



since 2004

## MISSION

The Agape Service Project fosters service, community, and prayer as participants encounter Christ and uphold the dignity of our farmworker brothers and sisters.



## GOALS

- To serve the migrant community of Whatcom County by providing food, clothing, and community support with the ultimate goal of building personal relationships with those we serve
- To teach participants about Catholic social justice, especially in response to issues affecting the migrant community
- To inspire and encourage participants to continue answering the call to service throughout their lives
- To create a space where participants can grow in their faith and meet Jesus through prayer, people, and service
- To do everything with agape love

[archseattle.org/agape](http://archseattle.org/agape)

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Agape Service Project



Welcome to Agape 2022! We are truly excited for you to be joining us in our mission: fostering service, community, and prayer as participants encounter Christ and uphold the dignity of our farmworker brothers and sisters. Our hope is that through service, participants will understand Christ's presence in every person they meet, and through this recognition, positively impact the migrant farmworker community.

We thank you for making this opportunity possible for the youth of your parish. The Adult Leaders literally make this week possible. We know you will put forth a lot of effort to make sure the week will run smoothly. Thank you in advance!

In this packet you will find:

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Required adult chaperone forms provided by the Group Leader:

- **Adult Release of Liability / Medical Release**
- **Code of Behavior and Norms for Adult Leaders**
- **Archdiocesan COVID Waiver**
- **Volunteer Driver Form**
- ***All adults must have a processed Archdiocesan Volunteer Background Check and be trained and up to date with Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program.***

We hope you find this packet helpful as you prepare for Agape. We are excited and blessed to be in the 19th year of serving and providing opportunities for youth to serve the migrant farmworker community of Whatcom County.

**In addition to serving as a chaperone, we hope that you are able to enter into this opportunity as a personal mission experience enabling you to grow in your faith and love of God's people.**

In Christ's Love,  
Kelsey Harrington  
Agape Service Project, Director

## Overview & Expectations of Adult Roles

Adult leaders have an amazing opportunity to serve the youth while on the Agape Service Project. Your involvement, support, and positive leadership will set a good example and create a rewarding experience for the youth of your parish and those of the community we will be serving.

**Agape Staff Roles:** Agape has 4-5 full-time staff during the summer who work together to coordinate and plan the entire program. This includes: facilitating morning and evening sessions of prayer and reflection, leading community building exercises, cooking, general cleaning, and facilitating all service projects. They will keep you informed about the service projects, activities, and expectations through nightly Adult Gatherings. ***Please note that the staff are not chaperones, drivers, or disciplinarians.*** It is up to you to support the staff, enforce all rules, and make appropriate disciplinary actions if necessary.

### **The adults serve many roles in addition to participating in the experience:**

**Driver:** Adult leaders are responsible for the transportation of all youth to and from Agape, as well as to and from service sites during the week. All drivers must be 21 years or older and have an approved Archdiocese of Seattle Driver Information form on file at their Parish.

**Chaperone:** You help to set the tone of the week by maintaining a positive attitude, affirming the youth, and maintaining clear expectations. ***As an adult leader you will chaperone youth at all times and are responsible for the behavior management of all youth.***

**Participant:** During the morning and evening sessions, you get to participate with the youth in the activities, prayer, and discussion as well as help facilitate small group discussions.

**Small Group Leader:** Each parish group will be divided into small groups, and you will be paired with one of these groups. As their small group leader, you will lead the small group conversations. You will also supervise the youth in their scheduled daily chores (but not do it for them). Daily chores include meal set up, meal clean up, bathrooms, straightening the parish hall, etc. These chores give the youth ownership of their service week and are a large part of the experience of living in community.

**Role Model:** During service projects, you will monitor and guide the youth as they serve. It is important to be encouraging, keep them on task, and serve alongside them.

### **A few things to note:**

- Please read, sign and adhere to the Archdiocesan Code of Behavior for Adult Leaders.
- Each adult leader must be trained within the Archdiocesan *Safe Environment* Program before chaperoning. (Arranged through your Parish). If already completed, it must be updated online as necessary.
- Fill out and have processed the *Archdiocesan Volunteer Background check*. (Processed by your parish)
- We ask that once you arrive at Agape to ***not*** make any special side stops to stores or cafes. During Agape we are trying to live in solidarity with our family in Christ, so we limit extra things that could distract us from the overall mission of service.

Most importantly, you get to help youth grow more in their Catholic faith through serving Jesus Christ. We thank you for your willingness to give of your time to serve the youth of your parish. Without your commitment and dedication, this week would not be possible. The youth are blessed to have supportive, encouraging, and faith filled adults!

# Agape Expectations for the Week

These are some basic expectations that we ask everyone to follow and keep in mind during our week of service. We will have a great week if we all strive to apply these while we live in community and serve!

- **Be Respectful:** To everyone in your group, adult leaders, Agape staff, parish staff & facility, the farmworkers, and everyone we encounter at service sites.
- **Think About Others and Live in Community:** We are working, living, and eating in community this week. Challenge yourself to think about the needs of others before yourself. Get to know new people! Clean up after yourself and help with chores. Respect the space and items of other group members. Honor the current COVID safety protocol.
- **Keep Quiet Hours Quiet:** Keep the noise level to a minimum during parish office hours (8am-5pm) and quiet hours (10pm-7am).
- **Be Mindful of the Dress Code:** Be mindful in your attire. Tank tops must be wider than two-fingers, shorts must be no shorter than your fingertips, no exposed midriffs, and no sagging pants.
- **Use the Buddy System:** When we are on service outings, you will need to stay in groups of three and have adult supervision.
- **Be Positive:** Strive to have a positive attitude towards all activities, reflections, and experiences.
- **Serve the Lord and Have Fun!:** Do everything with sacrificial God-like love (agape!).

## Please do not bring:

- Snacks—all food is shared and eaten as a community
- Cell phones or personal communication devices, iPods, mp3 players, etc. We are trying to serve Christ in each other and our technology can often get in the way of that
- Illegal drugs, alcohol, fireworks, or weapons of any kind

## Overall Agape Information

**Arrival Time:** Please have your group arrive **by 3:00pm on Sunday** and ready to start. When you arrive, you will unpack your gear and donations. Dinner will be provided Sunday night.

**Packing:** Please pack lightly. Everyone will be living in community and sharing a room with others.

**Clothing:** Be mindful in your attire. Tank tops must be wider than two-fingers, shorts must be no shorter than your fingertips, no exposed midriffs, and no saggy pants.

**Money:** Drivers/Groups will be responsible for purchasing gas for their vehicles. There will be an opportunity for individuals to buy an Agape Sweatshirt (\$30 – cash, check & card accepted). Other than that, there will not be any need for money during the week. All your meals and snacks are provided.

**Free time:** There are designated free times during the service week. When there is free time, youth must remain with the group. Youth may **not** leave the facility to go beyond the parish premises unless they are in the company of a chaperone. We ask that you check in with the program staff before leaving to make sure there is time to do so. Even on the premises, chaperones should be aware of the activities and location of all group members.

**Cell Phones/Music:** No cell phones, mp3, or iPods for the youth. There will be opportunities for music throughout the week. Please be aware that shared music *must be appropriate* for a church retreat/service experience.

**Chores:** Small Groups will be assigned chores each day, such as meal set up/clean up, straightening the parish hall, bathrooms, etc. Each small group with their adult leader will be responsible for the various tasks. This is a large part of the experience of living in community, as well as serving those in your group.

**Food:** In keeping with the spirit of Agape, the meals and lodging are simple. This is to help us grow in solidarity and bring us closer to those we are serving.

- All food for meals is provided. The kitchen is not to be used by youth outside of meal times, unless there are special dietary reasons. Please do not bring any snacks.
- *Please notify us of any special dietary needs on the participant list spreadsheet; some may require the participant with special dietary needs to supplement their daily meals with food from home.*

**Lodging:** Groups will stay at St. Joseph Parish in Lynden and/or Assumption Catholic School in Bellingham. Participants will stay in the parish hall and parish/school classrooms. Groups will sleep in separate rooms according to gender and will be sleeping on the floor. Mattresses from CYO Camps will be provided for each participant. Showers will take place on two days at a local swimming pool or gym.

**Medications:** All medications, whether prescription or over the counter, will need to be bagged and labeled with the participant's name and instructions for dispensing. We suggest the Group Leader be given responsibility for holding and dispensing medication for the youth they are chaperoning. Ensure that the parents complete the medication portion of the Parent/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver.

**Departure:** Plan to depart by 12pm on Thursday of your mission week, a large brunch will be served on Thursday, but not lunch.

# Sample Agape 2022 Schedule

***\*This schedule is tentative and is subject to change\****

<p><b>Sunday:</b>  3:00 - Groups arrive, unpack &amp; get settled  3:30-4:15 – Program orientation, community building, intro session  4:45-6:45 - BBQ dinner &amp; activities at camp for farmworker families  7:00 - Return, unpack, unwind  7:30-8:30 - Opening prayer &amp; reflection  8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting  8:45 - Group free time</p> <p><b>Monday:</b>  5:30 - Wake up &amp; breakfast (<i>solidarity morning</i>)  6:30 - Morning Prayer &amp; Reflection  7:30-10:00 - Farm work  10:30-11:00 - Adoration at St. Joe's Lynden  11:15-12:00 - Lunch  12:15-1:00 - Showers  1:15-3:00 – Break (nap, hang out, chores)  3:30-5:00 – Solidarity dinner activity  5:30-7:00 – Enrichment Activities at Camps  7:30-8:30 - Prayer &amp; reflection (including snack)  8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting  8:45 - Group free time</p> <p><b>Tuesday:</b>  7:15 – Wake up &amp; Breakfast  8:15 – Morning Prayer &amp; Reflection  8:45-10:30 – <i>Farm work OR extended formation activity</i>  11:00-11:45 – Showers  12:00-12:45 – Lunch &amp; Chores  1:00-2:30 – Food Bank Prep/Sorting  3:00 - Prep dinners &amp; pack for camps  4:00-8:00 - Food Distribution &amp; Enrichment Activities at Camps; Promo flyers for food bank  <i>Dinner eaten 'on road'</i>  8:30-9:00 - Short prayer &amp; reflection (snack)  9:15 Adult meeting &amp; group free time</p>	<p><b>Wednesday:</b>  7:15 – Wake up &amp; Breakfast  8:15 – Morning Prayer &amp; Reflection  9:00-11:15 - Food Bank Set Up  11:30 - Food Bank Opens  <i>Lunch shifts &amp; snacks throughout food bank</i>  <i>Rotate stations/jobs throughout food bank</i>  5:00 - Begin tidying &amp; initial packing  5:30 - Food Bank Closes  6:00 – Tentative Spanish Mass at St. Joe's Lynden  6:45 – Dinner &amp; Chores  7:30-8:30 - Prayer &amp; reflection  8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting  8:45 - Group free time</p> <p><b>Thursday:</b>  7:15 – Wake up, light snack, pack &amp; deep clean  9:00 - Mass at St. Joe's Lynden  9:45 - Celebration brunch  10:30 - Advocacy Formation &amp; Work  11:30 - Concluding session &amp; sending forth  12:00 - Groups depart (lunch not included)</p>
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**\*The schedule is subject to change depending on needs of service projects, facilities, and activities. You will be given an updated schedule upon your arrival at Agape.\***

# Agape Packing List

## For Sleeping:

- *Twin mattresses from CYO Camps will be provided for each sleeper*
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Ear plugs for sleeping (suggested)

## Personal Hygiene

- Towel/washcloth
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, brush, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Baby/Body wipes (if desired)
- Sunscreen
- Small bag (like a drawstring backpack or reusable shopping bag, to carry shower gear)
- Shower sandals (if desired)

## Clothing

- Jeans or other pants (2-3 pairs) (make sure to include clothing you can work on a farm in)
- T-shirts (tank tops must be at least two-finger width wide)
- Shorts (must be at least fingertip length)
- Tennis shoes (for playing games at the camp and being on your feet for extended periods)
- Underwear and Socks
- Sweatshirt/Jacket – check the weather for Lynden, WA (many of our activities are outside)
- Pajamas
- Hat or visor
- Swimsuit for showering
- Shoes for farm work (ex: tennis shoes or boots that are ok getting dirty)

## Other

- Work Gloves (Optional)
- Water bottle (A MUST!)
- ID Card for showers (if 16+ or an adult)
- Good Attitude and a Servant's Heart
- Book, board/card games for down time, journal for additional reflection (an Agape journal will be provided)
- \$30 cash or card if interested in purchasing Agape sweatshirt
- Any medications – follow the distribution guidelines of the group leader

Please remember to be mindful in your attire. Tank tops must be wider than two-fingers, shorts must be no shorter than your fingertips, no exposed midriffs, and no sagging pants.

Please do not bring electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.). No weapons, fireworks, or illegal substances.

**PLEASE PACK LIGHTLY!**



# Lodging

Depending on the week, our groups will be staying at St. Joseph Church in Lynden and/or Assumption Catholic School in Bellingham. Finalized lodging information will be sent in advance of your week.

## St. Joseph Catholic Church, Lynden

205 12th St, Lynden, WA 98264



## Assumption Catholic School

2116 Cornwall Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225

