

Participant Reflections

"I learned so much about homelessness and poor people while we were here" This experience helped me to bond with my group more than I'd expected."



"The work wasn't too difficult but hearing some of the people's stories was hard." "My expectations were exceeded. The schedule was steady with some flexibility and we had a great time."

FAVORITE ACTIVITIES

- Whosoever Gospel Mission
- Tour with formerly homeless guide
 - Neighborhood Cleanup
 - Sunday Breakfast Mission
- Breaking Bread/Broad Street Ministry

Service Camp Mission

- *To offer the opportunity to give the gift of service to an urban community*
- *To provide education about vulnerable populations, urban life and other social aspects of poverty*
 - *To connect with other Philadelphia agencies that serve vulnerable populations*
- *To provide opportunities for fellowship through service*
- *To challenge participants to "take the experience home"*

Old First Reformed Church

Urban Service Camps



Give the gift of service in Philadelphia!

Old First Reformed Church

151 North 4th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

215-922-4566

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<http://www.oldfirstucc.org>

A Window into the City

Urban Service Camp participants come to Old First to spend a weekend or week in service to others in an urban setting.

Participants are paired with service organizations throughout the city like a neighborhood cleanup, a homeless shelter soup kitchen or helping to sort donations at a service center. In addition, service campers participate in our Food & Clothing Cupboard and with our winter men's shelter (Nov-Apr).

Camps are led by a full-time Volunteer Coordinator and other members of Old First. These guides help campers to learn about Philadelphia, to process their experiences and to think about ways to serve their own community.

Groups are housed in our buildings which include a full kitchen, shower and laundry facilities. Sleeping bags and mats are recommended.

Camps are welcome to join us for Sunday worship service.

Our convenient location in Old City provides easy access to site-seeing and entertainment

Background

Old First Reformed Church has provided groups with Service Camp experiences for more than twenty years. Uniquely located in the heart of historic Philadelphia, Old First has been actively involved in outreach to its community for over forty years. We strive to build community through fellowship and service together.

"It's not always about what you are giving, but what you are getting. I took so much away from this experience."

Former service camp volunteer

Weekend Schedule

Friday: Arrival & Orientation

**Saturday: AM-- volunteer at local service organization
PM- Reflection & dinner**

Sunday: AM- Worship

Final reflection

Weeklong schedules vary depending on arrival & departure date/time. The Coordinator will develop a schedule with you that meets your group's needs.

Registration

Contact: Billi Charron

Call: 215-922-4566

215-820-8628

Email: bamoscharron@oldfirstucc.org

Fees

Per Participant (flat rate):

\$65 weekend camp

\$175 week long camp

Nonrefundable deposit to hold dates:

The deposit is for the group as a whole and does not change based on the number of participants.

\$175 weekend camp

\$350 week long camp

The deposit is applied to the per participant cost.

(Balance due upon arrival)

Registration form can be found online.

Group Size:

November-April 15 participants max

May- October: 30 participants max

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

~Winston Churchill