

Summer
2023

Adult
Chaperones
Packet



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

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 Agape Service Project

Welcome to Agape 2023! 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 providing this opportunity for your youth. The Adult Leaders literally make this week possible. Thank you in advance!

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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**
- **Volunteer Driver Form** (*only if driving*)
- **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 these resources helpful as you prepare for Agape. We are excited and blessed to be in the 20th 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 service-learning 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 Adults

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/school and those of the community we will be serving.

Agape Staff Roles: Agape has 6 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/school.

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/school 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 common spaces, 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/school). If already completed, it must be updated online as necessary.
- Fill out and have processed (by your parish/school) the *Archdiocesan Volunteer Background Check*.
- 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 Christ in others. We thank you for your willingness to give of your time to serve the youth of your parish/school. Without your commitment and dedication, this week would not be possible. The youth are blessed to have supportive, encouraging, and faith-filled adults in their lives!

Agape Expectations for the Week

These are some basic expectations that we ask everyone (Agape staff, youth, & adults) 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, lodging staff & facility, the farmworker community, 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 health protocol (if applicable).
- **Keep Quiet Hours Quiet:** Keep the noise level (outdoors and indoors) to a minimum during quiet hours (11pm-7am) – respecting the neighbors of the lodging site and your peers in your group.
- **Be Mindful of the Dress Code:** 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 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 other devices for the youth during service projects and programming. Group leaders may determine their policy during evening free time – Agape encourages a disconnection from technology for the week to best engage and be present to those around you. 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 ready to start **by 2:00pm on Sunday**. 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 rooms.

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: One Agape shirt and all your meals and snacks are provided. There will be an opportunity for individuals to buy an Agape sweatshirt (\$30) or a different shirt (\$15), cash, check & card accepted. Other than that, there will not be any need for money during the week.

- Drivers/Groups will be responsible for purchasing gas for their vehicles.

Free time: There are designated free time throughout the week. When there is free time, youth must remain with the group. Youth may **not** leave the facility to go beyond the campus 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: No cell phones or other devices for the youth during service projects and programming. Group leaders may determine their policy during evening free time – Agape encourages a disconnection from technology for the week to best engage and be present to those around you.

Chores: Small groups will be assigned chores each day, ex: meal set up/clean up, straightening common spaces, 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 meals and snacks are provided. The kitchen is not to be used by youth outside of mealtimes, 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 Assumption Catholic School and Parish in Bellingham. Participants will stay in the school classrooms. Groups will sleep in separate rooms according to gender and will be sleeping on the floor. We anticipate being about to provide twin mattresses from CYO Camps for each sleeper – this will be determined closer to the summer & communicated to groups. If mattresses are not available, each participant will need to bring an air mattress/camping pad. Showers will take place on three days at a local school locker room.

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 2023 Schedule

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

<p>Sunday: 2:00 - Groups arrive, unpack & get settled 2:30-4:00 – Program orientation, community building, intro session 4:15 – Depart for farmworker housing site 4:45-6:45 - BBQ dinner & activities at housing site for farmworker families 7:15 - Return, unpack 7:30-8:30 - Opening prayer & reflection 8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting 8:45 - Group free time</p> <p>Monday: 6:00 - Wake up & breakfast (<i>solidarity morning</i>) 7:00 - Morning Prayer & Reflection 7:50 - Depart for farms 8:30-10:45 - Farm work 11:15 – Return to Assumption & get shower stuff 11:30-12:15 - Showers 12:30- 1:15 - Lunch 1:15-3:15 – Break (nap, hang out, group time, chores) 3:30-5:00 – Solidarity dinner activity 5:30-7:00 – Enrichment activities at farmworker housing 7:30-8:30 - Prayer & reflection (including snack) 8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting 8:45 - Group free time</p> <p>Tuesday: 7:15 – Wake up & Breakfast 8:15 – Morning Prayer & Reflection 8:30-12:00 – Food Bank Prep/Sorting 12:30-1:30 – Lunch & Chores 1:30-3:00 – Showers and Break (nap, hang out, group time) 3:00 - Prep dinners & pack for farmworker housing 4:00-8:00 - Food Distribution & Enrichment Activities; Invitation flyers for food bank <i>Dinner eaten 'on road'</i> 8:00 - Groups back to Assumption 8:30-9:00 - Short prayer & reflection 9:15 Adult meeting & group free time (snack)</p>	<p>Wednesday: 7:15 – Wake up & Breakfast 8:15 – Morning Prayer & Reflection 8:30 – Pack & depart for food bank 9:15 – At Food Bank: overview of day & set up 9:15-10:45 - Food Bank Set Up 10:45 - Food Bank Roles & Ready 11:00 - Food Bank Opens <i>Lunch shifts & snacks throughout food bank</i> <i>Rotate stations, jobs throughout food bank</i> 5:00 - Begin tidying & initial packing 6:00 - Food Bank Closes 7:00 – Dinner 7:30-8:30 - Prayer & reflection with Eucharistic Adoration 8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting 8:45-9:45 – Showers and group free time</p> <p>Thursday: 7:15 – Wake up, light snack, pack & deep clean 9:00 - Mass 9:45 - Celebration brunch 10:30 - Advocacy Formation & Work 11:30 - Concluding session & 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 Food Bank - Donation List

To serve our clients best, we ask each group collect specific items. Our goal is to have enough to serve **350+ families**. As a satellite food bank of Bellingham Food Bank, all the food for Agape Food Bank is already provided. Please do not collect food from your community, instead focus on the specific item or monetary donations.

Group	Specific Item to Collect	General Items to Collect
Week 1: June 25-29	Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Sponges - family size	Monetary Donations
Week 2: July 2-6	Clothing, Toys, Books	Monetary Donations
Week 3: July 9-13	Baby Supplies	Monetary Donations
Week 4: July 16-20	Clothing, Toys, Books	Monetary Donations
Week 5: July 23-28	Baby Supplies	Monetary Donations
Week 6: July 30-August 3	School Supplies/Backpacks	Monetary Donations
Week 7: August 6-10	School Supplies/Backpacks	Monetary Donations

MONETARY DONATIONS: Our food bank relies on donations, so any monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Money will be used to purchase items such as diapers, baby wipes, personal hygiene items, backpacks & school supplies – all to ensure that we have enough for each family that comes to our food bank.

CLOTHING, TOYS, BOOKS: Please ensure all is **either new or gently used**

- Clothes for men, women, children, and babies
 - There is a large need for work gear: long sleeved shirts, sweatshirts, long work pants, work hats (bucket hats especially that cover the neck)
 - Additional everyday clothing is needed as well
- Toy suggestions: sports equipment, dolls, art supplies, cars, crayons, action figures, board games, stuffed animals, bubbles, play dough, blocks, Legos, nail polish, stickers, etc.
- Books: for all ages and reading levels
 - Spanish-English books are highly requested

Please nothing violence related & ideally nothing requiring batteries or electricity

Please no household items (furniture, sheets, blankets, etc.) we do not have room to store them

BABY SUPPLIES:

- Diapers: ONLY sizes 1, 3, 5 & Pull Up are needed
- Baby Wipes (*packs of 100 wipes are ideal*)
- *Please note: formula, baby food, diapers sizes 2, 4, & 6 are already provided to our food bank so we do not need them donated*

SCHOOL SUPPLIES and BACKPACKS:

- If your group attends the 6th and 7th weeks of Agape, you will be asked to collect backpacks and school supplies
- Our goal is at least 350 backpacks with at least 350 of each type of school supply
- The Agape Director will be in contact and send you an updated list of school supplies

AGAPE WISHLIST

In addition, we have made a list of items we need for the betterment of the program. If you or your group would like to donate a program need in addition to the donation list, we would be so grateful!

- Visit <https://tinyurl.com/WishListAgape> to see our wish list.

Agape Packing List

For Sleeping:

- We anticipate being about to provide twin mattresses from CYO Camps for each sleeper – this will be determined closer to the summer & communicated to groups. If mattresses are not available, each participant will need to bring an air mattress/camping pad
- 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)
- *Possibly: Face mask for the food bank (COVID information will be provided closer to the summer)*

Clothing

- Jeans or other pants (2-3 pairs) (make sure to include clothing you can work in on a farm)
- T-shirts (tank tops must be at least two-finger width wide)
- Shorts (must be at least fingertip length)
- Closed-Toed Shoes (for food bank, 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 (if desired)
 - Showers are in a high school locker room with individual curtained stalls
- Shoes for farm work (ex: tennis shoes or boots that are ok getting dirty)

Other

- Water bottle (A MUST!)
- Work Gloves (optional)
- Backpack/drawstring bag to carry items to daily service outings (optional)
- Book, board/card games for down time, journal for additional reflection (an Agape journal will be provided)
- Cash, check, or card if interested in purchasing Agape swag (sweatshirt \$30, shirt \$15)
- Any medications – follow the distribution guidelines of the group leader
- Good attitude and a servant's heart

Please follow group policy on packing electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.).
No weapons, fireworks, or illegal substances.

PLEASE PACK LIGHTLY!

Lodging

Groups will be staying at Assumption Catholic School & Parish in Bellingham. Please arrive and park in the interior lot within the campus.

Assumption Catholic School & Parish

2116 Cornwall Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225

