

Summer Mission Trip

Hurricane Helene Relief & Recovery

DATES: July 12–17, 2026 DESTINATION: Newport, Tennessee PARTNER: Experience Mission DEADLINE: June 30

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." — Ephesians 2:10

Registration & Full Payment Due: June 30 — Trip Dates: July 12–17, 2026

All participants must register online AND submit full payment (\$300) by June 30 to hold their spot. Trips fill on a first-come, first-serve basis.

1 TRIP OVERVIEW

In September 2024, Hurricane Helene devastated communities across Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. Families lost homes, belongings, and hope. More than a year later, many communities are *still* in the long, hard process of rebuilding — and they need our help.

This summer, Wake Forest UMC Youth will join Experience Mission to serve families in Newport, Tennessee and the surrounding region. We will roll up our sleeves alongside EM's trained staff to do real, skilled and non-skilled hurricane relief work — and we will do it as the hands and feet of Jesus.

OUR HOST LOCATION

Memorial Baptist Church
Newport, Tennessee

TRIP PARTNER

Experience Mission (EM)
experiencemission.org | (888) 475-6414

TRIP LENGTH

6 Days
Sunday arrival (3–5 PM) through Friday morning

TRANSPORTATION

Church Passenger Vans
Departing from Wake Forest, NC

AGE REQUIREMENT

Age 14 & Up
High school youth + adult leaders

TRIP LEADER

Austin Holland
Director of Youth, Wake Forest UMC

2 COST & DEADLINES

TRIP COST

\$300

Per person, after group fundraising. Covers lodging, all meals (Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast), EM staffing, all project materials, and travel expenses.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT DEADLINE

June 30

Both your online registration AND full \$200 payment must be received by this date. Spots are first-come, first-served.

What is included in the \$300: All lodging, meals (Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast), EM staffing, project materials, and travel expenses (church vans). Personal spending money, personal medications/toiletries, and souvenirs are not included.

3 HOW TO REGISTER

Every participant must register individually through the Experience Mission portal using the link below. Registration only takes a few minutes. You will need to provide basic contact and health information for each participant.

Register Now

Use the link below or scan the QR code with your phone to register every member of your household who is going on the trip:

experiencemission.org/register/regemintropost.asp?teamrecord=4392



SCAN TO REGISTER

Deadline: June 30 — \$300 per person, don't wait!

If you have trouble with registration or have questions about the portal, contact Austin Holland (see contact information at the end of this packet) or call Experience Mission at (888) 475-6414, Mon–Thu, 9am–5pm ET.

4 DAILY SCHEDULE

Below is the typical daily schedule provided by Experience Mission. Times may shift slightly due to weather, heat, or work site needs.

DAY 1 — ARRIVAL (SUNDAY)

TIME	ACTIVITY
3:00–5:00 PM	Groups arrive at Memorial Baptist Church, Newport, TN and check in with EM staff
5:00 PM	Leader's Meeting with EM staff
6:00 PM	Dinner (first meal provided by EM)
7:00 PM	Orientation Meeting — get to know EM staff, the week ahead, and safety information
8:30 PM	Team Time (your group alone — connect and prepare for the week)
11:30 PM	Lights Out

DAYS 2–5 — WORK DAYS (MONDAY–THURSDAY)

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:15 AM	Breakfast (grab-and-go: cereal, bagels, yogurt, fruit)
7:45 AM	Devotions & Quiet Time (devotional journals provided)
8:15 AM	Group Prayer
8:30 AM	Teams depart for work sites (30–60 min drive)
12:00 PM	Lunch on site (packed at breakfast: sandwiches, fruit, chips)
3:30 PM	Finish work for the day
4:00 PM	Break & clean-up
5:00 PM	Leaders' Meeting
6:00 PM	Dinner (hot meal provided)
7:00 PM	Evening Gathering — group debrief + short devotional led by EM staff
8:30 PM	Team Time

DAY 6 — DEPARTURE (FRIDAY)

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00 AM	Breakfast (last EM-provided meal)
7:30 AM	Cleanup & packing
9:00 AM	Group photos & farewells — depart for home

5 WORK PROJECTS

Teams will be assigned a variety of hurricane relief and rebuilding projects based on skills and current site needs. Work projects may include:

- Debris cleanup and removal
- Mucking and gutting flood-damaged homes
- Demolition of unsafe structures
- Framing, drywall, flooring, and basic carpentry
- Painting and finishing work
- General labor alongside skilled contractors

No construction experience is required. EM staff will train and supervise all work. Having even a few team members with construction experience is a big bonus — it allows us to take on more complex and impactful projects. If your child has any building, plumbing, electrical, or construction skills, let Austin know!

All tools and safety equipment are provided by Experience Mission. Youth may bring personal tools if they wish (please label them clearly), but it is not required.

6 LODGING & MEALS

Our group will be staying at **Memorial Baptist Church** in Newport, TN. Experience Mission provides cots or air mattresses. Youth will sleep in gender-separated spaces.

What you need to bring: Sheets, sleeping bag, or bedding to use on the provided cot. No need to bring an air mattress — EM provides one.

Showers: We will do our best to ensure shower access, but please be aware that Newport and the surrounding region are still in recovery. Showers may require a short drive or brief wait. Youth should come prepared for a "roughing it" mindset — this is all part of the mission experience!

Meals are provided by Experience Mission for the full trip, beginning Sunday dinner and ending Friday morning breakfast:

- Breakfast:** Cold grab-and-go — cereal, bagels, yogurt, fruit, and more
- Lunch:** Packed at breakfast — cold cuts, PB&J, fruit, and chips
- Dinner:** Hot meal provided each evening upon return from work sites

Dietary restrictions: EM can accommodate many dietary needs. Please make sure to note all food allergies and restrictions during the online registration process. Contact Austin if you have specific concerns.

7 PACKING LIST

Pack light — you will be working and sleeping in a church. Label everything with your name.

WORK CLOTHES

- 5–6 sets of old work clothes you don't mind getting dirty
- Closed-toe work shoes or boots (required every day)
- Work gloves
- Baseball cap or wide-brim hat
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Knee pads (optional, but helpful)

SLEEPING & PERSONAL

- Bedding (sheets, pillow, sleeping bag or blanket)
- Towel & washcloth
- Shower flip-flops
- Pajamas or comfy clothes
- Change of casual clothes for evenings
- Laundry bag

TOILETRIES & HEALTH

- Shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrush/paste
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+ — reapply daily)
- Bug spray
- Personal prescription medications (in original containers)
- OTC medicines you rely on (Tylenol, Benadryl, etc.)
- Any medical devices (EpiPen, inhaler, etc.)

SPIRITUAL & OTHER ESSENTIALS

- Bible
- Journal & pen (EM also provides a devotional journal)
- Water bottle (insulated recommended)
- Snacks for the van ride
- Small amount of cash for snacks/souvenirs during free time
- Sunglasses
- Phone + charger

What NOT to bring: Valuable, expensive electronics, gaming devices, or anything you would be upset to lose or get dirty. Leave jewelry at home. All tools will be provided — no need to bring power tools unless you want to.

8 HEALTH & SAFETY

EM STAFF CERTIFICATION

All Experience Mission summer staff members are certified in First Aid and CPR. Medical kits are provided at every work site.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

- Minor illness or injury:** EM staff will monitor and provide first aid on site.
- Medical attention needed (non-emergency):** EM staff will locate the team leader, contact parents if the participant is a minor, and provide transportation to a local clinic.
- Life-threatening emergency:** 911 will be contacted immediately. Parents/guardians will be notified right away.

MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

All participants are required to be covered by domestic medical insurance. All medical costs are the responsibility of the participant/family. Please ensure your child is covered before the trip departs.

SUPERVISION

Youth will be supervised by Austin Holland and adult leaders from Wake Forest UMC at all times, in addition to Experience Mission's trained field staff. Youth will not be left unsupervised at work sites or during evening activities.

HEAT SAFETY

Summer temperatures in East Tennessee can be hot and humid. Youth will be expected to hydrate consistently, wear sunscreen, and take breaks. Work schedules may be adjusted during extreme heat. Please ensure your child brings a large, refillable water bottle.

9 SPIRITUAL LIFE ON THE TRIP

This is more than a workweek — it is a week of intentional spiritual growth. Here is what your youth can expect:

Morning Quiet Time & Devotions

Each morning before leaving for work sites, time is set aside for personal devotions and quiet time with God. All participants will receive a devotional journal (physical or printable) from EM. Leaders will guide the group through this time together.

Evening Gathering

Every evening after dinner, the whole group comes together for a time of debrief and a short, interactive devotional led by EM field staff. This is a time to process the day's experiences and reflect on how God is at work in and through your team.

Musical Worship

EM's programming does not include a guaranteed worship musician. If any of our youth or adults play guitar or sing, we would love to incorporate worship music into our evenings. Let Austin know if your child has this gift and would like to share it!

10 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will my child be under the supervision of? Who is supervising them?

Your child will be safe! The direct supervision of EM's trained, First Aid/CPR-certified field staff. EM has a comprehensive emergency response plan and has hosted over 1,000 volunteers in 2025 alone.

Will my child be doing dangerous work?

Work projects involve real construction and relief work, but all tasks are age-appropriate and youth will be trained and supervised before starting any project. Required safety gear is provided. Youth will never be assigned tasks beyond their ability, and leaders always have final say on what is safe for the group.

What if my child has a medical emergency while on the trip?

EM's emergency response plan is tiered by severity. For non-emergencies, a local clinic will be used and parents will be contacted. For life-threatening situations, 911 is called immediately and parents are notified right away. All participants must have domestic medical insurance — all medical costs are the family's responsibility.

What if my child has dietary restrictions or food allergies?

Experience Mission accommodates many dietary needs. Be sure to enter all food allergies and restrictions during online registration. You can also contact Austin directly for specific concerns, and he will coordinate with EM staff.

Can I contact my child during the trip?

Youth will have their phones with them, though we ask that phone use be limited during work hours and evening gatherings so youth can be fully present. You are welcome to text or call during break times and in the evening. Austin will also send group updates to parents throughout the week.

Will there be other groups at the same location?

Yes — Experience Mission's hurricane relief trips are open to multiple groups. Our WFUMC group will work together as a team on projects, and we will share the evening gathering space with other groups. This is a great opportunity to connect with other youth from around the country who share the same heart to serve.

Does my child need construction experience?

No experience is required. EM staff will train every volunteer on the specific tasks at hand. Youth with construction skills are a great bonus, but everyone — regardless of experience — will have meaningful work to contribute.

What should my child do with spending money?

The trip cost covers all meals and lodging. A small amount of cash (we suggest \$20–\$40) is fine for snacks on the road or the occasional personal purchase. We do not recommend bringing large amounts of cash or valuables on the trip.

What is the cancellation/refund policy?

Please contact Austin Holland directly if your plans change. Experience Mission's full registration and refund policy is available at experiencemission.org/images/mmdm/Document/Policies/RegistrationPolicy.pdf. We encourage you to ask questions before registering to ensure this is a firm commitment.

Is this trip appropriate for middle schoolers?

Experience Mission's hurricane relief trips are designed for age 14 and up. Middle schoolers (under 14) are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If your child is in middle school and interested, please contact Austin Holland to discuss whether it is the right fit.

Questions? We're Here to Help.

TRIP LEADER — WAKE FOREST UMC

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TRIP PARTNER — EXPERIENCE MISSION

Experience Mission Support
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