as small as 2; others will have 25 or more. Each participating church or group is required to bring 2 adults for every 5 youth. Our program staff is comprised of volunteers with most of the key leaders having years of experience and extensive training. While most participating adults will be

assigned to work with a team, there are also opportunities for adults who would prefer to help with food preparation, tool organization, administration, worship, and activities for the weekend. Participants must agree to attend for the full weekend – Friday night through Sunday early evening.

### **Registration Fees-Register Your Group At: [UMARMY.net](https://www.umarmy.net) | Online Mission Experience Management**

The registration fee is \$150 per participant, which we feel is very affordable. This fee covers all activities, work materials, and dinner for Friday-Sunday. (Continental breakfast will be available, participants will bring a packed lunch). We are able to offer lower fees than other youth mission programs for a variety of reasons:

- Our programs are housed in United Methodist Churches. Our gracious hosts see us as an extension of their own outreach to their local community and do not charge us for their hospitality.
- We ask each church group to bring vehicles for every adult participant over 21 and to supply some of the tools used during the weekend. These practices avoid expensive rentals and create a true experience of sharing in mission.
- We do not hire mission staff. Instead, we train and empower devoted and passionate volunteers from host churches as leaders in the program.
- We do not spend large sums of money on fancy advertisements. Instead, we believe that, like the Gospel, word of mouth and heart to heart are the best ways to spread our message.
- Good stewardship allows us to commit a large portion of each participant's fee toward building materials and the actual mission projects.
- **Group Registration due date is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Once your group is registered, you will receive a unique link for your individuals to register in detail i.e., allergies, levels of skill, shirt size, emergency contact etc.**
- **Individual Registrations are due April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This allows for planning of work teams and activities.**

### **Preparation**

Adults who are new to U.M. ARMY are asked to participate in a training. Once your group and individuals are registered, training session dates and times will be communicated. New churches and groups may request a visit from a U.M. ARMY representative prior to the mission weekend to help prepare adults as well as youth and parents. We ask churches and groups to bring tools for the weekend. The director and/or Tools Coordinator of the camp will send a list of necessary items.

### **2023 Pop-Up Camp Dates**

April 28-April 30      St. Paul's UMC, Northport, NY      Mixed Age

\*\*\*Pop-up camps are local camps hosted by UMC churches. Email us at the information below for information on how you can host a pop-up camp with other local churches in your area.

Please feel free to contact us with questions or comments and check out our website!

Regional Director:

Gina Grubbs, Regional Director, Northeast (914) 330-2599  
ginagrubbs@umarmy.org

Website: <https://ne.umarmy.org>

Group registration link: <https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Group/Northeast>