



YES Trips 2024 Trips and Events Report

The 2023-2024 YES Trips year has so many wonderful things to share. We have had a great year building community with young people from around the state of Colorado while exploring and discovering what faith through community and service looks. This is where discovering faith meets discovering new things in ourselves.

One Day Missions

YES hosted two one day mission events in this past season, one last fall in Oct of 2023 and the second this spring in March of 2024.

At the fall ODM a group of over 30 youth and adults served at Project Cure in Centennial, CO. Project Cure collects and sorts medical supplies that are no longer of use to medical companies and facilities. Volunteers spend their time sorting through what still can be used or what needs to be discarded then organizes them to be shipped out to non-profits and organizations that can put these items to use. It was a great Saturday working with Project Cure; completing the work, learning about their purpose and those who will receive the supplies.

At the spring ODM a group of 30 youth and adults gathered to spend the day with the St. Clare's Ministry at The Episcopal Church of St. Peter & St. Mary. This is a long standing Episcopal ministry which serves the homeless community in Denver. It has been a pleasure for the YES team to serve both this past spring and spring 2023 with St. Clare's and St. Peter & St. Mary. Cleaning the building, grounds, and facility used by so many with such great needs. Other work done included organizing the clothing closet, maintaining the kitchen for the meals cooked and served, and cleaning and organizing the personal items space.

June Service Trip



This June 30 youth and 12 adults worked together in the Albuquerque, NM to serve the community in a variety of ways. The group was hosted and stayed at the Cathedral of St. John in downtown ABQ. From our home base there YES teams served at A Roadrunner Foodbank, Joy Junction Homeless Shelter, food kitchen, and thrift, Hope Works, Saranam, Mandy's Farm, the St. John's Thrift Store, and in the St. John's Garden. With so

many organizations to partner with our worksites were varied and challenging. Food was organized, prepared, served; clothing sorted, gardens maintained, property maintained, community children played with and joined our teams, and some valuable life lessons were explored and learned in this week long service experience.

We are so grateful to the Cathedral of St. John for their wonderful hospitality. They were wonderful hosts and partners in our service trip. It was also a great joy to do two days of work for them and their community ministries. A few highlights to share from this week are, youth and team leaders working all day in 100 degree heat to unearth a tree root ball that was no longer of use and causing problems in the church garden. That was hot difficult work! Getting to know the director of the Joy Junction and learn about his passion for his community and the people they serve. Also in understanding his lived faith experience and respecting how different it is to our Episcopal experience. This was such a great opportunity for the youth to lean into what we model as the Episcopal Church.

YES is so grateful for another wonderful week in the service field. To spend this time in community with the youth of Colorado, with one another all while living in small spaces, working in the heat and learning about love and service.

High School San Juan Pilgrimage

YES Trips is excited to have hosted its first adventure and creation themed pilgrimage. After reorganizing our trips program in 2022 and identifying the three pilgrimage themes of Leadership, Adventure/Creation, and



Community we are leaning into these themes in a huge way. Last year we dove right into this structure by hosting the 2023 Delegation to EYE in Baltimore, MD. This summer YES Trips hosted 22 youth and 4 adult leaders in a week long rafting trip which began with a night at the St. Christopher's Mission in Bluff, UT, included four days rafting the Upper San Juan River, and spending the last night spent in Arches National Park. Community was key to this time spent together. Learning about the native lands of several indigenous tribes, hearing stories from Walter Shorty, born in hospital on the St. Christopher's campus, learning about his life and faith were all very impactful to the group.

Monday we joined our river guides from Grand Canyon Youth who lead us in our four day journey down river. This time was spent working as a team learning about the land around us and how we are responsible for its care and maintenance. We learned so much about spending time outside, as we were completely outside the entire time, and how to leave "no trace" behind from our time in each campsite. We learned about working together in fire lines to move supplies and equipment to get our campsite set up. We worked in teams to make the group meals, clean up, and about the wildlife of the area. Work became fun, community became friendship, and adventure became pure joy as we lived on the land for the week. The last night in Arches National Park was the best end we could have hoped for as the group hiked to Delicate Arch, a fantastic natural monument. We also spent time there completing the bonding this trip brought out in all. By the end of the week we were all friends, children of Christ, and brought home a better understanding of our island home.

This trip was a highlight for all the youth and adults for its unique environmental offering and for what we all discovered about ourselves in this special space. Enjoy a brief slideshow from the UT Pilgrimage here: <https://youtu.be/zwjtzMjGoko>

YES Trips Finances

One Day Mission:

\$300 per day in supplies and lunch for group

\$600 total from regional grants

June Service Trip:

\$400 trip cost per youth

\$125 granted per youth

\$3,750 total from regional grants

UT Pilgrimage:

\$1000 trip cost per youth

\$400 granted per youth

\$700 per adult leader X 3

\$575 for gift to St. Christopher, GCY

\$11,475 total from regional grants

\$15,825 total regional grant award expenditures

YES Trips, myself, the youth and families, along with the adult leaders wish to thank the regions of The Episcopal Church in Colorado for their support of this thriving ministry. By serving the youth of Colorado, we leave a footprint of service and love all while learning who we are in Christ. Without the support of the regions many youth would not be able to attend these trips. We cannot thank you enough for investing in our youth, their faith journey, and the impact they will continue to have as they grow into adults who live into the love of Jesus and serving others.

Kimberley Hubbs

YES Trips Coordinator

[*yes@episcopalcolorado.org*](mailto:yes@episcopalcolorado.org)