



A ministry of
**Second Congregational
Church of Boxford**
United Church of Christ



**Because People Living on the Edge
Are as Close as Our Backyard**

BACKYARD MISSION FAQs

How long is each work or activity period?

While the exact time depends on the needs of our partners, a typical serving opportunity will be 2-3 hours. One or two sites might be a full day.

What age range of participants can you accommodate?

We welcome participants 14 years of age and older.

What are the maximum and minimum sizes of the volunteer groups?

We do not require a minimum group size. Our maximum group size is 25 participants.

Please note that these limits represent our total capacity. If another group has already registered for the same time frame, we may not be able to offer your group the chance to fill every space.

Will my group ever be combined with another group? How does that work?

If your group is smaller than 10, there may be a chance it will be combined. Typically, we only split or combine groups if our service sites have certain minimums or maximums. If groups are combined, they will be housed together, and share dinner and reflection time. Some groups may also work together on site. Our staff will discuss this with you during your registration process.

How many adults do groups need to bring (per number of children)?

We recommend bringing 1 adult for every 6 children with a minimum of 2 adults.

Can Backyard Mission accommodate participants on the spectrum, folks with mobility issues, and folks with non-binary gender identity? Is there any type of participant that Backyard Mission can't accommodate?

Backyard Mission is open to accommodate all participants. Please contact the Director to discuss your specific accommodation needs.

Can we request certain kinds of work sites?

We work hard to provide a variety of work opportunities. If you have a special interest, we will do our best to accommodate your request, but we cannot guarantee a certain work site as we place groups in accordance to agency needs.

What is included in the costs?

Housing and programming are all included in your experience cost as well as a community meal and a speaker. We also have access to a local pond for swimming.

What is not covered in the trip cost?

All meals (apart from the community meal), all transportation costs and recreational activities on your free time.

Where will we be sleeping?

You will be sleeping on the floor of our Parish Hall. We will provide sleeping mats for your comfort.

How does Backyard Mission handle transportation during our stay?

During your stay, groups are required to provide their own transportation.

Do you have on-site showers?

Yes. They are outdoors showers, so we ask participants to bring a bathing suit. We will provide environmentally friendly soap and shampoo.

Do you have laundry facilities?

No. Please bring enough clothes to get you through the week. We do provide t-shirts to wear at your worksites. We will launder them mid-week for your group.

Will anyone from Backyard Mission be supervising our group on-site?

Staff will be there to greet you for orientation. Staff will not be accompanying you to work sites or staying on site with you but will be available by phone should an issue arise. Staff will be checking in daily to be sure your trip is running smoothly and help with reflection time.

We understand that some leaders are more experienced than others. We are here as much or as little as you need for times like reflection. If you have specific needs or concerns, please contact the Director.