

Central Vermont Mission Group Leader Handbook



Mission Station - MacKenzie House

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Our Mission

The Central Vermont Mission is dedicated to serving the needs of the residents of central Vermont as they recover from floods and struggle to maintain their dwellings. A complete mission statement is on our website: centralvermontmission.org

Location and Directions

The Central Vermont Mission(CVM) uses MacKenzie House as our main mission location. There are other sites in the area that are used if we have more than one group in the area at a time. MacKenzie House is a former United Methodist Church and Church Hall, which we have renovated into sleeping quarters and program space.

MacKenzie House is located in the village of West Berlin (also known by the locals as Riverton) in the town of Berlin about 6 miles south of Montpelier on Rt. 12. There are two buildings: the church which has been made into a work area, storage and a worship center and the church hall which has been renovated into sleeping areas on the upper level and has a full dining area, kitchen and restrooms with showers on the lower level.

Phones

MacKenzie House does not have a phone and there is no internet, WIFI or TV. Cell phones work at MacKenzie House, but often do not work in the project locations.

Mission Service Attitudes

During your stay, please keep in mind that mission is not about sympathy and pity. Loving and serving quickly replace sympathy when there is personal contact. Come to learn, to love, and to understand our people. Mission is more effective where there are faces and names connected.

Your work here serves as a bridge between dreams and reality for the people of this beautiful mountainous area. Even though most of our projects are within 25 miles of the state capital, Montpelier, this is a very rural area. Many of our people lack the resources to repair a leaky roof, rotting steps and porches, loose windows or peeling paint. Some lack running water. Recent floods have devastated many residents. Your participation in this mission program helps to make their dreams possible.

The attitude your team brings with you will affect the experience you have. We want you to have fun and enjoy your experience with us. We do not supervise your every activity, nor is recreation a priority. We do encourage you to plan for some fun. We can provide maps and directions for a variety of experiences, sightseeing and other local attractions.

The key words in VIM are "Be Flexible."

Types of Groups and Preparation

Please prepare yourselves and your group well in advance of your arrival. Your group is responsible for having in place any and all required forms for your group, including but not limited to medical forms and permission forms for youth participants, as well as medical insurance.

Discuss the type of work that you might be asked to do. As leaders you are responsible for your group's behavior and participation in the program.

Groups are encouraged to come prepared to lead daily devotions. All team members will need to be prepared to abide by our Covenant, Safe Sanctuary and the Safe and Holy space procedures (Depending on denomination). Please discuss these in advance of your trip.

Housing and Meals

Mackenzie House provides sleeping in dorm style rooms on the upper level. There are 20 beds in double bunks. There is one separate room with a double bed. Bathrooms with showers are²located on the lower level. There is a fully equipped kitchen and dining space for groups to prepare their own meals

CVM provides a large trash bin, a large recycle bin (Recycling is required by law in Vermont) and we provide provisions for composting. We encourage the use of the provided china and utensils as apposed to paper and plastic.

On Wednesday evenings we plan a Community dinner for your team. We encourage you to invite the residents of the homes where you are working to come for the dinner.

The dinner will either be provided by a local congregation or by the CVM staff. Be aware that families may need help with transportation.

Schedule

Teams work Monday through Friday usually from 9:30 to 4:30. Arrival is usually Sunday afternoon and departure is by 10:00 am Saturday. Shorter work weeks will be considered. Most groups usually take at least an afternoon to visit local attractions.

Application, Donation and Deposit Recommendations

The hoped for donation per person is \$ 96.00 per person per week (\$16 per person per night). Groups are encouraged to raise additional funds for project materials. An application donation of \$100 per group is appreciated. A confirmation letter (e-mail) will be sent upon scheduling.

We understand that situations can arise that may cause cancellations. Please be sensitive to the difficulties that we face if you must cancel. We ask that you contact us as early as possible if you must cancel.

What to Bring

MacKenzie is a fully heated facility. We provide beds with mattresses. You will need to bring sleeping bags or bed linens. You will also need towels, personal care items, work clothes, work shoes, work gloves, raingear, flashlight, camera, extra batteries, and safety glasses. Closed toe shoes are required at worksites. Hardhats are recommended and we will supply if you do not have your own. CVM has a fully equipped tool trailer for your use and we will move it to the location most practical for your work. You may bring your own tools if you wish. Donations of tools are gratefully accepted

Do NOT bring pets, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, firearms, fireworks, or weapons.

CVM provides first aid kits for each work site, as well as coolers for lunches and 5 gal beverage coolers. We discourage your bringing purchased bottled water. We encourage you to bring reusable water bottles. MacKenzie House water is tested and very good quality.

Pictures and Video

To ensure sensitivity to the families we serve, video taping and taking of photos is restricted. They will only be allowed with the permission of the client and the project coordinator. No photo or video will be posted to the web or circulated by electronic means without the written permission of the client and CVM.

If you have any questions, please call or email the administrator of the CVM, Brian Carlson at 802-279-9303, bcarlsonvt@yahoo.com.

May God bless your preparations to be in ministry in the name of Christ.

The Central Vermont Mission Team

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