

Dear Group Leader,

Greetings from Nazareth Farm and thank you for expressing interest in us! We have been involved with the community of Doddridge County, West Virginia for 35 years and we are guided daily by our four cornerstones of community, prayer, simplicity, and service. As we work to serve with the people of the area by building relationships and repairing homes, we live and grow in a Catholic Christian community based on prayer and reflection. We also strive to promote social justice through the empowerment of the community and the volunteers who join us from around the United States.

Volunteers at the Farm can expect to live a week of simplicity, free from the distractions of television, cell phones, and unnecessary luxuries. During this week, they also have the opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people from other groups all over the United States, and grow in faith through prayer and reflection of their experiences. We hope that volunteers will leave Nazareth Farm with a greater understanding of the people of Appalachia, a foundation of faith, and a desire to continue serving others within their home communities.

Information about Nazareth Farm can be found by visiting our website at www.nazarethfarm.org and following the "Get Involved" link. Please print out the entire registration packet and read **ALL** the information carefully. Feel free to contact us with any questions and please note that if you have email it will be the primary form of communication.

Here are a few important notes to keep in mind:

1. For schools interested in volunteering during the week of **February 15 to February 21** or **April 6 to April 11 2015**, priority registrations need to be postmarked by **September 25, 2014**. For schools that are interested in volunteering during the **summer of 2015**, the postmark deadline for priority registration will remain **October 15, 2014**. For more information, refer to the registration policy. Your full deposit must be included to reserve space for your group. We cannot accept phone, fax, or email reservations.
2. Our participation fee for volunteer groups is **\$300.00** per person and **\$250.00** per person for West Virginia groups. In addition, **we rely on the vans that volunteers arrive in to transport groups to worksites**. We greatly appreciate your assistance with this and ask that you please keep this expense in mind as you plan the total cost of your trip.
3. **You may bring eight (8) volunteers in your group.** (Volunteers must be 16 years or older, or entering their junior year of high school). As part of the eight volunteers for high school week you must include **TWO adult chaperones** both of whom will be asked to participate fully in the week's activities. One of the chaperones must be a youth/campus minister or someone involved in youth/campus ministry and at least 25 years of age. The other chaperone must be 21 years of age or older. If you are bringing a co-ed group of students, you **MUST** bring **one female and one male chaperone**. If you are bringing an all boys group, you may bring two male chaperones. If you are bringing an all girls group, you may bring two female chaperones.
4. **Our cancellation policy** is as follows: if groups show up with fewer volunteers than reserved and paid for, the amount will not be refunded unless the group called ahead and Nazareth Farm was able to replace the spots. If an entire group must cancel, and Nazareth Farm cannot fill the spot, your payment will NOT be refunded. If Nazareth Farm can fill the spot, you will be refunded for every person we replace. The deposit of \$25 per person is non-refundable unless your group is not selected in the lottery system. Please see the registration policy.
5. Nazareth Farm, in compliance with Wheeling-Charleston Diocese regulations, **does not permit the use of 12 or 15 passenger vans** (E-350, E-250, 3500, or 2500 chassis or the like) for high school weeks. It will be necessary to transport minors to worksites during the group week so please do NOT bring a 12 or 15 passenger van to Nazareth Farm. We ask that you bring one of the following vehicles: minivan (Chevy Astro and GMC Safari carry 8 passengers), Suburbans, Expeditions, mini-school buses, or multiple passenger cars. Please be advised that these vehicles might be difficult to find, so please plan ahead!
6. Groups that fail to comply with the above policies will not be allowed to participate in the following year's lottery.

Again, thank you for your interest in bringing a group to Nazareth Farm. If you have any questions, please call or email us at nazarethfarm@gmail.com. God bless you and your ministry!