

# SOOP Placements

# Canada

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## Alberta

### **Foothills Mennonite Church Guest House**

Calgary

Website: [www.foothillsmennoniteguesthouse.ca](http://www.foothillsmennoniteguesthouse.ca)

The Foothills Mennonite Church (FMC) Guest House is a ministry of FMC in Calgary, serving people coming into the city to be close to loved ones in the hospital or requiring short-term medical care i.e tests, etc. The main volunteer opportunity is to be the Guest House host. Hosts welcome and orient guests to the Guest House, keep the house clean and welcoming for guests, and spend time visiting with guests. On average, this requires 20-30 hrs a week for maintaining the house in addition to time spent with the guests. A 3 month term is the preferred but this is negotiable. Calgary is close to Banff and the mountains, so those enjoying hiking, etc., should bring suitable clothing.

Lodging: There is no cost to the host. Funds are provided for food and cell phone. A private living space (bedroom, sitting room & washroom) is provided for the host. Kitchen, living room and dining room are shared with guests.

### **Brightwood Ranch**

Evansburg

Website: [hopemission.com/summercamp/brightwood-ranch](http://hopemission.com/summercamp/brightwood-ranch)

Brightwood Ranch is a Christian camp that provides summer camp for inner city children and youth in and around Edmonton. The camp owns 220 acres in rolling hills located one hour west of Edmonton. Brightwood Ranch is run by Hope Mission of Edmonton— throughout the year it hosts groups from Hope's youth shelter, women's shelter and men's drug and alcohol rehab program as well as other rental groups. Volunteers at Brightwood might assist with kitchen work, maintenance, office work, nursing responsibilities or leading camp activities.

Lodging: Space is available for an RV hookup or there is lodging in a private trailer. The trailer has a living room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. Food is provided.

## British Columbia

### **Fraser Valley Gleaners**

Abbotsford

Website: [www.fvgleaners.org](http://www.fvgleaners.org)

Fraser Valley Gleaners have been in operation since September 2001. Their purpose is to process and dry local vegetables and make a dried soup mix for distribution to the hungry people in developing countries around the world. Volunteers participate in cleaning and processing vegetables with a team of volunteers daily from 8:30am - noon.

Lodging: Volunteers are encouraged to bring RVs to the 9 acre property where electric and water hookups are provided. No meals are provided, but a shared kitchen, showers and laundry are

available. There is no charge for lodging. For information on motels and other points of interest in the area:

[www.abbotsfordchamber.com](http://www.abbotsfordchamber.com).

### **Ootsa Lake Bible Camp**

Burns Lake

Website: [www.ootsalakebiblecamp.com](http://www.ootsalakebiblecamp.com)

Ootsa Lake Bible Camp is located 60 miles south of Burns Lake, on Ootsa Lake, with the beautiful mountains of Tweedsmuir Park across the water. Ootsa is a great place to serve and a great place to sense the presence of God through His creation. The Camp is operated by a board that is comprised of members from four local churches. Volunteer opportunities include: maintenance, cooking, and building when needed. The main building is modern lodge is equipped with multiple bedrooms, large dining room and an up to date kitchen. Kids camps run from July 1 through the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August.

Lodging: There are RV spots, cabins and when necessary accommodations in homes can be arranged.

### **Camp Squeah**

Hope

Website: [www.squeah.com](http://www.squeah.com)

Camp Squeah is a year-round camp owned by Mennonite Church British Columbia. In the summer it's used for children's camps, the rest of the year churches, schools and other groups rent the space. The camp mission statement is 'in response to God who loves us and calls us'. Camp Squeah provides a place of refuge in a natural setting where people of all ages can build relationships, grow and be nurtured. The service opportunities available include, but are not limited to: landscaping/grounds keeping, kitchen service, guest group hospitality, linen service, housekeeping, help with leading children's activities and assisting the site manager with projects requiring basic trade skills and/or labour.

Lodging: RV hookups are available. There is also private suite accommodations in the new Fraser-Emory Lodges. When the camp is being used by a group meals are provided, but volunteers are responsible for their own food when the camp is not being used.

### **Okanagan Gleaners**

Oliver

Website: [www.okanagangleaners.com](http://www.okanagangleaners.com)

Okanagan Gleaners, begun and operated by Christian volunteers since autumn of 1994, processes and dries local fruits and vegetables for distribution to needy people in the world. Volunteers participate in the various aspects of the process. Opportunities to serve run from May through November.

Lodging: Volunteers are encouraged to bring tents or RVs to the stay in the pleasant orchard setting. There are 12 fully service RV sites available. There are shared kitchen facilities, showers and laundry in the nearby plant. Shared kitchen, showers, laundry and other facilities are available. Summer opportunities are from May through November, but the RV hookups can be used year round. Nearby Lakeside Resort offers discounted rates to volunteers. No meals are provided.

# Manitoba

## **Mennonite Heritage Village**

Steinbach

Website: [www.mhv.ca](http://www.mhv.ca)

The Mennonite Heritage Village preserves and exhibits the story of the Russian Mennonites and their contributions to Manitoba through exhibits, artifacts in a permanent gallery, and an outdoor pioneer village. There is a wide range of tasks available for volunteers: cataloguing artifacts, computer data entry, heritage building restoration, gardening, groundskeeping, costumed interpretation of heritage buildings and culture, antique vehicle and equipment care and repair and demonstrations of pioneer skills. Some of the pioneer skills are: blacksmithing, threshing, flour milling, saw milling, spinning, quilting, milk separation, butter churning and bread baking in an outdoor clay oven. Volunteer opportunities are usually available from April through October, with July and August being the busiest months.

Lodging: There are several RV parks/campgrounds and motels serving the community. For groups of 10 or more there is modestly priced dormitory space available in a nearby school in July and August. Mennonite Heritage Village will assist in locating suitable lodging arrangements if necessary. Meals are the responsibility of volunteers. However, the onsite restaurant offers volunteers a 50% discount on meals. It's open between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

## **Camps with Meaning**

Winnipeg

Website: [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

Camps with Meaning is a ministry of Mennonite Church Manitoba that operates three camps year-round: Camp Assiniboia near Winnipeg, Camp Koinonia near Boissevain and Camp Moose Lake near Sprague. Service opportunities include: health officer (for certain Manitoba licensed medical professionals), head cook, assistant cook, kitchen help, camp pastor, maintenance and on-site managers. Some opportunities are only available at specific camps. Camp Koinonia offers a summer camping program and a retreat facility to guest groups throughout the rest of the year. Volunteer opportunities would include living on the grounds and monitoring the facilities. Other opportunities could include cooking, cleaning, snow removal, general facility maintenance.

# Ontario

## **Ontario Christian Gleaners**

Cambridge

Website: [www.ontariogleaners.org](http://www.ontariogleaners.org)

The Ontario Christian Gleaners is an interdenominational Christian organization that collects, processes and distributes surplus and blemished agricultural produce. Produce is collected from farms and food distribution centers. Gleaners volunteers trim, chop and dry the produce. The dehydrated produce is then combined to make nourishing soup mixes and dried fruit snacks. These

products are then distributed to the needy around the world by way of non-government relief organizations. The Gleaners operates year round, Monday through Friday with the exception of statutory holidays. Volunteers work from 8:30am until 12:00pm with a coffee break around 10:00am. Aprons are provided, but volunteers are asked to wear only closed-toe shoes. There are several different positions available for volunteers at the Gleaners, but most volunteers assist in the processing room. This is also a very social room. Produce is trimmed by removing blemishes, cores and ends. The processing room has in floor heating. Rubber mats are used to stand on and stools are available for volunteers wishing to sit as they work.

Lodging: The Gleaners building is located just outside the city of Cambridge where a variety of hotels are available. The Cambridge Hotel and Conference Centre offers Gleaners volunteers a rate of \$85 per night plus tax, including breakfast. There is also a campground nearby. Volunteers are responsible for all their own meals.

### **Welcome Inn**

Hamilton

Website: [www.welcomeinn.ca](http://www.welcomeinn.ca)

The Welcome Inn Community Centre works to alleviate poverty in Hamilton, Ontario. Programs include a food bank, children's after-school program, youth arts program, youth drop-in, summer day camp, weekly seniors lunch and recreational activities, seniors visits, financial literacy education for children and adults, thrift store, food literacy programs, good food access center and community building events. SOOP volunteers may assist with all of the above programs or provide administrative support or building maintenance. Both long- and short-term positions are available year-round.

Lodging: Accommodation can be arranged in homes, volunteers are expected to contribute to the household costs. Meals are the volunteers' responsibility.

### **Fraser Lake Camp**

Stouffville

Website: [www.willowgrove.ca/Overnight-Camp](http://www.willowgrove.ca/Overnight-Camp)

Fraser Lake Camp welcomes volunteers to serve with our maintenance or kitchen teams. Volunteer opportunities run from June-August.

Lodging: Trailers or RVs can be accommodated or Volunteer cabins are available. All meals are provided.

### **Ottawa Ten Thousand Villages**

Ottawa

Website: [alternativetrade.com/festival.htm](http://alternativetrade.com/festival.htm)

For over 20 years the Ottawa Mennonite Church has been hosting an annual Ten Thousand Villages (formerly Self Help Crafts of the World) sale during the month of November. Ten Thousand Villages provides fair income to Third World people by selling their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. The Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale at the Ottawa Mennonite Church operates every Friday and Saturday in November. A tea room serving sandwiches, borscht, desserts, tea and

coffee is also part of the sale on Saturdays. This project is made possible with the support of many local volunteers from both the church and the larger community who help with the set up of the sale and the selling the products. One or two full-time volunteers who can be available on a regular basis during the week are also needed to help ensure the smooth running of the sale. Sale coordinators will provide support and direction to the full-time volunteer(s). Duties include: Receiving shipments, helping to unpack the product and store packing materials (boxes, bubble wrap, crates, etc.), assisting with set up of sale areas, assisting with the actual sale on Fridays and Saturdays, helping to organize the final pack up at the end of the sale. Please note some heavy lifting may be required. Meals are provided for all volunteers during the sale hours. One to two people are needed from late October to the end of November for approximately 25 hours per week, although there is flexibility in dates and hours. Previous Ten Thousand Villages experience is an asset, but not essential.

Lodging: A guest room in a private home with shared kitchen facilities and living space is available.

# United States

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## Arizona

### Glendale/Phoenix

Website: [www.trinitymennonite.com](http://www.trinitymennonite.com)

Warm weather is not the only reason SOOP volunteers are attracted to Arizona. The Phoenix unit provides many opportunities for community outreach. Volunteers work in food banks, at a refugee settlement center, as ELL (English Language Learners) teachers and aides, and help with various repair and remodeling projects. Our volunteers enjoy an atmosphere of living and working together, sharing evening meals with other SOOP volunteers, and visiting local sights. Coordinators assist with transportation to and from the airport, when needed, and plan work site locations in line with the interests and abilities of volunteers. It is critical that you stay in contact with the Phoenix coordinators about your plans and about any changes you may need to make.

Lodging: Housing is provided in a communal setting at the Phoenix Menno Guest House, a 6-bedroom, 3-bathroom home near Trinity Mennonite Church. The many enhancements to our property has been in large part to the volunteers giving of their time and skills. As of September 1, 2016, the charge for food and lodging is \$30US/day for singles, and \$40US/day for couples. Food is available for breakfast and lunch but up to the individual for preparation. The evening meal is shared by all with volunteers taking their turn at preparation.

### Tucson

Website: [shalommennonite.org](http://shalommennonite.org)

Tucson is a beautiful desert location with plenty of attractions and amenities. SOOP volunteers are included and welcomed by Shalom Mennonite Fellowship and have a wide variety of service opportunities to choose from, including: food banks, soup kitchens, home repairs, thrift stores, Habitat for Humanity, and tutoring at local schools and a community college. SOOPers should be self-starters and it is advantageous to have your own transportation since the volunteer sites are spread throughout the city. While one to two week involvement is workable, a term of four weeks or more is beneficial. Longer terms benefit the placements and community building with SOOP participants. Weekly events for SOOPers include Sunday morning church, Sunday evening social time, Thursday evening Bible Study led by SOOP volunteers, and eating out together at a local restaurant on Sunday noon. A four day work week gives you time to enjoy the area.

Lodging: Possibilities include RV sites at \$100 per month, renting guest rooms from a church member at \$125 per person per month, hotels or furnished apartments. All lodging and meals are at the volunteer's own expense. Meals in private homes are an extra charge.

# Arkansas

## El Dorado

El Dorado is in southern Arkansas, about two hours from Little Rock. Service opportunities include a number of community-based options: senior center, nursing home, Habitat for Humanity, tutoring in local schools, mentoring children at the Boys and Girls Club, a Salvation Army soup kitchen, and working with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. There are also a variety of volunteer tasks at Faith Community Church: Sunday school teachers, visitation, maintenance, yard work, small group leader and transportation.

Lodging: In a motel-type room or an RV hook-up. There are eight fully furnished motel-type rooms with refrigerator, microwave and AC/heat. Laundry facilities are available. Rooms cost \$300 per month or \$100 per week. RV hookups are also available. Volunteers are responsible for their own meals. A central kitchen is available to prepare meals, and usually the evening meal is shared by all the volunteers that are present at the time.

# California

## West Coast Mennonite Central Committee

Reedley

Website: [mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/more/west-coast](http://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/more/west-coast)

Reedley, California, has service opportunities through West Coast Mennonite Central Committee (WCMCC) resource center, Nearly New Thrift Store and Mennonite Quilt Center. In the thrift store help is needed to sort, price donations and assist with small appliance donations. The Mennonite Quilt store needs help sorting, pricing, and assisting customers. WCMCC resource center has fabric and rug weaving departments. Volunteers can cut fabric, tie comforters, assemble MCC kits, cut up denim, weave and tie rugs. The Fresno MCC relief sale is held the first weekend in April and could also use volunteers.

Lodging: In homes with families and couples. If preferred, there are apartments to rent and local hotels where volunteers may stay for the short term. There are also possibilities of RV hook-ups at a local RV park. Meals are on your own.

# Colorado

## Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

Divide

Website: [www.rmmc.org](http://www.rmmc.org)

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is a ministry of the Mountain States and South Central Mennonites Conferences. Service opportunities include maintenance, food services, and housekeeping from September to May. In June through August, volunteers are needed in the office and other tasks as needed. All volunteers will have a chance to interact with campers, guests and other weekend volunteers. The terrain is rugged, and adjustment to the elevation of 9,620 feet is a necessary reality taking one or two days. \*\*Altitude sickness can result if you do not take time to



adjust to the elevation.\*\* Staying overnight at a middle altitude (ie. Colorado Springs or Denver) can help, as does proper hydration. The summer months offer temperatures in the range of 70-80 degrees in the afternoons with many cool mornings.

Lodging: Volunteers are provided with available accommodations and food at no cost. Accommodations might range from a bedroom with beds only with meals provided at camp, or a small apartment-style accommodation with a private kitchen, bathroom, living room and bedroom. Your accommodation will be based on the time of year, and the number of guests at the camp. RV hookups with water, sewer and electric are available from June to September only.

## **Florida**

### **Lakewood Retreat**

Brooksville

Website: [www.lakewoodretreat.org](http://www.lakewoodretreat.org)

Lakewood Retreat is a Mennonite Church camp and retreat centre located in west central Florida. Volunteers help with maintenance, gardening, housekeeping and various improvement projects.

Lodging: RV hook-ups are available at no charge. When the kitchen is open for groups, volunteers are allowed to get food in the dining hall at no cost. There will be days that no meals are prepared, and so SOOP workers would be asked to prepare their own meals.

### **Camp Ithiel**

Gotha

Website: [campithiel.com](http://campithiel.com)

Camp Ithiel, near Orlando, operates year round with mostly weekend groups in the winter and weeklong sleep-away camps in the summer. Interests and talents of volunteers can be matched with a special project or task. Projects can include: fix-it jobs, light construction, grounds keeping, painting, spring cleaning, housekeeping, assisting in the kitchen and assisting in the office. The New Covenant Church of the Brethren worships on site.

Lodging: The camp provides WiFi, electricity, water and sewer hookups for RVs in a wooded, secluded part of the grounds. There is a nearby bathhouse with laundry, restrooms, showers as well as a telephone and covered picnic shelter. There is also an RV for SOOP use. The grounds include a lake, pool, chapel and activity field. Volunteers provide their own food, except when there are camps.

## **Georgia**

### **Casa Alterna**

LaGrange

Casa Alterna is a hospitality house offering faithful acts of mercy and justice alongside our first-wave Latinx immigrant neighbors. Service opportunities may include tutoring children from families with limited English proficiency, teaching English to first-wave immigrants primarily from Guatemala, home improvements, transportation assistance, and visiting detained immigrants. Being bilingual is not required but those who are may also be able to offer interpretation services. Individuals with administrative gifts and web design and management would be a bonus.

Lodging: Casa Alterna can provide accommodations in our guest bedroom. The rest of the dwelling, including the kitchen and bathroom, would be shared space. Housing is on a second floor so must be able to climb stairs. There is no cost for volunteers for lodging and food, but donations are gladly accepted. There is no public transportation, so a personal vehicle would probably be a necessity. Again, being fluent in Spanish is helpful, but not required.

### **Koinonia Farm**

Americus

Website: [www.koinoniapartners.org](http://www.koinoniapartners.org)

Koinonia Farm is an intentional Christian community and the birthplace of a number of well-known projects, including Habitat for Humanity, Jubilee Partners, the Fuller Center for Housing, and the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition. Our 573 acres of land in rural southwest Georgia is home to large pecan orchards, pasture for grass-fed beef, organic gardens, two villages of Partnership Housing, wooded areas including a Peace Trail, and the main campus with a museum, store, bakery, dining hall, office and community housing. Koinonia operates its farm, bakery and mail order business in order to support its ministries and to sustain life together in community. Service opportunities will be working alongside the staff in the various activities and projects on the farm.

Lodging: Volunteers are welcome to stay in our on-site housing, which includes one-bedroom apartments, 2-4 bedroom houses, and a larger dormitory. We also have full RV hookups available. Community meals are lunch on weekdays and dinner Tues- Thurs nights. There is a potluck and gathered worship on Sunday evenings. Other meals are on your own. There is access to a fully furnished kitchen. Volunteers are welcome to come for a few days or weeks.

### **Oakleaf Mennonite Farm**

Atlanta

Website: [www.bereamennonitechurch.com/farm](http://www.bereamennonitechurch.com/farm)

Berea Mennonite Church has been in the heart of urban Atlanta for 50 years and operates Oakleaf Mennonite Farms on its nine acres of property. Oakleaf includes livestock, gardens, pastures and vineyards, and uses its resources to partner with the community in a number creative ways, including fall pumpkin sales with the Navajo Nation, and providing housing for a local arts program. The farm also hosts student groups for outdoor play and learning during the school year, and during the summer offers several weeks of "Peace and Carrots Camp," a peacemaking experience for youth and children. A new partnership with The Friendship Center, a ministry for the mentally ill and mentally disabled based out of the nearby Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. Oakleaf provides space for the Center's arts program, which includes ceramics from wheels to molds, wood turning, weaving, quilting, painting, and sculpting. Volunteer opportunities include participating in the ministries and partnerships of the farm, and helping with all aspects of farm maintenance, including caring for livestock and gardening.

Lodging: A small apartment on the church property is available. The apartment has private bedrooms, shared bathrooms, a common living area and a kitchenette. There is no cost for lodging, but SOOPers are responsible for their own food.

### **Jubilee Partners**

Comer

Website: [www.jubileepartners.org](http://www.jubileepartners.org)

Jubilee Partners is a Christian service community in rural northeast Georgia whose primary work is resettling refugees. Volunteer work is primarily maintenance-related unless the volunteer is able to commit to a three-four month placement in the seasonal service program. The shortest length of service is six to eight weeks, and arrivals are best when timed for the beginning of the seasonal service terms for orientation and training purposes. Either early January, mid-May, or mid-August. Volunteers have study sessions each week on issues important to Christian living in an intentional community.

Lodging: Accommodations and food are provided. Accommodations are in the main community building, which also contains the communal dining hall. Housing is dormitory style, with a number of small bedrooms along a hallway, and a shared bathroom. Some meals are taken communally and the rest volunteer to prepare on their own.

## **Illinois**

### **Hungry World Farm**

Tiskilwa, Illinois

Website: [www.hungryworldfarm.com](http://www.hungryworldfarm.com)

Hungry World Farm is a non-profit ministry dedicated to nurturing soil and people. Our mission is to inspire and educate visitors about healthy fields, food, and bodies while caring for the earth.

#### **1-6 week terms for SOOPers**

#### **Ages 25+**

Hungry World Farm welcomes SOOPers to the farm for short-term stays. Volunteers are encouraged to stay for at least a week (up to 6 weeks), but even shorter stays are possible. Possible volunteer opportunities include construction, remodeling, general maintenance, gardening, general farm tasks (produce, livestock, etc.), and more. If you have particular skills or experience you would like to share with us, let us know.

Housing: Shared on-farm housing provided, access to some farm food

#### **2.5 - 7 month internships are also available for those 18+**

Energetic, team-oriented individuals (age 18+) desiring to learn about and participate in small-scale, diversified farming are invited as interns. We welcome self-motivated, creative, and willing learner-workers to partner with us in nurturing soil life, growing food, caring for animals, and sharing the good news of regenerative agriculture with visitors to our educational farm.

Interns can expect to devote about 25 hours per week engaged in experiential learning through farm work in gardens, with livestock, or general farm maintenance. 10 hours per week will be dedicated to focused learning through field trips, presentations, conversations, and recommended reading/viewing. About 5 hours of participation in farm community gatherings is encouraged. These gatherings may include: shared meals, team-building, prayer circle, bonfires, and outings.

Interns should leave with a broadened understanding of regenerative agriculture, strong experience in a wide variety of farm activities, and a deepened love for God and all of Creation. Interns can expect to work hard, have fun, and learn plenty. We want to facilitate a collaborative, community-oriented environment with lots of learning, sharing, and laughter to go along with the work!

Internship duration: 2.5 - 7 months

Dates\*: Full-season interns: April 1 to October 30

Summer interns: June 1 to August 15

\*Alternate dates may be discussed with HWF staff at the time of application

Housing: Shared on-farm housing provided, access to some farm food; plus a stipend

## **Indiana**

### **Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

Elkhart

Website: [www.ambs.edu](http://www.ambs.edu)

The seminary provides theological education for pastors, teachers and others involved in ministries around the world. Service opportunities include: maintenance, childcare, library services, meal preparation and service, switchboard and mailroom, seasonal outdoor work on the seminary grounds and light clerical work and computer data entry. Service time offers ongoing congenial interaction with students, faculty and staff as well as interludes of inspirational chapel services and forums. AMBS expects SOOP volunteers to work approximately 30 hours per week, not including the lunch breaks. Chapels, breaks, and forums are counted as working hours.

Lodging: Housing is provided free of charge for volunteers who make a work commitment of three weeks or longer. There are on-campus apartments available with one or two bedrooms, a bathroom, living room and kitchen. Volunteer provide their own food, expect for noon meals when the dining hall is open. The dining hall at AMBS is generally open for special events only.

### **Menno-Hof**

Shipshewana

Website: [www.mennohof.org](http://www.mennohof.org)

Menno-Hof, a Mennonite-Amish visitor's centre, presents the Anabaptist faith story to visitors from all walks of life. Volunteers serve as host/hostess at the centre, which includes conducting tours during open hours and occasionally at other times for groups that have arranged for special tours.

Normally, work begins at 9:30 a.m. and continues through the last tour, which is completed at approximately 5:30 p.m. (7:30 p.m. from June-August). We work in rotation with flexibility being the key word. Sundays are off, plus 1 ½ days off per week and a ½ hour lunch break each day.

Lodging: A furnished apartments complete with kitchen accessories, towels and bedding will be provided. Apartments are located on the second floor, so the ability to manage stairs is necessary. No meals or food is provided.

## **Iowa**

### **Crooked Creek Christian Camp**

Washington

Website: [crookedcreekcamp.org](http://crookedcreekcamp.org)

Crooked Creek Christian Camp hosts a summer kids camp for 7 weeks in the summer and various groups throughout the year (businesses, churches, family reunions, individuals). During the summer months having volunteers to help in the kitchen, cleaning or in maintenance would be of great help. June and July are the busiest time of the year, but help is welcomed year-round. Close toed shoes and shirts with sleeves are required if working in the kitchen. The weather can be very humid in the summer. Kitchen and most buildings have AC.

Lodging: Depending on the time of the year there are different options. An RV hook-up or a cabin with a shower and kitchen would be available at no cost. Meals can be taken in the dining hall when the kitchen is open.

## **Kansas**

### **Hesston College**

Hesston

Website: [www.hesston.edu](http://www.hesston.edu)

Volunteers are needed to help with: food services, clerical services, the library, facilities and ground maintenance, construction and in the Arboretum. Some opportunities are seasonal. There are other opportunities available in academic areas depending on the qualifications of volunteers.

Lodging: There is an RV park two miles from campus or a guesthouse with private room and bath is generally available; kitchen privileges are included. Depending on work assignment, one meal a day in the college cafeteria is provided at no cost, generally at noon.

### **Camp Mennoscah**

Murdock

Website: [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org)

Camp Mennoscah is a year-round facility for family and church gatherings, retreats, summer youth camps and other programming. Work projects available include weekend hosting of rental groups

and churches; kitchen assistance during summer youth camps; general maintenance for buildings, vehicles, etc.; grounds keeping; and custodial and housekeeping duties. Volunteer help is needed throughout the year. Tasks will vary based on season. Some main camp facilities do not have air-conditioning, but the office/retreat center, apartment, bunk houses, and house are air-conditioned

Lodging: There is a house or a 2-bedroom/1-bath apartment with kitchenette available. There are also RV hookups (electric only) with a bathhouse nearby from spring to fall. SOOP workers are welcome to take meals in the dining hall when the kitchen is in use during the summer. Otherwise, meals are on your own, although Camp may be able to assist with groceries.

## **Kentucky**

### **Lotts Creek Community School**

Hazard

Website: [www.lottscreek.org](http://www.lottscreek.org)

Lotts Creek Community School is a non-profit K-12 school located in the Appalachian Mountains. Volunteers help with: carpentry, repairs and minor plumbing, light landscaping, tutoring, art, music, sewing, the library, office work and playground supervision. Opportunities to serve are available year-round.

Lodging: A guesthouse is available for up to six people. Meals are the responsibility of the volunteers.

### **Sharing with Appalachian People (SWAP) MCC**

Whitesburg

Website: [mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap](http://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap)

SWAP is a Christian relief and development program that works directly in Appalachian communities in Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia, it is a program run by the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Appalachia is a beautiful place to visit and there are many opportunities for service. SWAP is a home repair program that works in three communities: Harlan KY, Hindman KY and Elkhorn WA. There are many volunteer opportunities working directly with SWAP, including: carpenters, cooks, material drivers, site coordinators, and leading evening sessions. SWAP also needs assistance in picking up material aid and building supplies from outside locations, such as Akron, Pa. and Goshen, Ind. Trips can be planned year round as volunteers are available. Vehicles and travel costs are usually provided for these trips. Volunteers may also serve at a local food pantry and clothing bank, sorting clothes and distributing food. MCC owns and uses a number of properties in Eastern Kentucky in need of upkeep. Assistance with the maintenance allows MCC workers to focus more time on program work in Appalachia. This maintenance includes cutting lawns, minor building repairs, and painting. If there are other skills that volunteers bring local coordinators will look within the community to match interests with the needs (ie, education, reading, crafting, etc.)

Lodging: At the Harlan location, there is a one bedroom apartment in the town of Harlan, and there are staff quarters at the camp. At the Hindman location, there is 3-bedroom apartment at the Hindman United Methodist Church. In Elkhorn, there are bedrooms in the SWAP house (1st & 2nd

floor) and staff quarters on 3rd floor. During the SWAP season, volunteers can eat with the groups. Off season they can use the kitchens to make meals

## Maryland

### **Reservoir Hill House of Peace**

Baltimore

Website: <http://www.bmoremenno.org/ministries/local-outreach/>

The Reservoir Hill House of Peace (RHHP) is a richly diverse community of young professionals, volunteers, and asylum seekers. As a ministry of the North Baltimore Mennonite Church (NBMC), the RHHP:

- Provides housing for persons who want to share God's reconciling love in a diverse urban setting in Baltimore, sharing a common vision of service.
- Provides shelter for asylum seekers, through the Asylum Seekers Housing Network (ASHN), integrating them into the community, thus facilitating inter-cultural sharing.

Two major areas of volunteer opportunities are to:

1. Assist the house coordinator and trustees with maintenance and construction projects and seasonal outdoor work, along with house members.
2. Work with asylum seekers who live at the RHHP, and who are part of the [Asylee Women Enterprise](#), our partner organization, in a variety of areas:
  - a. Teach English as a second language
  - b. Provide weekly cooking or art lessons
  - c. Deliver food packages to asylum seekers
  - d. Provide transportation for medical or legal assistance appointments
  - e. Tutor asylum seekers studying to get further training

Living and working at the RHHP provides a great opportunity to live in a diverse community with a sense of mission while experiencing city living and making important contributions to the lives of others. Located in a turn-of-the-century mansion, RHHP housing is communal with shared bathrooms, kitchen, dining, and living rooms. Public bus transportation is a convenient; a car is useful but not necessary. House members eat together about once a week and enjoy sharing and tasting each other's food. Volunteers are responsible for their own food. Housing and utilities cost \$200/mo.

## Michigan

### **Camp Friedenswald**

Cassopolis

Website: [friedenswald.org](http://friedenswald.org)

Camp Friedenswald, located on 365 acres next to Shavehead Lake in southern Michigan, is affiliated with the Mennonite Camping Association and has a rich history as a church camp. Camp Friedenswald provides people of all ages the opportunity to grow in relationship with God, self, others, and nature. This mission is accomplished through program camps, outdoor education, guest group rentals, and special events. Volunteer opportunities include: maintenance, food services, and housekeeping from September to May. In June through August, volunteers are needed in the office

and for other various tasks. All volunteers will have a chance to interact with campers, guests and other weekend volunteers.

Lodging: RV hookups may be used during the warmer months and have full electrical, water and sewer hookup. Other lodging is available depending on the season and length of stay. All meals served at the camp are available to volunteers. There are laundry facilities on site.

### **Little Eden Camp**

Onekama  
Website: [littleeden.org](http://littleeden.org)

Little Eden provides camping programs for children, families and seniors during the summer, and hosts church retreats and family gatherings the rest of the year. Volunteers are welcome year round and can help with tasks such as: kitchen work, laundry, cleaning and maintenance.

Lodging: Room and board is provided and RV space is available.

### **The Hermitage**

Three Rivers  
Website: [www.heritagecommunity.org](http://www.heritagecommunity.org)

The Hermitage is a retreat centre committed to creating an environment of attentiveness to God and a place of welcoming hospitality to individuals and small groups. Each day begins with morning prayers, and meals are taken in community. Retreat days and spiritual direction are offered as desired.

SOOP volunteers enter into the daily rhythm of work and prayer and help with extra projects that are waiting for the next available person. The presence of each one is a gift to our small community of retreat guests and resident staff. We are especially interested in persons with a call to a contemplative approach to work and prayer, receiving what "is" rather than asserting one's will to a particular end.. The Hermitage is located 34 miles from Goshen/Elkhart. People may volunteer for one week to several months.

Lodging: A private room with shared bathroom in the retreat house or electric hook-up and water supply for RV on the grounds are available. Meals are provided. Long term volunteers (several months) will have a studio apartment with small kitchen and private bath.



# Mississippi

## **Mashulaville Dormitory**

Macon

Website: [www.mashulavilledorm.com](http://www.mashulavilledorm.com)

Mennonites have lived in Mashulaville since the 1960's when the Mashulaville Chapel, a Choctaw mission, was established here. A non-profit entity, the Mennonite Service Center, now operates community improvement and educational services here. Volunteer opportunities include a wide variety of home repair projects, helping with adult education classes, after school tutoring and nutrition, nursing home visitation and support, outreach in the Choctaw Indigenous community, repair and upkeep at the Dormitory, immigration advocacy, summer recreation and nutrition programs, and bookkeeping. Church attendance is encouraged at local services, including the African American, Choctaw and Mennonite congregations here.

Lodging: An RV hook-up is available for electricity and water, but no sewer or volunteers are provided housing at Mashulaville Dormitory. Volunteers are expected to contribute toward their housing expenses. In the "dorm" there are 12 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, and one apartment for a leader couple. The community of volunteers share some meals but volunteers responsible for their own meals. There is a large kitchen and living/dining area where guests can interact with one another. There is wood heat in the dorm, but no air conditioning in the summer, except in the apartment. In the summer it can be 38C (100 F), and in the winter it is chilly and wet.

## **Pine Lake Fellowship Camp**

Meridian

Website: [www.pinelakecamp.com](http://www.pinelakecamp.com)

Pine Lake Camp is located just outside Meridian. Year round volunteer opportunities include: maintenance and small repairs, occasional cooking, housekeeping, mowing and general grounds keeping. During the summer camping program in the months of June and July, additional opportunities include: food ordering and purchasing, cooking, office work and camp nurse responsibilities.

Lodging: A small RV or a small duplex with kitchenette is available, as well as RV hookups. Food is the responsibility of the volunteers, unless there is a Summer camp operating.

# Montana

## **Crazyhead Springs Mennonite Camp**

Busby

Crazyhead Springs Mennonite Camp, in cooperation with White River Mennonite Church is seeking volunteers to assist with mechanical upkeep at the camp, specifically with the diesel generator and water system. Other volunteers are needed to help with camp set-up and take-down and with camp cooking. The camp is located in the hills at Crazyhead Springs, on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, in southeastern Montana. This provides a unique opportunity in a cross-cultural setting. Starting in April 2016, volunteers will be needed in the construction of the Lame Deer

Montana Thrift Store on the Reserve. Framing carpenters will be needed first, then experienced steel roofers. Finally, people experienced with siding, door and windows will be needed.

Lodging: At the camp, volunteers stay in the staff house with bunk beds. An RV hookup is also available. At the camp meals are provided, otherwise volunteers are responsible for their own food.

## **New Mexico**

### **Navajo BIC Mission**

Bloomfield

Website: [www.navajobic.org](http://www.navajobic.org)

The Navajo Brethren In Christ Mission was established in 1947. Located in the high desert of New Mexico (elevation 7000 ft.), expect to experience all four seasons: gentle, breezy springs; lovely, comfortable summers with highs in the low to mid 90's; windy, dry falls; and mild winters with some snowfall. There are many historic and beautiful areas to visit in the region. This a wonderful opportunity to meet and build relationships with the Navajo people in the community by assisting them while on campus. Volunteers will live and work on campus at the Mission doing general maintenance, helping in the orchard and vegetable garden, stocking and cleaning in the clothing house, and assisting as needed in the office, snack shop, craft shop or at the school. Assistance is also needed with the Mission Teams and with ministry projects, such as the August Back to School event, the Fall Festival in October, the Christmas Love Gift Outreach, and the Community Christmas Celebration. Help is needed year-round but especially in the fall and winter with the various community activities, general maintenance, office help and snow removal.

Lodging: Electric and sewer hook ups available for 5 RVs. Water is provided via portable water tanks. Depending on time of year there is usually a small house and an apartment available, fully furnished. A larger house is available in the Fall - Spring. Volunteers supply their own food (Bloomfield is the nearest town at 30 miles away) and do their own cooking, although they will frequently find themselves as guests for meals in the homes of the staff and included in some meals with the Mission Teams.

### **Navajo BIC Overcomers**

Bloomfield

Website: <http://www.bicovercomers.org/>

Navajo BIC Overcomers is a Christ-centered, Bible-based residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation program that works with Native American men. It seeks to eliminate the existence of chemical dependency and contribute to the constructive lifestyle of its clients while raising the standard of living through application of Christian principles and long-term development of life management skills. Volunteers work with the men during their free time playing games, doing puzzles and forming relationships. Volunteers also assist with preparing the evening meal Monday through Thursday and share grocery shopping duties. A 3-month commitment that coincides with the program is required.

Lodging: Volunteers have their own self-contained apartment, fully furnished. Food is provided.

## **Carlsbad**

Located in southeastern New Mexico, Carlsbad enjoys a dry and mild climate. Service opportunities are community-based in association with the local Mennonite church. They include the Boys & Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, local parks, residential elder-care, soup kitchens, home repair and food pantries. SOOPers are invited to participate in our local church service and activities, including twice-a-month fellowship meals.

Lodging: Option include local RV parks and motels, and potentially several small apartments. An evening SOOP meeting is held once each week, at a restaurant or potluck-style, and the church facilities and kitchen supplies are available for SOOPers' use. Volunteers at the soup kitchen may eat lunch there for free, otherwise they are on their own for meals.

## **New York**

### **Beaver Camp**

Lowville

Website: [www.beavercamp.org/](http://www.beavercamp.org/)

Beaver Camp is a Christian camp and retreat centre located in the Adirondacks in northern New York.

Volunteers help with maintenance, kitchen work, housekeeping and other tasks as needed.

Lodging: All food and housing is provided, but volunteers may bring their own RV if they prefer.

### **Camp Deerpark**

Westbrookville

Website: [www.campdeerpark.org](http://www.campdeerpark.org)

Camp Deerpark welcomes weekend visitors who come from the inner city. Volunteer opportunities include: hosting, groundskeeping, wood-cutting and clerical. Volunteer hosts would work Friday through Sunday, and have time to enjoy the scenic Northeast Monday through Thursday. Hosts would help prepare and serve meals and snacks, and help guests find their lodging upon arrival.

Lodging: There is one basement studio room with a shared bathroom or there is space for one RV. Volunteers will eat in the camp dining room on weekends and purchase and prepare their own food during the week. There is no charge for meals or lodging

## **North Carolina**

### **Unique World Gifts**

Hickory

Website: [www.uniqueworldgifts.org](http://www.uniqueworldgifts.org)

Unique World Gifts is a non-profit Fair Trade retail store that operates year-round. Volunteers are asked to help with operations of the store, including opening and closing procedures, assisting customers, making sales on a computer point-of-sale system, and assisting in other daily tasks. Volunteers may also help with off-site sales events. Volunteers' schedules are somewhat flexible,

but we request approximately 20-30 hours per week. Volunteers are welcome year-round with the greatest need from September to December. A minimum service time of one month is encouraged for all volunteers, with or without prior retail experience.

Lodging: Low-cost housing in a private home is usually available with adequate notice. There is also an RV park that is available most of the time.

## **Ohio**

### **Camp Luz**

Orrville

Website: [www.campluz.com](http://www.campluz.com)

Volunteers at Camp Luz, a Mennonite Church camp, help with tasks such as: maintenance, grounds-keeping, food service, cleaning, office work, and summer youth camp ministry. Year-round positions are available; shorter stays are preferred.

Lodging: All food and housing is provided, but volunteers may bring their own RV (electric hookup only) if they prefer.

## **Oregon**

### **Drift Creek Camp**

Lincoln City

Website: [www.driftcreek.org](http://www.driftcreek.org)

A beautiful place in the coastal mountains, just 11 miles from the ocean. Volunteers have the opportunity to assist with building projects, maintenance, kitchen and office work. Opportunities are year-round, and can be from a weekend to several months. There are opportunity to interact with children, youth, adults, school and church groups; summer programs, retreats and hosting weekend groups during the summer months.

Lodging: A private room or cabin is usually available. There is always one RV hookup available. While camp is used meals are provided. Otherwise volunteers prepare their own meals. From mid-August through mid-June there usually no rental groups on weekdays. The DCC pantry has some basics that they are happy to share but daily meals are not prepared. The location is remote, with no internet or cell phone service.

## **Pennsylvania**

### **Mennonite Central Committee**

Akron

Website: [mcc.org/welcoming-place](http://mcc.org/welcoming-place)

MCC is seeking volunteers for: maintenance repairs, painting, housekeeping, meal preparation and cleanup, and work sorting and scanning historical documents. The Material Resource Center (MRC) also needs help to sort, pack and recycle at the MCC Material Resource Center in Ephrata PA, 3

miles from the Akron office. Help is also needed at the quilt room in the Material Resource Center. No quilting skills required but must have a working knowledge of fabrics, basic sewing skills and skills at using a sewing machine. Whenever a SOOPer is on the Akron campus, they are part of the MCC Hosting Team. They may work independently on specific tasks, but are always connected to a staff person who gives them directions, and they have coffee break with our team daily, etc. The SOOPers we have had enjoy being part of that team and we enjoy getting to know them.

Lodging: Housing is provided without charge in MCC guest housing or apartments which are within walking distance of the MCC offices. MCC guest housing or apartments have a private bedroom and bath, shared living room and kitchen. SOOP volunteers may eat meals without charge in the Dining Hall whenever the Dining Hall is open (it is open on a sporadic schedule). When the Dining Hall is closed, volunteers are responsible for their own meals. Kitchens are available in guest housing or apartments where volunteers could prepare their own meals.

### **Brownstone Ten Thousand Villages**

Brownstown

Website: [www.thenthousandvillages.com](http://www.thenthousandvillages.com)

Volunteers assist at the Ten Thousand Villages shipping and receiving warehouse in Brownstown, Pa., a short drive from the office in Akron. At the warehouse, volunteers in the short-term program (minimum eight weeks) unpack products, pull orders for packing, pack orders for shipment, and/or process items that have been returned. It is physical work and requires the ability to stand and/or walk all day as well as do some bending and lifting. Volunteers in this program are expected to work a 40 hour week. Those who volunteer for fewer than eight weeks assist in the processing room by opening boxes, counting items, checking for damage, and preparing items for inventory. This work also involves standing/walking, with the possibility of some bending and lifting.

Lodging: Volunteers who serve less than eight weeks are responsible for their own housing. Ten Thousand Villages can provide information about lodging options. Volunteers who serve for one eight-hour day will receive a noon meal each day of their service. Volunteers in service for an eight-week/eight-hour-a-day commitment will receive a daily noon meal, a modest stipend, and housing in a small, furnished apartment.

### **Spruce Lake Retreat**

Canadensis

Website: [www.sprucelake.org](http://www.sprucelake.org)

Spruce Lake Retreat and Wilderness Camp operates year-round programs "pointing people toward Christ" in the picturesque Pocono Mountains of Northeast Pennsylvania. A wide variety of short- and longer-term voluntary opportunities exist. Volunteers with trades skills are needed, including: construction, plumbing, painting, and grounds maintenance. There are also opportunities for volunteers with bookkeeping, accounting and office skills. There are further opportunities in: food services, lodging and hospitality.

Lodging: Free lodging and meal packages are available to volunteers. RV sites and hookups as well as camp sites are available for lodging.

### **Woodcrest Retreat**

Ephrata

Website: [www.woodcrestretreat.org](http://www.woodcrestretreat.org)

Woodcrest Retreat is a member of the Mennonite Camping Association located in Lancaster County, Pa. We minister to more than 1,000 children through summer camp, while our RV campground provides opportunities for weekend family and church retreats. Campground hosts are needed for weekends with a flexible mid-week schedule. There are a variety of duties including: welcoming guests, cleaning, light maintenance, office duties, operating the camp store and operating the waterslide. Volunteers are needed for the summer/fall months with a minimum one month commitment.

Lodging: There are RV sites or there is camper available. Most meals are the responsibility of the volunteers unless there is summer camp where meals are being served.

### **Paxton Ministries**

Harrisburg

Website: [www.paxtonmin.org](http://www.paxtonmin.org)

Paxton Ministries is a Christ-centered, nonprofit organization providing affordable housing and support services, to adults in need, many of whom are challenged with poverty, mental illness, or intellectual disabilities. Volunteers help with kitchen work, maintenance, housekeeping, and activities with residents. Opportunities are available year round.

Lodging: Housing will be arranged, including three meals per day. Donations for meals and housing are accepted, but not required.

### **Laurelville Mennonite Church Center**

Mt Pleasant

Website: [www.laurelville.org/](http://www.laurelville.org/)

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center is a conference and retreat centre in the Laurel Mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania. The facilities are available year-round to churches, synagogues, schools, service clubs and families. Laurelville programs attract children and youth, families, individuals with developmental disabilities, musicians, worship leaders, artists, people in leadership, seniors and other diverse groups. Volunteers opportunities include: serving guests in the dining hall and kitchen, painting, carpentry, housekeeping and general maintenance. During the warmer months, grounds keepers are needed. Occasionally volunteers are utilized as program hosts, guest service providers, mechanics or office assistants. Most volunteers serve in several roles during their stay. If you have a skill that you would like to offer, but don't see it listed, contact us! Laurelville welcomes help any time of year, but help is most valuable in the spring, summer and fall. We are open to flexible schedules and varying lengths of service.

Lodging: A 2-room apartment is usually available for volunteers. However, sometimes volunteers stay in a motel-style room or small cottage. RV sites are available in a quiet spot just beyond the main campus. Meals and lodging will be negotiated according to preferences and the number of hours worked. Typically, for full-time or nearly full-time work, lodging and most meals would be provided. Housing and meals are provided. Several RV sites are also available.

### **Black Rock Retreat**

Quarryville

Website: [www.blackrockretreat.com](http://www.blackrockretreat.com)

Black Rock Retreat is a non-profit Christian retreat facility primarily for use by Christian churches and organizations. It is located in Lancaster Count approximately one and a half hours west of Philadelphia and one and a half hours north of Baltimore. Volunteers are needed for construction projects, playground and picnic table upkeep and routine camp duties such as leaf-raking, mowing or painting.

Lodging: Lodging is available in motel-like rooms, cottages or cabins, all with private showers. Meals are provided.

### **Care and Share Shoppes**

Souderton

Website: <http://www.careandshareshoppes.org/>

From housewares to clothing to books and furniture, Care & Share Thrift Shoppes will be an inspiring retail shopping experience. We seek to model God's love and care for the earth and its people through recycling efforts and a positive shopping experience. We share our financial resources, our talents and our faith in Jesus Christ both locally and globally through Mennonite Central Committee. Since 1976 Care & Share has relied on dedicated volunteers. Opportunities await in the retail Shoppes, workrooms and online.

Lodging: Help is available to find affordable lodging. Meals are the volunteers responsibility.

## **Puerto Rico**

### **Academia Meonita Betania**

Aibonito

Academia Menonita Betania is a bilingual, Christian school located on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico near the city of Aibonito. The school is licensed and accredited and is a member of the Mennonite Education Agency. A wide variety of opportunities are available to work alongside the staff doing office work, maintenance and construction work, teacher's aides, assisting in the kitchen/cafeteria, and in the Alumni Office. Volunteers are welcome to select the projects that they will feel comfortable doing.

Lodging: A small house is available for volunteers, but is in need of some repairs and upkeep. Bedding and towels will be provided. Volunteers will need to provide their own food. A vehicle is available to borrow; volunteers will need to pay for gas. There is no cost to volunteers, but donations are gladly accepted.

## South Dakota

### **Swan Lake Christian Camp**

Viborg

Website: [www.myslcc.com](http://www.myslcc.com)

Surrounded by a beautiful lake and a wide variety of trees, prairie grasses, and wildlife, Swan Lake Christian Camp is ideal for get-a-ways or gatherings in any season. Family camps, conferences, reunions, church retreat groups, children's camps, and other groups are sure to enjoy Swan Lake Christian Camp's unique hospitality. Volunteers are needed year-round to help with mowing, maintenance, painting, cooking, cleaning or as camp nurse.

Lodging: Housing and meals are provided. RV parking is available as well as hotel type lodging.

## Texas

### **Austin Mennonite Church**

Austin

Website: <https://austinmennonite.org/>

Volunteers in Austin work closely with Austin Mennonite Church and its ministries. General maintenance is needed for indoor facilities and an outdoor play area.

Lodging: Assistance with finding affordable lodging may be requested. Home stays with church members are possible. Meals are on your own.

### **San Antonio Mennonite Church**

San Antonio

Website: [sanantoniomennonite.org](http://sanantoniomennonite.org)

The SOOP Program in San Antonio, TX is similar to the church it comes from, San Antonio Mennonite Church. SAMC is a small (70-80 folks), close-knit and diverse community. We often gather together to celebrate special events, bring meals to new parents, cheer on someone's sports event, etc. SAMC is closely involved with immigrants from the nearby detention center. Service opportunities include helping with the influx of refugees at La Casa de Marta & Y Maria and the bus stations. These volunteers should be able to communicate in Spanish. There is also maintenance work to be done at the house and perhaps cleaning. There will be construction work at the Church building and general repairs. There may be other service opportunities in the San Antonio charity organizations at food pantries and homeless shelters. Although SOOP work can't always be easily measured by hours or 'product', we plan for about 20 hours a week of service work. San Antonio is full of incredible and compassionate agencies, culture, and great places to explore. The hope is that SOOP stretches, teaches, builds community, and offers meaningful service possibilities. Lodging: One camper hook up is available in the church parking lot. Lodging will be available in several rooms with shared bathrooms in the church. There is also an RV campground about 1 mile from the church, if you are wanting to pay the fee for camping there. There is a bus stop at the church. Bus passes are available for \$35 or \$19.50 for those over 62. The church is located 3 blocks from the San Antonio River and La Casa de Marta Y Maria. There is no land line so cell phones are encouraged. There is wireless service at the church. The January-March weather can vary-



sometimes with cold nights (30's) and sometimes even cold days, though days are often warm with temperatures in the 60-70 degree range.

### **World Hunger Relief, Inc.**

Waco

Website: [www.worldhungerrelief.org](http://www.worldhungerrelief.org)

World Hunger Relief, Inc. is a Christian organization committed to the alleviation of hunger around the world. World Hunger Relief is a 42 acre working farm that provides practical and classroom training to interns who wish to work in the developing world and education to local area residents who wish to learn about how to be better stewards of God's creation. As a working farm, there is always more work to be done than there are hands to help. There are volunteer opportunities for people of all ages and aptitudes, including: carpentry, masonry, electrical work, machine maintenance/repair, clerical, kitchen/food prep, labour in the gardens and grounds keeping. Volunteers are encouraged to connect with Hope Fellowship, a local Mennonite congregation, involved in the ministry of World Hunger Relief.

Lodging: There are 3 RV hook ups, 3 apartments, plus dormitory-style housing is sometimes available. Lunches are provided at no cost to volunteers, volunteers are responsible for all other meals. The farm offers fresh organic produce, milk, meat and eggs at no cost to volunteers.

## **Vermont**

### **Bethany Birches Camp**

Plymouth

Website: [www.bethanybirches.org](http://www.bethanybirches.org)

Lush, green mountains in the summer, deep snow in the winter and lots of color in between. Join us in the Green Mountains of Vermont in the summer for a week or more. We can utilize help specifically in the kitchen, in program, on maintenance and for a unique position we call the Camp Shepherd (this person brings the spiritual input for the week). Join us in the winter for a weekend of snow camp where you can cook and keep the wood stove burning. Summer program runs from June through August and snow camps happen on different weekends during the winter.

Lodging: RV space or a large cabin is available.

## **Virginia**

### **Highland Retreat**

Bergton

Website: [www.highlandretreat.org](http://www.highlandretreat.org)

Highland Retreat is a summer camp and retreat facility for all ages. Volunteers are welcome from May through September to help with weekend hosting, maintenance, carpentry and food service.

Lodging: There is a cottage or full hookup for RV/travel trailer. Meals or a food allowance are provided.

## **Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center**

Toano

Website: [www.wcrc.info](http://www.wcrc.info)

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center (WCRC) is a summer camp and retreat facility for all ages. Volunteers are welcome year-round to help with weekend hosting, landscape maintenance, general maintenance, carpentry, and food service.

Lodging: There are RV sites with full hookup (30 amps). Hotel or cabin accommodations are sometimes available for shorter term (1 to 2 weeks) volunteers. Volunteers can eat in our dining room most weekends: Friday dinner, Saturday all meals, and Sunday breakfast. Leftovers are available subject to availability.

## **Washington**

### **Camp Camrec**

Leavenworth

Website: [camrec.org](http://camrec.org)

Located on 240 acres in the east foothills of the Cascade Mountains, twelve miles from Leavenworth, Washington and 10 miles from Lake Wenatchee, Camrec provides a year-round retreat for all ages from the daily noise of life and renews the gift of peace found in God's creation. Volunteers are needed year round, especially April through October for maintenance projects. Kitchen help is needed in July during summer camp season. In addition, grounds keeping, trail maintenance and office/hosting help is needed.

Lodging: There is no cost for lodging, and food is provided when summer camps are in session or if there is a rental group present. Water and electric hook ups are available for RVs, and a cabin is also available, which is handicap accessible and includes bathroom facilities. A shower is available just a short distance from the cabin.

## **Colombia**

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### **La Mesa**

Cundinamarca

Website: <http://camcol.edu.co/>

La Mesa, Cundinamarca, about 45 miles west of Bogota, is home to an active Mennonite Church and the Colegio American Menno. Both the church and school welcome short-term volunteers to help in local ministries, English tutoring and other activities according to their gifts and skills. Families are welcome with the possibility of an immersion experience in the school for the children.

Lodging: A homestay is likely for food and lodging with variable, yet reasonable expenses involved.

### **Finca CREER (Center for Retreats and Meetings El Recreo)**

Cachipay

Nestled in the Andes Mountains near Cachipay, about 50 miles from Bogota, our partners at *Finca CREER* (Center for Retreats and Meetings El Recreo) are seeking volunteers to help with all manner of upkeep on the 12.5-acre campground: painting, gardening, carpentry and construction, cooking, sewing, plumbing and electrical work. Spanish language competency is necessary. Costs will be around \$150 a month and will cover food and lodging.