



Summer 2024 - Registration Brochure

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

nfwm.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
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SERVICE, COMMUNITY + PRAYER

Groups have the opportunity to encounter others through service, community, & prayer.

The week (Sun. afternoon-Thurs. morning) includes:

Prayer + Formation - Daily sessions of prayer, social justice formation, & reflection root our work in Christ and Catholic Social Teaching; Mass & Adoration

Community Building - Engaging activities help strengthen your group & community through the culture of encounter

Agape Food Bank - Groups spend a day & a half setting up and running a food bank for the farmworker community in Whatcom County

Mobile Food Distribution - Working to eliminate barriers to food (ex: transportation), groups bring food directly to 4 farmworker housing sites



Summer Enrichment for Children of Farmworkers - Create community with children at local farmworker housing sites; provide educational & recreational activities (ex: sports, games, crafts, reading)

Volunteer Farm Work - Support local mission-oriented farms; helping farms that are caring for creation & people



Donations

- Groups are asked to collect donations in their communities prior to their week
- What you bring will be used to stock the food bank - depending on what week you come to Agape, you will be assigned specific donations to be collected (ex: diapers, clothing, toys)





PARTICIPATION

Group Size

The maximum number of youth participants per week is 35; if a group is smaller, you will have the opportunity to combine with another group of middle or high school youth.

Expected Adult Participation

The groups' adults play a necessary and important role in the Agape week. Their involvement and positive leadership sets the example and creates a rewarding experience for the youth and the community we will serve.

It is imperative that the group leader prepares their chaperones to be ready for this experience and ensures that the adults know what it means to be a chaperone.

Group Leader

Every group is required to have a group leader (ex: youth minister, teacher, parish volunteer) who will serve as the main contact with the Agape Staff. We are ready to support you with engaging and practical resources as you prepare and form the youth and adult leaders.

Adult Leaders

You will need 2 adult chaperones (21 years of age or older) for the first 8 youth, and 1:8 thereafter. Please note, a minimum of 2 adults per gender is required (this requirement can be shared among groups sharing weeks).

- **Transportation** - Adults are responsible for their group's transportation to and from Agape, as well as throughout the week. (Agape staff cannot transport participants.)



Program Fees

- \$500 non-refundable group reservation fee due with group online reservation to secure your week
- \$450 per youth participant (in addition to the reservation fee)
- Adults are FREE!

The program fee funds: lodging, all meals, t-shirts, programming (formation, reflections, prayer, etc.), service supplies, resources, operations & safety supplies, and the staff who make it possible. (See final page for payment schedule and policies.)

Community Living

We intentionally live simply to enter into a spirit of solidarity. Group Leaders need to ensure their groups are ready to enter into a simplistic, community-centric week.

- We recognize that the communities we serve may not receive the quantity and quality of food that we may be accustomed to, therefore we serve simpler meals to bring us closer to our family in Christ.
- The groups share in the responsibility of daily chores.
- Groups will stay at Assumption Catholic School & Parish, sleeping in classrooms. Groups will sleep in separate rooms according to gender, and will sleep on the floor.
- Showers at a local high school will be provided 2 times during the week.



Staff - Agape has 5-7 passionate, faith-filled, and experienced program staff who work together to coordinate and plan the entire program. This includes: planning for the summer, facilitating morning and evening sessions of prayer and reflection, leading community building, cooking and general cleaning, shopping for supplies, and leading service projects. **You get to focus on your youth and their spiritual growth because we take care of the logistics and programming.** Five of the staff are college-aged young adults (including 1 seminarian) who are on fire for their faith and excited to work with youth - this offers a unique opportunity for youth to witness the faith lives of college students.

Available Weeks

June 23-27 - Catholic High Schools Only

June 30-July 4

July 7-11 - Catholic High Schools Only

July 14-19 - Ignite Week with IPJC

July 21-25

July 28-August 1

August 4-8

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- **\$500 non-refundable** group reservation fee is due after the online group reservation to secure your week (your parish/school will be invoiced)
- Due by March 1: Finalized number of youth participants
- Due by May 1: \$450 per youth participant (your parish/school will be invoiced)
- Due June 1: Participant list and information

Registration Policies:

- Your group is considered registered once BOTH your online reservation and reservation fee have been received.
 - Upon reservation, your group will maintain a soft hold of your first (or second) preferred week and will be invoiced for the \$500 through the Archdiocese accounting department. Please notify your bookkeeper to be aware of this fee.
 - The Agape Director will confirm your soft hold dates before initiating the invoice
- At the time of reservation, you will be asked to enter a realistic estimated number of youth participants (this helps us determine if we can host 2+ groups in one week).
- Your finalized number of youth participants is due by March 1, which sets the total invoice balance due on May 1.
 - Once your finalized group number is submitted, your parish/school will be invoiced for the total participant fee (\$450 per youth) through the Archdiocese accounting department. Please notify your bookkeeper to be aware of this fee.
 - If it turns out you are unable to get enough youth participants to sign up after you have submitted your final number, please note you will still be responsible for the total balance. Financial responsibility for unused spots can only be released if Agape is able to find another group to cover your remaining spots.

Registration for Summer 2024 opens October 31 (10am) @
archseattle.org/registration