Church of the Presentation

Bethlehem Farm Mission Trip

September 18-23, 2027

Applications are due no later than Sunday, February 7, 2027.

Destination

Bethlehem Farm is a Catholic faith-based volunteer community in Appalachia, West Virginia offering week-long service retreats and longer-term volunteer positions. They serve our rural neighbors through hands-on home repair projects and by lending a hand to farmers and the local food system. They teach sustainable living practices and care for creation. They invite volunteers to join us in living the Gospel cornerstones of service, prayer, simplicity, and community.

What we will be doing?

Bethlehem Farm is a Catholic community in Appalachia that transforms lives through service in the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices. We invite volunteers to join us in living the Gospel cornerstones of service, prayer, simplicity and community.

During a week at the Farm, our group will…

…serve alongside peers with our neighbors through home repair.
…have fun & build relationships with people you just met.
…dig deeper into your spirituality and the meaning of life.
…explore your role in caring for creation while befriending donkeys, cats, and chickens.
…wake up early, work hard, and go to bed with that "good-tired" feeling every night.

VOLUNTEERS AND BETHLEHEM FARM CARETAKERS PRAY, PLAY, AND SERVE. TOGETHER.

Most importantly, we encounter God in one another.
And we figure out what it means to truly live our faith – whatever our faith looks like.

Who can apply?

Any Presentation parishioner who will be at least 25 years old by September 1, 2027, may apply for this mission trip.

Each application must include the following:

- Completed Application form
- Typed, signed letter of intent
- Copy of your current driver's license
- Summary of your availability to be in the parish area from February 1 through June 2027
- A deposit of $200.00 towards travel costs, submitted by personal check, payable to Church of the Presentation, memo "**Bethlehem Farm Mission Trip 2027"** which, upon selection, will be non-refundable.

- The COMPLETE PACKET (Application form, as well as letter of intent, copy of passport photo page and deposit) is **due by Sunday, February 7, 2027**.

Dates & Cost

Mission Dates: ***Saturday, September 18 – Thursday, September 23, 2027***

Fundraising and Sponsorships: The parish is seeking sponsors to help cover the costs for this mission trip. **The overall cost of the mission trip is anticipated to be approximately $450.00 per person**, which includes transportation, accommodations and meals. Depending on sponsorships, each team member ultimately will be responsible for the net individual cost of the trip.

Letter of Intent

This helps us understand why you want to go on this trip and what you hope to get out of this experience. Please be detailed and specific in this letter about what gifts and talents you will bring to this mission trip and what gifts and blessings you anticipate receiving during the trip.

What commitments are required to participate in this mission trip?

Once the team is established, formation and community building meetings and events will be planned. It is helpful for the group to develop a level of trust that will empower a good working relationship, beginning prior to the trip. Through the course of the formation meetings, the group will work together on team building activities and lessons for understanding the population we intend to serve. There will be opportunities to participate in cultural sensitivity training, explore Catholic Social Teaching, and cultivate a deeper personal relationship with Christ so as to be better able to become a servant as he was.
****Dates for formation meetings and fundraising events will be provided after applications are submitted. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to coordinate dates as efficiently as possible.*

When will I find out if I have been accepted or not?

All completed applications will be considered for this mission trip that are submitted by **Sunday, February 7, 2027**. **Applicants will be advised of their acceptance on the mission trip by February 28, 2027, at which time, you will be required to confirm your participation, and your deposit will become non-refundable.**

What are the next steps to take if I am accepted for this year's trip?

Once an applicant receives notice of their acceptance and confirms their participation, medical paperwork, waiver forms, and additional information will be distributed at the first meeting (*Exact date TBD)*

If you have any questions about any follow up information, please contact **Maureen Murphy: mmurphy@churchofpresentation.org**

Church of the Presentation

Bethlehem Farm Mission Trip

September 18 – 23, 2027

Applications are due no later than February 7, 2026.

APPLICATION FORM

Name_____Date of Birth_____Gender_____.

Address_____City_____State_____.

Email_____Phone_____ .

Please provide by separate confidential email to Maureen Murphy at mmurphy@churchofpresentation.org information concerning any medical condition and requested accommodation that you may require during the mission trip (*this information will be held confidential by the mission team leaders.)*

You must include with this application form the following:

❑ **Letter of Intent explaining:**

- Why do you want to participate in this mission experience? What do you hope to gain from this experience?
- What gifts, talents, motivations, and interests can you offer that would enhance the experience for the group?
- If you have been on a mission/service trip before, what experience/expertise will you bring to the group? Why do you wish to do another mission/service trip? How do you see your participation in this mission trip assisting you to grow as a Catholic Christian?

❑ **Copy of your driver's license**

❑ **Your Availability (from March 1 through June 2027)**

1. What dates will you **NOT be available** to participate in formation meetings?

2. List days of the week that work best for you for in-person and/or Zoom meetings.

3. If there is a weekend fundraising event or formation experience (such as a team retreat) that is scheduled, indicate the likelihood you would be able to travel to the parish for that weekend.

Please describe your availability from March 1 through June 2027:

1.

2.

3.

❑ **Deposit of $200.00** submitted by personal check, payable to Church of the Presentation, memo ***"Bethlehem Farm Mission Trip 2027"***

Statement of Agreement

By signing this form, I am agreeing that all of the information I have supplied is accurate and truthful. I am stating that I have read through and understand the entire application process and further agree that by applying for this mission trip:

Please initial each of the following understandings:

_____ I understand that, if my application is accepted, my $200.00 will become non-refundable.

_____ I understand that, if my application is accepted, I will be personally responsible for the overall cost of the trip (approximately $450.00), which will be reduced by my deposit, any sponsorships that may be applied, and by my individual payment and/or fundraising.

_____ I understand that I am committing to participate in future formation meetings.

Applicant Signature_____Date_____.

Please deliver the completed application packet to:

Church of the Presentation
Attn: Maureen Murphy – Bethlehem Farm Mission Trip 2027,
271 W. Saddle River Rd.
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

or email to mmurphy@churchofpresentation.org a PDF of *all* completed documents and deliver your $200.00 deposit to Maureen on your next visit to the church. Applications are not complete without the deposit. Deposit check will be returned to you if for some reason you are not selected for the trip.