

# Service Opportunities for Central Plains youth groups 2009-2010

## Mennonite programs

These are programs established and staffed by Mennonite organizations.

### Discovering Opportunities for Outreach & Reflection (DOOR)

<http://www.doornetwork.org> and click on Discover

DOOR@DOORnetwork.org or call 303-295-3667

Chicago, Denver, San Antonio, Atlanta, Hollywood, Miami

Your group will participate in a coordinated trip designed to challenge your group to "see the face of God in the city" as you spend a week or weekend listening, volunteering, and reflecting on your experiences. Registration forms, FAQs and available dates can be found on the web site.

Participants will learn about urban life through:

- Volunteering in the community
- Participating in reflection
- Worshiping together
- Considering how faith shapes your group's responses to needs in your home community
- Discovering service as an essential, daily part of living out Christian faith

A program of Mennonite Mission Network.

### Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)

[http://mds.mennonite.net/get\\_involved/youth\\_volunteers/](http://mds.mennonite.net/get_involved/youth_volunteers/)

Sarah Yoder, Coordinator of Volunteers 717-859-2210 or 800-241-8111

Anywhere disaster strikes!

MDS volunteers are known for repairing and rebuilding homes damaged by disasters. The summer youth program is an opportunity for youth to see their actions impact the lives of others through the Anabaptist tradition of volunteering. During the summer months, MDS runs a youth program to accommodate church groups. Space is limited and you need to begin planning early to increase the likelihood that MDS can host your group. MDS strongly recommends a 1 adult to 3 student ratio and asks for \$50/person to help cover costs of accommodations and meals. Project locations will be chosen in the spring based on current disaster locations and needs. Information packets are mailed out in November and applications are typically due in mid-January.

### Sharing With Appalachian People(SWAP)

<http://mcc.org/swap/index.html>

Five locations in West Virginia & Kentucky

SWAP is a home repair ministry that serves low-income families in several counties of southeastern Kentucky and West Virginia. Typically, SWAP provides week-long service opportunities to school, college, youth and inter-generational church groups, ages 15 and up. There is extensive information regarding registration and costs on the web site, as well as an online application form. A program of Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes.

## **Wilderness Wind**

<http://www.wildernesswind.org/>

2945 Hwy 169

Ely, Minnesota 55731

Contact Kathy Landis, director, from September through May at 316-217-1129 and in the summer at 218-365-5873.

Whether your group decides to come to Wilderness Wind for a service project, a canoe trip in the Minnesota Boundary Waters or a combination of the two, you will experience growth through wandering and wondering about a Christian's role in the world, team-building and good discussions around a crackling fire. The camp can tailor the experience to your group's interests and skills. Wilderness Wind is affiliated with Central Plains Mennonite Conference, and youth groups enthusiastically recommend it.

Service projects may include trail maintenance, construction and painting or assistance with day-to-day operations such as baking, cooking and canoe-trip food packing, and gear preparation. Creative and sustainability projects such as scrap booking, gardening, creating hoop houses and building a solar oven are also in need of a few extra hands. Free time may involve swimming at the beach, canoeing, an orienteering course and simply enjoying the quiet beauty of the North Woods.

## **Regional programs**

These are programs that are within the borders of Central Plains. If you choose one of these, be sure to connect with a Central Plains congregation nearby!

### **Urban Immersion Service Retreats (UISR)**

<http://www.gmcc.org/retreats/index.html>

Twin Cities, Minnesota

Whether a weekend or a weeklong retreat, the first portion of the experience is spent unraveling the unique struggles of people living without. The second part places volunteers in the community, helping those in need. The third portion gives volunteers a chance to talk about what they have learned, relate it to their faith, and set goals for the future. Lodging is provided by UISR. The web site gives lots of information including available dates, cost and registration forms.

Central Plains congregations you could connect with:

Emmanuel Mennonite, Pastor Mathew Swora, [emmanuel@visi.com](mailto:emmanuel@visi.com)

Faith Mennonite, 2720 E. 22nd. St., Minneapolis, Pastor Joetta Schlabach, [jschlabach@faithmennonite.org](mailto:jschlabach@faithmennonite.org)

Hmong Mennonite Church, Pastor Chue Vang, [cnavang@yahoo.com](mailto:cnavang@yahoo.com)

Misseo Dei, Pastor Mark VanSteenwyk, [mark@missio-dei.com](mailto:mark@missio-dei.com)

St. Paul Fellowship, 371 Baker St., St. Paul, [spmennonite@hotmail.com](mailto:spmennonite@hotmail.com)

### **Turning Point & Northside church**

<http://www.turningpointomaha.org/>

3223 North 45th Street

Omaha, NE 68104-3711

Phone: (402) 457-6025

Call Phyllis Campbell of Northside Christian Family Center to ask her to help you arrange lodging and service at Turning Point. Be sure to eat at Big Mama's Kitchen, a restaurant/ministry on the campus of Turning Point operated by Pat Barron of Northside. Also visit or worship with the members of this tiny congregation located at 4102 Florence Blvd., Omaha. Northside owns a church building, parsonage and several adjoining lots. They may have clean-up or repair work on these properties your group can do.

Phyllis Campbell  
(402) 502-6823 home  
(402) 290-4346 mobile  
[phyllitbby@cox.net](mailto:phyllitbby@cox.net)

Pat "Big Mama" Barron  
402-451-1312  
[bicmama@msn.com](mailto:bicmama@msn.com)  
<http://www.bigmamaskitchen.com/>

### **Des Moines Catholic Worker house**

<http://www.desmoinescatholicworker.org/howyoucanhelp.html>

Des Moines, Iowa

Contact the Catholic Worker house for service opportunities. Contact the folks at Des Moines Mennonite Church or Christ Community Church to request lodging for your group. Plan an activity with the youth from one or both of these congregations, learn about the history and ministries of these churches, and be sure to worship with one of them.

Christ Community Church  
Pastor Kent McDougal  
515-255-1724

Des Moines Mennonite  
(in pastoral transition)  
515-276-2379 church office

### **Habitat for Humanity**

There are numerous ways your youth group could be involved in Habitat for Humanity. Check them out at <http://www.habitat.org/youthprograms/tsquared.aspx>. Several Central Plains youth groups have made connections through friends in a certain locale. There are many ways to serve through Habitat for Humanity.

## **other Central Plains connections**

There are numerous possibilities for doing service and connecting with Central Plains congregations and camps. Both **Crooked Creek** and **Swan Lake** camps would have opportunities for work, worship, play and team-building. Build relationships with our racial/ethnic churches by visiting and offering to serve alongside them. Contact these churches directly or ask Shana for suggestions. Choose a Central Plains church or community you hardly know, call them up and find opportunities for service and fellowship there. The possibilities are endless!