



A Ministry of Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church

Mission to Maine Service Trip 2025

Dates: July 27 – August 2, 2025

This year we're continuing our annual tradition of a summer mission trip, and we'll be returning to Pastor Nate's home state and working with Mission at the Eastward in Farmington, Maine. The trip will include opportunities to HELP OTHERS IN NEED and INVEST in our relationships with GOD and ONE ANOTHER. And of course, lobster, moose, ice cream, blueberries, and other opportunities for fun.

New this year: The trip is open to middle school students (in addition to high school youth)!

More about our Host Organization: Mission at the Eastward

Mission at the Eastward's mission is "to love our neighbors through volunteer home repairs and transitional housing to foster lives of hope, security and dignity in Central Western Maine."

The organization works to meet the basic human need for shelter by providing volunteer home

repairs to those experiencing housing insecurity who are unable to undertake needed repairs on their own due to economic hardships or physical limitations. In addition, Mission at the Eastward provides transitional housing for the situationally homeless in Central Western Maine, giving neighbors the opportunity to bridge the gap between temporary homelessness and long-term housing. Learn more at missionattheeastward.org.



A few years ago, Red Clay volunteered with Mission at the Eastward for several summers in a row. In 2025, we're excited to return to Maine to continue this great tradition. We hope you'll join us!

Mission to Maine Service Trip 2025 – Draft Itinerary

Date	Middle School Youth Activities Grades 6 thru 8	High School Youth & Adult Activities Grade 9 +	Evening Plans ALL
Sunday July 27	Road Trip to Maine (depart early morning)	Road Trip to Maine	Check into Dorms Dinner Opening Ceremonies
Monday July 28	AM – Service Project PM – Scavenger Hunt	AM & PM – Work teams on sites near Farmington	Dinner Devotions Movie Night
Tuesday July 29	AM – Service Project PM – Camp Activities	AM & PM – Work teams on sites near Farmington	Dinner Devotions Outdoor Games
Wednesday July 30	AM – Service Project PM – Local Park + Swim	AM & PM – Work teams on sites near Farmington	Dinner Devotions Bowling
Thursday July 31	AM – Service Project PM – Camp Activities	AM & PM – Work teams on sites near Farmington	Dinner Devotions Talent Show
Friday August 1	AM – Service Project PM – Community Picnic	AM – Finish at work sites PM – Community Picnic	Dinner Devotions Closing Ceremonies
Saturday August 2	Pack up & Head for home	Pack up & Head for home	Dinner with your family!

Note: Each afternoon there will be an option for additional service work for interested participants.

Important Planning and Registration Dates:

- January 5, 11:30 AM – Mission to Maine Interest Meeting – All interested participants + parents of all youth should attend
- January 26, 11:30 AM – Mission to Maine Mandatory Kick-Off Meeting – All registering participants should attend. Bring registration materials and deposit of \$100 per person
- Dates for Planning Meetings – to be scheduled monthly
- June 11, 11:30 AM – Mission to Maine Final Organizational Meeting – Final payments due
- July 20 – Mission to Maine Commissioning Service

Mission to Maine Service Trip 2025

Registration Instructions

Registration materials are attached. Additional forms can be obtained on the church website at <http://www.rccpc.org/forms> or by contacting Patricia Christel at pnchristel@gmail.com. Cost of the trip for each participant is approximately \$500. A \$100 non-refundable deposit must be submitted with your completed registration packet.

On Sunday, January 26, 2025, you must:

- Turn in completed registration packets; and
- Attend the mandatory Kick-off Meeting in Room 204.

Please contact Linda Reisor if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Registration Instructions

1. Please read the FAQs
2. Complete and sign all forms in this packet
 - a. Registration Form (3 pages)
 - b. Team Covenant (1 page)
3. Attach a copy of your Medical Insurance Card (front and back)
4. Attach a copy of your Driver's License (Adults over 25 only)
5. Provide \$100 **non-refundable** deposit check made out to RCCPC
6. Attend the Kick-off Meeting Sunday, January 26 at 11:30 AM
7. Bring all completed forms to the meeting on January 26
8. Waiver Forms: We will need to sign waiver forms for certain activities and/or for our volunteer host organization. You will receive instructions for these additional forms as the dates get closer.
9. Attend the planning meetings and check your email for updates, packing lists, and other instructions and additional information.

Fundraising and Advance Team Building

Fundraising for the trip has already begun, and we count on your participation! Not only do we raise necessary funds, but we also get to know one another. All fundraising activities will support the trip as a whole (no individual fundraising will be offered) and proceeds will be used to offset the total trip cost for all participants. You will have the opportunity to sign up to help with fundraising at the January 26 Meeting.

Proposed Fundraising Events for 2025

Fundraiser Events	Timing	Contact
Cookie Walk	December 22, 2024	Deena & Rachele
Pancake Breakfast	TBD - March	TBD
Square Dance Night	TBD - April	TBD
Bingo Night	TBD – July	TBD
Share the Repair	TBD	TBD

Mission to Maine Service Trip 2025

Registration Form

(3 pages total)

PARTICIPANT:

Name: _____							
E-mail Address: _____							
Street Address, City, State, Zip: _____							
Home Phone: _____				Cell Phone: _____			
Date of Birth: _____				Age: _____			
Circle T-Shirt Size:	Adult:	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	XXX-Large
	Child:	Large	X-Large				

YOUTH ONLY:

Parent/Guardian #1 Name: _____	
Email: _____	
Cell Phone: _____	
Parent/Guardian #2 Name: _____	
Email: _____	
Cell Phone: _____	

TRANSPORTATION:

(Adults over age 25 only) Please check one:

I can drive my own car to Maine If yes, how many riders can you take? _____

I can drive a rental mini-van to Maine

(All Participants) Special Travel Requirements (late arrivals, early departures, etc.) *Please note so we can plan properly!*

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name: _____	Relationship: _____
Home Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

HEALTH INFORMATION: **Please attach a photocopy of both sides of medical insurance card.**

Medical Insurance Provider: _____	
ID #: _____	
Primary Care Doctor: _____	Phone: _____
Dentist: _____	Phone: _____
Date of Last Tetanus Shot: _____	(mandatory)
Allergies, conditions, dietary restriction, special needs, medical concerns trip leaders should know about: _____	

(Youth only) List all medications currently being taken: _____	

<input type="checkbox"/> Check if my child has permission to be given Tylenol, Ibuprofen or cold medicine if needed.	

PAYMENT: **Service Project Trip cost is approximately \$500.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you require any financial assistance.
Note: Final payment will be due at the final organizational meeting scheduled in July.

LIABILITY: **All Participants must sign.**

I understand that there are inherent risks involved in any mission trip, and hereby release RCCPC, its staff and volunteer workers from any and all liability due to any injury, loss or damage to person or property that may occur during the course of this trip.	
Signature: _____	Date: _____
Parent signature (if under 18): _____	Date: _____

TRIP TASKS: Please check which of the following roles you have committed or are willing to assist with:

- Photographer:** Take digital pictures of the trips for *Life at the Creek*, etc.
- Reporter:** Keep journal, encourage youth to journal, write articles and create a presentation.
- Activities:** Help organize events and outings for the group.
- Pod Leader:** Responsible for the group of adults and youth during the trip.
- Kitchen Crew:** Responsible for planning, purchasing food, preparing and serving daily meals.
- Work Crew Lead:** Requires experience with tools and ability to motivate a team.
- Health Care:** Person with medical training, capable of managing First Aid Kit and addressing various health concerns.
- Support Crew:** Member of the staff who will support the group during the trip.
- Other:** _____

Work Site Skills/Tools (e.g., Plumbing, Painting, Carpentry, etc)—*please note specific skills or special tools you can offer to help us plan.*

PARENTAL PERMISSIONS & AGREEMENTS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS:

- YES, my child may attend the 2025 Mission to Maine Service Project Trip
(please check box and sign below)

TRANSPORT AGREEMENT: I understand that a member of RCCPC staff or adult leader may need to send a participant home as a result of illness or discipline problem. If the participant named above is dismissed from the Service Project trip site, they will be transported home at my expense. RCCPC will attempt to contact the Emergency Contact to arrange such transportation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MEDICAL RELEASE: If I cannot be reached and RCCPC’s representative has made every attempt to reach the appropriate persons listed above, I agree to assume all expenses for moving and medically treating this child. I also hereby consent to any treatment, surgery, diagnostic procedure or the administration of anesthesia, which may be carried out based on the medical judgement of the attending physician.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PHOTO RELEASE: I give my permission for my child’s picture to be taken as a part of youth ministry activities and to be used in any promotion of RCCPC youth activities including the website.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mission to Maine Team Covenant

(Read and complete this 1-page agreement)

Our Vision: We commit to serving with Christ-like behavior through unconditional love, unselfish service, and unified teamwork, guided by 1 Corinthians 9:23.

Our Key Commitments:

1. Cultural Respect

- Act as respectful guests
- Learn from our hosts
- Honor our hosts' faith and views
- Support host organization's methods

2. Flexibility and Patience

- Recognize travel and teamwork can create unexpected circumstances
- Exercise creativity and support
- Respect team leaders and their decisions

3. Team Conduct

- Be punctual and reliable
- Maintain a servant attitude
- Follow leadership directives
- Avoid gossip and complaints
- Contribute to all project work
- Respect others' space and property
- Dress appropriately
- Practice safety
- Keep relationships professional and inclusive
- Appropriate: Side hugs, handshakes, high-fives, building friendships
- Prohibited: Inappropriate physical contact or romantic relationships, alcohol, drugs, weapons, tobacco use

4. Accountability

Violations of these commitments may require coaching or intervention and possible early return at own expense.

COMMITMENT TO HONOR TEAM COVENANT:

I agree to honor these commitments and uphold their spirit through my daily actions and words, from the beginning to the end of this mission trip.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent signature (if under 18): _____

Service Project Trip: Mission to Maine

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
I've never been on a trip like this, so I don't know what to expect. What is the purpose of the trip?	RCCPC has a history of service both locally and beyond our region. This trip is an opportunity for us to help others in need and to build relationships while we work, spreading the love of Christ through our actions. Middle school youth will be involved in service projects in the morning and camp activities in the afternoon. High school youth and adults will be on work sites all day.
What work will we actually be doing? What supplies should we bring?	We will be working with Mission at the Eastward in Farmington, Maine, this year. Mission at the Eastward has several different projects so work may include yard work, hanging drywall, painting, and other light construction work. We could be working indoors or outside. We may not have a final view of all our work before we go, so please stay flexible. Please plan to bring work gloves, safety glasses, a hammer, a paint brush, appropriate clothes and sturdy shoes (i.e., sneakers, walking boots, work boots). Other supplies will be provided.
What will it be like on the work sites?	We will be working in smaller teams, and there will be a site leader who will organize the work that is needed. Depending on the day, we may be in different work sites. Teams will break to eat a bagged lunch.
That sounds like hard work, and I'm worried about being assigned work that requires more skills than I have.	Most of the people on the work site are not skilled craftspeople, so don't worry. You'll be given appropriate assistance and support to do the work necessary on the work site. It will be hard work, but there are ways to work at your own pace or in support of the group. It is important that everyone participating takes their work assignments seriously and does their best. It is essential that each person on the work site complies with instructions, works safely, and acts respectfully at all times.
Who will I be working with on the work site?	Work groups will be carefully selected to support the work needed. You may be with a mix of age groups and with people who do not know each other well. You may not be on a work site with your best buddies, but you will certainly make great friends with those on your work site by the end of the week. The work camp experience should be an opportunity to build and expand your relationships!

<p>This sounds expensive. How much does it cost and how do we raise that money?</p>	<p>The trip will cost approximately \$500 and everyone will be required to make a non-refundable deposit of \$100. <i>(The actual cost of the trip is about \$1,000 per participant, but RCCPC is raising funds to cover half of the cost for each person.)</i></p>
<p>Is everything included in the price of the trip? Do I need additional money?</p>	<p>The \$500 will cover most meals, housing, and transportation. We suggest you also bring some spending money. You will need to pay for lunch on the way to and from Maine. There may be opportunities to visit shops and areas where you will be able to buy some food and souvenirs.</p>
<p>I'm worried that I can't afford the trip.</p>	<p>Please let Linda Reisor know if you need additional financial assistance to pay for the trip.</p>
<p>I'm interested but my family hasn't yet finalized summer plans. Is it possible to register after the January 26 deadline?</p>	<p>If you or your young person are interested in participating but due to schedule or family reasons are not able to make a firm commitment by January 26, please talk to the trip leaders so we are aware of your circumstances. We will work to hold a spot for as long as possible, working around reservation and deposit deadlines.</p>
<p>When is the balance of the trip cost due?</p>	<p>All balances are due at the Mission to Maine meeting to be held on June 11.</p>
<p>What ages can attend the trip?</p>	<p>Youth must be a rising 6th grader or older to go on the trip. There will be exceptions for parents traveling with younger children.</p>
<p>How will we get to Maine?</p>	<p>We'll be renting mini-vans to transport us to and from Maine and to use for transportation while we are in Maine. The adult leaders on the trip will be driving the vehicles. Some adults will also bring their own vehicles, and may be asked to transport some of the other trip participants (adults & youth). The drive to Farmington, Maine, is about 500 miles and will take about 9-10 hours, depending on stops and traffic. All vehicles will have seat belts for each passenger.</p>
<p>Where will we stay in Maine?</p>	<p>We will be staying in dorms at the University of Maine in the town of Farmington. You'll need to bring your own towels, sheets (single size), and sheets as well as a blanket or sleeping bag. The dorm buildings are close by to the church where we'll be eating our meals.</p>

<p>Who will I be sharing a room with?</p>	<p>Youth will be sharing a dorm room with another youth of the same gender that is on our trip. In some cases more than two youth could be in a room. Adults may also share a room or they may have the option to be in a single (note single rooms may require an additional fee).</p>
<p>What are the rules while we're staying in the dorms?</p>	<p>During free time when there are no activities planned, youth will be able to explore the University of Maine Farmington campus and the town of Farmington with adult leader approval. Boys will not be permitted on the girls' dorm floors, and girls will not be permitted on the boys' dorm floors. After devotions each night, we'll return to the dorm rooms at about 10 PM. Lights out will be at 11 PM, and everyone will be expected to be in their assigned bunk and quiet at this time. These rules will be strictly enforced!</p>
<p>What security precautions are taken while we are staying in Maine?</p>	<p>The UMF dorms are locked and only accessible with key cards, which will be distributed to each RCCPC youth and adult upon arrival. There will be RCCPC adults staying on each dorm floor where youth are staying. All adults will be required to complete background checks before attending the trip.</p>
<p>What will we do for meals?</p>	<p>We will eat breakfasts and dinners together in a church hall adjacent to the dorms. While at breakfast, individuals will fix a sandwich and snacks to carry with them to the work sites for lunch. We try to offer meals that are cost effective and will suit most appetites. Keep in mind that this is not a restaurant or a cruise ship! If you have specific dietary needs, please communicate them on your registration papers, and we'll notify you if we can accommodate or if you will need to bring some of your own food. Attendance at communal meals is mandatory!</p>
<p>What is the schedule for our time in Maine?</p>	<p>We'll arrive in Maine at dinnertime on Sunday, and after checking into the dorms we'll have dinner together, worship, have some general orientation and do some team building games. Please note the draft itinerary on Page 2 of this document. The middle school youth will have some different activities from the high school youth during the day. Adults and high school youth will be working Monday through Friday and middle school youth will have service projects and some camp activities. The entire group will end every evening with group worship and devotions, and everyone will be settled back in their dorms at a reasonable hour. During the working days we will head to our work sites after breakfast, and then after dinner there will be recreational activities such as organized games. We will drive home on Saturday.</p>

<p>Sounds like a busy week. How do I keep track of this schedule?</p>	<p>There is a lot of planning and adult leadership that goes into making this trip a success. While on this trip, each work camper will be assigned to a leader who will be your “parent” for the week. The leader will provide guidance, support and supervision throughout the week, and make sure that each camper knows where to be at each day. It is a busy week, but most days you will have a little time to relax in the dorms or explore the town of Farmington.</p>
<p>I have to leave early because of a family commitment. Will I get a discount on my fees?</p>	<p>No, we cannot offer discounts because all of the payments we need to make are for the full week.</p>
<p>What will the weather be like in Maine?</p>	<p>You may encounter some days where it is very hot like it is in Delaware in July and August, but it will likely be cooler because we’re farther north. We could also get rain while we’re there. Plan to bring t-shirts, shorts, and jeans as well as a sweatshirt so you are prepared for various weather conditions. The dorms may not be air conditioned. Rain gear is a must. Be prepared because we will work no matter what the weather!</p>
<p>What else will I need to bring?</p>	<p>We will provide a suggested packing list. You will need to minimize what you pack, and we expect one medium sized suitcase or duffle bag per person.</p>
<p>What is the policy about cell phones / laptops / other electronic equipment?</p>	<p>Participation in this trip requires focus on our service work and on building relationships with others on the trip. You may of course bring cell phones, but may use them only during free time. Phones are not permitted to be used on work sites, during meals, or during any group activities (except to take photos). Trip leaders may confiscate cell phones if they are used during prohibited activities. Please keep in mind that cell phone service may be sporadic in the area!</p>
<p>What meetings do I need to attend?</p>	<p>We will have an information meeting on Sunday, January 5, at 11:30 AM. Parents should plan to attend with youth. The first and most important meeting is the Mandatory Kickoff Meeting on Sunday, January 26, at 11:30 AM, and all registration materials should be submitted along with the trip deposit. This will be the meeting where all fundraising opportunities will be announced. There will be a Final Organizational Meeting (tentatively scheduled for June 11 after the morning church service). This will be meeting when balances are due. The Commissioning Service at church will be held on Sunday, July 20, during the 10:00 AM church service.</p>

<p>How do I contact my child in case of an emergency? What if my child needs to call me for some reason?</p>	<p>Prior to the trip, parents will be provided with a list of cell phone numbers for adult leaders who will be attending the trip, and those contacts can be used in the event of an emergency. Youth may use their cell phones to call home during free time or with approval from trip leaders.</p>
<p>Who do I contact with additional questions?</p>	<p>Overall: Rachele Gilmore rachele@rccpc.org 917-757-7870 Kathy Ciabattoni kathychab@gmail.com Finances: Linda Reisor lreisor@me.com 302-660-6060 Registration: Patricia Christel pnchristel@gmail.com 202-262-1531</p>