



June 3, 2022

Dear Sauk Valley UNITE Youth and Families,

UNITE is almost here! We are so excited to welcome you to Bethel Reformed Church (230 E 23rd St., Sterling) on Wednesday, June 22. Registration will be from 5:00-6:00. Make sure you look at the attached What-To-Bring List before you start to pack for the week. We will have a nurse on hand to help with any medication needs or questions. If you need to pick up your child for any reason during the week, please be prepared to fill out the proper forms when you register. You may help your child/children set up the sleeping area, if you like. We will then take the fun from there!

Saturday night, June 25th, is our last night. You are invited to the closing worship service on this night at 6:15 to get a sneak peek into our awesome week. There will be picture slides of our week to share, amazing songs to sing, and an incredible message. Our homeowners will also be asked to attend this worship service. More information will be given for this event when you register your child Wednesday night.

Your child will be given three meals a day. If there are any dietary needs, please call Rana Smith right away at 815-718-5633. Youth may bring their own snacks and drinks for free time at night. There will also be a Snack Shack to purchase concession stand style snacks each night from 4:00-5:15 and 9:20-10:30, so bring/send money. We will also have UNITE merchandise for sale. We recommend sending/bringing \$25-\$40 spending money if desired.

Please read over the What-To-Bring List and the UNITE Rules with your child before they come, so there are no surprises. Thank you again for supporting this event and allowing us to connect with your family and help our neighbors in need. If there are any questions/concerns, please contact Rana Smith at 815-718-5633.

Sincerely,

Rana Smith – UNITE Director (Bethel Reformed Church Youth Leader)

UNITE What-To-Bring-List

Bedding – We will be sleeping on the ground!!!

- sleeping bag, pillow, air mattress, pump, sheets, teddy bear (if needed)

Toiletries – We will be showering at the Duis Center across the street. Bathrooms and sinks are available at Bethel.

- deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, washcloth, shower shoes, sunscreen, bug spray, medications, etc.
- There will be outlets available for blow dryers and hair accessories but remember this is a work camp, not a beauty camp J.

Clothing for 3 Days – You will need 2 sets a day.

- Appropriate work clothes – 3 days
- Appropriate regular clothes for after showers – 3 days
- Pajamas

Dress Code: Wear clothes you can work, paint, and play in comfortably. Everyone must wear shirts and shoes at all times. For clothing: No shirts/pants with offensive words or pictures, cut offs, crop tops, exposed cleavage, exposed midriffs, or shorts that show underwear or have less than a 3-inch inseam. For swimwear, please wear something you can swim and splash around in without worrying about anything coming untied. This is a church service camp. If anything is inappropriate, a parent will be called to bring new clothes.

Shoes – 2 kinds

- Work Shoes – tennis shoes or closed toe shoes – will get dirty
- Night Shoes – regular shoes, flip flops, sandals
- Possible – shower shoes if you want at Duis Center

Other Items:

- Swim Suit/Towel – Swim Night at Duis (modest swimsuit- leaders have final say if appropriate or not)
- Notebook/pen
- Money \$25-\$40 – you are in charge of keeping safe
- Cell phone/charger – only to use during free time
- Flashlight – outdoors at night
- Hat/sunglasses
- Board games/card games – night time fun

Most Important:

- An attitude of SERVICE and a willingness to get DIRTY, plus have tons of FUN!!!

What NOT-To-Bring

- cigarettes, alcohol, vapes, drugs, weapons, matches, fireworks, etc.
- inappropriate clothing – see above
- a poor attitude that might hinder our work for God and other people.

UNITE Rules and Information

1. There is zero tolerance for bullying, violence, alcohol, drugs, and weapons. These situations will end in immediate removal from UNITE.
2. Stay with the group at all times and be **present** – PARTICIPATE!!!
3. Be respectful to each other, God, staff, property, and nature with words and actions.
4. Everyone attending will help clean the sleeping and meal areas.
5. Dress appropriately for a church youth event.
6. There will be no PDA (hand holding, kissing, cuddling, etc.).
7. All medications need to be given to the nurse and handed out by the nurse.

Cell Phone Policy – All cell phones will be kept in the sleeping areas during the day. Adults will have cell phones in case of an emergency. Students are encouraged to take pics at night at the camp during free time. There will be no cell phones allowed at the Duis Center, during dinner, worship, and youth group time – only during free time from 4-5:30 and 9-10:30. Your device will be taken away if caught with it at inappropriate times and returned during free time.

Rooming: Youth are only allowed in their own sleeping room. Youth are only allowed in the bathrooms that fit with their gender identity.

Leaving Bethel Church – No youth is allowed to leave without parents filling out the proper paperwork. All youth must stay on Bethel Property when outside, unless walking to the Duis Center.

Driving – No youth are allowed to drive their own vehicle. All youth will be driven to the worksites and back each day. Parents please drop off and pick up your child/children so no cars are even at Bethel. They are not needed. Call Rana with any specific questions about this rule.

Lights Out – Bedtime is at 11:00. All lights will be turned off at 11:00. This is a strict bedtime so everyone can get the proper rest. Each day is exhausting and you will be ready for bed. Wake-Up time is 6:30 each morning with breakfast starting at 6:45.

Stay Hydrated – Make sure you drink plenty of water on the worksite. You can get sick from not drinking enough in the heat while working all day. You will be given a water bottle at registration and water will be at each site.

Meal Clean-Up: Each crew will be assigned a meal to clean up. There will be directions given on the first night on what to do. Make sure you do your part.

Lunch – Youth will pack their own lunch each morning at breakfast. There will be a table of items to choose from. The lunches will be brought to each work site. Make sure you pack a lunch each day.