



**Rosebud**  
**RESERVATION**  
south dakota

summit  
high school  
mission trip

June 17-23

Dear High School Students and Parents:

It is time to begin thinking about our 2012 Summit high school mission trip! After meeting and praying with several students and leaders, we have decided to partner with a nationally known student mission organization, YouthWorks. We will travel to central South Dakota to serve in various ways at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. This reservation is home to more than 20,000 men, women, and children, and it has faced many economic hardships. The reservation has a 85% unemployment rate which has led to many members living in poverty and understaffed health care facilities. Because of these economic hardships, many families are unable to afford much needed home repairs. One out of three residents on the reservation is homeless, and six out of ten live in substandard housing.

At Rosebud, students will have opportunities to help those in need at the reservation by doing work projects. We will also have the opportunity to run a YouthWorks Kids Club that will help the kids and families at the reservation find and follow God.

During our time at Rosebud, students and leaders will have opportunities to hang out, meet new friends, grow closer to God, grow closer to each other, and make an impact in our world. At the end of the trip, we will spend a day at Sioux Falls having fun by hanging out at Falls Park, enjoying the mall, swim at the hotel, and possibly go Go-Karting.

Here is what you can expect on this mission trip-

- An opportunity to serve others by participating in various projects.
- Opportunities to grow closer to God through morning devotions, evening discussions, and personal quiet time to reflect on the trip.
- Time to experience the culture of Rosebud Reservation.
- Deeper friendships with other students and adults who also attend.
- A time to relax, laugh, and have fun.

I hope this packet will help answer questions about this trip and inform you on how to be involved. It is my prayer that you will join us, and that God will bless you on this journey.

In this packet you will find,

- General Information about the trip.
- Financial commitments needed.
- Conduct agreements and necessary medical forms to be filled out for The Ridge Community Church.

Please contact Tyler at [tvolkers@theridgecc.com](mailto:tvolkers@theridgecc.com) or at 262-432-0228 if you have any questions about this trip.

Praying for you as you join us on this journey,

Tyler Volkers  
Student Pastor  
[www.theridgecc.com](http://www.theridgecc.com)

# Information for Parents about YouthWorks Rosebud Reservation, SD

## *Who is YouthWorks?*

YouthWorks' core purpose is to help the church be the church by providing life-changing, Christ-centered resources for ministry. One ministry of YouthWorks is our summer mission trips, a multi-denominational ministry that provides youth with a life-changing experience by allowing them to be the hands and feet of Christ and to see God move in a new way. The mission trip opens their eyes to both situations and relationships in different communities and allows them to serve side by side with their peers, learn from leaders and deepen their relationship with Jesus.

For the last eighteen years, YouthWorks has partnered with thousands of churches to provide week-long mission trips to communities across the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico and Canada. Last summer alone, over 36,000 youth and adult leaders from over 2,000 churches went on YouthWorks mission trips!

## *Tell me about the Rosebud Reservation, SD.*

The Rosebud Sioux Reservation borders the Pine Ridge Reservation on its northwest corner and the State of Nebraska borders to the south. An act of congress established the reservation in 1889. The reservation has a total area of 1,442 square miles and is home to twenty communities with a total of 21,245 members living on the reservation. The major economic occupations here are cattle ranching and farming. Many members also work for tribal services including administration and schools. However, economic hardships abound. High unemployment (85 percent), poverty and understaffed health care facilities all have contributed to the problem of rising suicide. Working individuals on the reservation have a median household income of only \$19,046. These low wages, coupled with high unemployment, mean many families cannot afford much needed home repairs. An estimated one out of three residents on the reservation is homeless, and six out of ten live in substandard housing.

## *What happens during a typical YouthWorks day?*

Youth will assist in meal preparations, participate in personal devotion time, work at the various ministry sites, experience fun and cultural evening activities and engage in "Club" – a time that includes worship, games, skits and a talk. The service work incorporates a variety of opportunities to serve this community on the Rosebud Reservation. Participants will have the opportunity to run a YouthWorks Kids Club and do work projects.

## *Safety is our top priority.*

Safety is of the utmost importance to our organization! Each community we serve has four to five summer staff that lives in the community all summer. Every staff member at YouthWorks is CPR and First Aid certified. Additionally, our staff has gone through an intensive application process and has had thorough background checks completed on them. We also ask that each adult leader attending a YouthWorks mission trip also has a background check completed on them by the organization that they are attending with.

We are very aware of the neighborhoods within which we work; we have secure housing for our participants and our schedule does not bring us out late at night. Our program is conducted within very solid boundaries and in communities where we are known and loved. When groups arrive to the mission site, the staff leads orientation meetings explaining the community that they will be serving, the boundaries of the housing site, the rule of three (all participants are required to travel in groups of at least three with at least one adult leader) and other necessary safety precautions applicable to where they will be serving.

We trust that by being wise in taking the necessary steps to ensure safety, as well as by trusting in the Lord, your child will experience an amazing adventure this summer with YouthWorks!



# Rosebud Reservation, SD

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**Who Can Go:** Students in grades 8 through 12 of the 2011-2012 school year.

**Where You'll Stay:** We typically house at area churches, schools or community centers and sleep on classroom floors. Housing will be confirmed in May.

**Travel Information:** We will travel via caravan. Rented 12 passenger vans will be used throughout this trip. We will pack up on Saturday, June 16 and leave very early on June 17 (4:00 AM). We will arrive to Rosebud around 5:00 PM on Sunday.

We will leave Rosebud at 9:00 AM on Friday, June 22 and spend the day as a fun day in and around Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We will stay at the Country Inn & Suites in Sioux Falls on Friday night and head for home on Saturday, June 23. We should return home in the early evening.

Our pick up and drop off location is at Whitnall High School (5000 S 116th St, Greenfield, WI).

## What are We Doing?

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### Projects

We will spend four days working with kids OR four days doing work projects and may also serve with local ministries in the area.

**Kids Club:** A hands– on program led by us offering high-energy games, crafts, skits, songs and interactive lessons designed to help kids find and follow God.

**Work Projects:** Whether we're painting houses, performing minor home repair, cleaning up debris, volunteering in community gardens or other projects in the community, the projects we will work on will serve as our way of helping people in need.

YouthWorks cannot confirm until all groups arrive exactly what ministries we will be a part of during the week.

### Evening Activities

Evening activities are designed to give us insight into the lives of local residents and the culture of the area. These are a few examples of some of the things we might do during our week at Rosebud. Activities can change because of weather or availability.

- Archery
- Hike at Fort Falls
- Hang out with residents at Buffalo Jump Café.
- Host a community cookout.

# A Look at the Community

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The Rosebud Sioux Reservation of South Dakota borders the Pine Ridge Reservation on its northwest corner and the State of Nebraska borders to the south. An act of congress established the reservation in 1889. The reservation has a total area of 1,442 square miles and is home to twenty communities with a total of 21,245 members living on the reservation. The major economic occupations here are cattle ranching and farming. Many members also work for tribal services including administration and schools. However, economic hardships abound. High unemployment (85 percent), poverty and understaffed health care facilities all have contributed to the problem of rising suicide. Working individuals on the reservation have a median household income of only \$19,046. These low wages, coupled with high unemployment, mean many families cannot afford much needed home repairs. An estimated one out of three residents on the reservation is homeless, and six out of ten live in substandard housing.

## Rosebud Statistics

- The Rosebud Reservation is home to the Sicangu Lakota Sioux.
- 21 different communities are located on the reservation.
- 80% of the work force lives below the poverty level.
- 779 of the 2,779 households on the reservation earn less than \$10,000/year (28.8%).
- 82% unemployment rate.
- 27% of people over 25 have no high school diploma.
- 212 of homes (7.6%) are heated by wood only (no gas or electric heat).
- 24.6% of homes have no telephone.

## Daily Schedule

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*Sunday: Travel Day to Rosebud*

Monday-Thursday:

Breakfast: 7:00am -8:00am

Devotions: 8:00am - 8:30am

Leave for service site: 9:00 am

Shower/ Dinner Prep Time,  
Adult Leader's Meeting: 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Evening Activity: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Club Time: 9:00pm-10:00pm

Group Time: 10:00pm-11:00pm.

Prepare for Bed/ Lights Out: 11:00pm– 11:15pm.

*Friday: Day in Sioux Falls, SD*

*Saturday: Head Home!*



# What about Cost?

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There is always a financial cost and time commitment for anyone who wants to be a part of what God is doing in any part of the world. We have made every effort to make this trip as cost effective as possible. Families should be aware of the financial commitments needed before signing up for the trip. PLEASE don't let money be the reason to not let your student attend the trip. Communicate with us early and often as we can work together to find scholarship for students in financial need.

The trip cost per student for Rosebud is **\$570**. This cost covers all lodging, supplies, and travel expenses and food at Rosebud. Students will also be responsible for 5 meals for travel and any souvenirs and extra activities not included with YouthWorks. We recommend students to bring around **\$60** for these expenses.

This is the Payment Schedule for Students attending Rosebud (Please note that **ALL PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**):

PAYMENT	AMOUNT	DUE DATE
DEPOSIT	\$75	As Soon as Possible*
1ST PAYMENT	\$164	January 8, 2012
2ND PAYMENT	\$164	March 4, 2012
3RD PAYMENT	\$164	June 12, 2012.

\*We have a limited number of spots for Rosebud, and spots are at a first come first serve basis. Deposits need to be in by December 11, 2011 to keep the deposit at \$75. If there is still room, students can still sign up for Rosebud after December 11, but the deposit will then be \$125. **TURNING IN A DEPOSIT IS THE ONLY WAY TO RESERVE A SPOT.**

All checks can be made out to The Ridge Community Church. Please put which payment it on your check memo.

There will be fundraising opportunities available to help support a significant portion of this cost. One of the best ways to reduce cost is to seek support through donors. Missionaries spend a significant amount of time looking for supporters to help them on mission work. Last year, over 85% of our funds came in through mission support letters. Here's what you do. Compose letters (sample found in this packet) about what we're going to do on the trip, ask them to support you on the trip, and then when the trip is completed, send a letter explaining what happened on the trip thanking them for their support. You will be surprised how many people will be willing to support you directly rather than buy a cheese ball and you only receive a small portion of those sales. The average donation is \$25. By sending 23 letters, you could receive enough support to cover the entire cost of the trip. ***THIS IS THE PRIMARY WAY THAT WE ARE ASKING YOU TO RAISE SUPPORT.***

If you were not able to raise the funds needed to pay for this trip, please talk to Tyler. If we see that you put forth serious effort in raising funds, there is a potential that we can work something out. If, however, you did not participate in fundraisers and did not work to get any donations, we would ask that you pay for the trip in full or not attend the trip.

*(Insert today's date here)*

*Dear (insert potential donor's name here),*

*Hi! I hope that you and your family are doing great! I am enjoying my (year that you are in) at (your high school), and I am really excited to share about an opportunity that I have for this summer. Next June, I will be going to The Rosebud Reservation in central South Dakota with other students and adults from Summit High School Community at The Ridge Community Church.*

*The Rosebud Reservation is home to more than 20,000 men, women, and children, and it has faced many economic hardships. The reservation has a 85% unemployment rate which has led to many members living in poverty and understaffed health care facilities. Because of these economic hardships, many families are unable to afford much needed home repairs. One out of three residents on the reservation is homeless, and six out of ten live in substandard housing.*

*Our group is partnering with a nationally known student mission trip organization, and we will have the opportunity to host a Kids Club that will help the kids and families at the reservation find and follow God. We will also have the opportunity to do work projects to help those in need. I am so excited to be able to spend a week of my summer and help those in need!*

*The trip is being funded entirely through donations and by students going on this mission trip. Funds are needed for our stay, transportation, and supplies. Every dollar donated will go towards this mission trip to help those living at Rosebud. I am also participating in a variety of fund raisers and seeking support as well as paying for a significant part of this trip out of my own pocket.*

*I am excited about the opportunity to serve and to minister to the people of Rosebud, and I ask that consider joining me in this journey. I am seeking your financial support and your prayers for this mission trip. If you are able to assist with this trip, please send any donation with the check or money order payable to "The Ridge Community Church" with my name and "Rosebud Donation" in the memo line to The Ridge Community Church, Attn: Tyler Volkens, 2626 S 162nd St, New Berlin, WI 53151. You can also give online at [www.theridgecc.com](http://www.theridgecc.com). Please make sure to include my name and "Rosebud Donation" in the records as you give. A receipt of your donations will be available upon request for your records.*

*I thank you in advance for your prayers and your financial support.*

*Thank you,*

*(your name)*

## The Ridge Community Church Behavioral Agreement

Students and parents must agree to this behavioral agreement in order to attend this trip. Note, any \* are notes for zero tolerance offenses. If a zero tolerance offense occurs, the student will be sent home at his or her family's expense immediately.

- Guys and girls will have defined sleeping and changing quarters. No member of the opposite sex is to enter these quarters at any time.\*
- No weapons of any kind are to be brought \*.
- No illegal drug use of any kind. \*
- No participation in illegal activities of any kind (We will not provide legal council or bail of any kind).\*
- No smoking.
- Use positive language.
- Keep a positive attitude towards team members, leaders, staff, and those we are serving.
- Wear modest clothing at all times. If you have a question about specific clothing, girls please ask adult female leaders and guys please ask adult male leaders. Remember this statement "Don't dress in a way that will draw attention that you don't want."
- Listen to all Summit Team Members and YouthWorks staff.
- Bring all conflicts and concerns to an adult leader.
- Attend all required activities on time.
- You can view movies on portable DVD players while we drive. However, many different students and leaders have different convictions about what movies are appropriate. Therefore, all movies must be approved by adult team members, however there is to be NO rated R movies.
- Please don't gross anyone out. Keep public display of affection to only hand holding or hugging.
- Cell Phone Policy– All of us are pretty dependent on our cell phones. We constantly have to have it to be connected to the rest of the world. One of the main benefits of a mission trip is to disconnect from the rest of the world and to grow closer to God and to others on the trip. However, some students do experience severe cases of home-sickness or emergencies may happen (though we do take every precaution to avoid them). That being said, students can bring cell phones on this trip, but during work days, all cell phones will be turned off and put in a safe box in a secure location. In the evening, there will be a half hour where students can check in with their families. There will be a team member with a cell phone at each worksite in case of emergency. There will be NO cell phone use during devotions, group discussions, meals, and service time.

I agree to this behavioral agreement and understand that if I fail to abide by this, I may face disciplinary actions that can include being sent home at my own expense.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Summit High School Community Rosebud 2012

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade (Fall 2011)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Parents/Legal Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guardians Mobile Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other Contact Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Health Insurance Company** \_\_\_\_\_ **Policy Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Known Allergies and Reactions** \_\_\_\_\_

**Medications Currently Taking** \_\_\_\_\_

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I, the parent or legal guardian of the student listed on this form, certify that he/she has my full approval to participate in Rosebud 2012. The individual identified on this form understands that all students are expected to abide by the Rosebud 2012 rules and be directly responsible to The Ridge Student Ministries Team. The Ridge Student Pastor assumes responsibility for discipline on the trip and, if necessary, may, because of misconduct or disobedience, require a student to leave. In such instance, I will assume full responsibility for returning my student home.

Further, I do release and hereby agree to hold blameless The Ridge Community Church and its student team from any and every claim arising, or which may be asserted by me or by any member of my family by reason of participating in any activities associated with The Ridge Student Ministries.

Further, I do authorize The Ridge Community Church Student Team, in the event I cannot be reached by phone, to give consent to a physician and/or hospital for emergency medical or surgical treatment while on this trip. It is understood that I will assume any financial responsibility for any expense that may be incurred for said emergency treatment.

Further, I do certify that said child is covered by adequate accident & health insurance. My consent and signature is given below. I have read and agree to the information given in this entire form.

**Signature of Individual Named Above** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of the Parent/Legal Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person to notify if you cannot be reached:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_