

APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP



The region known as **Appalachia** is a 205,000 square mile territory that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi. Historically, the Appalachian economy has been dependent upon coal mining, agriculture, and heavy industry, which led to widespread economic depression as industries changed or left. Combined with a lack of infrastructure and healthcare scarcity, the last 40 years saw very hard times for the people of Appalachia.

Our **Appalachia mission teams** are currently serving in Southeastern Kentucky. Much of this region was ravaged by recent floods and tornadoes, and encompasses eight of the fifty most impoverished counties in the USA.

Come and serve communities steeped in history in a **quintessentially American region** among the beauty of the Appalachian Mountains.

WHY APPALACHIA?

- SERVE IN THE US, IN A REGION THAT NEEDS HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT THE MOST
- EXPERIENCE MINISTRY AND ADVENTURE IN THE "HILLS AND HOLLOW" OF SOME OF THE MOST RURAL AREAS IN THE NATION
- MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOMES ARE 40% BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE
- POVERTY, SUICIDE, DEPRESSION, AND DRUG ABUSE ARE ALL SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE
- CENTRALLY LOCATED - A RELATIVELY SHORT DRIVE FOR THE MAJORITY OF US RESIDENTS
- EXPERIENCE AMERICAN HISTORY UP CLOSE AND IN PERSON IN TOWNS LITERALLY BUILT BY THE STEEL AND COAL INDUSTRY



DATES:

PRICE:

JOIN US in Appalachia



MINISTRY OPTIONS

- **Service Projects**
 - Clean-up, repair work, and painting in homes and churches
- **Construction Projects***
 - Skilled construction repairing/rebuilding homes
- **Home Visits***
 - Visit homes of families in need, providing supplies and/or blessing bags
- **Church Ministry**
 - Attend and participate with your partner church
- **Mercy Ministry***
 - Senior citizens visits, food pantries, and supply distribution - ministry to those in need
- **Outreach Ministry**
 - Outreach events, cookouts, evangelism, prayer walking
- **Sports Ministry**
 - Sports camps or pick-up games of soccer, basketball, volleyball

*Choosing this option may incur an additional cost

RECREATION



After an amazing week of ministry, your team will have the **opportunity to experience the beauty and culture of the Appalachian Mountains.**

From exploring **Natural Bridge or Kingdom Come State Park**, to learning about the coal mining industry through a tour of the Portal 31 Mine Tour or the Kentucky Coal Museum, the beauty and rich history of Kentucky will come alive. You may also have the opportunity to go on a black bear citing driving tour during your time in Appalachia.

Your team will cap off the week at a local restaurant with a great meal and time to relax, share stories, and celebrate all the ways God has been glorified over the course of your mission trip.

You'll have a complimentary half-day of recreation included in your trip's itinerary. There are also upgraded recreational options available, which are dependent on your group's ministry location.



21450 FOREST BLVD N, SUITE 200 - FOREST LAKE, MN 55025
651-464-2212 - WWW.THIRSTMISSIONS.ORG