



# SYP Information for Youth

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Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is a volunteer network of Anabaptist churches that responds in Christian love to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States. While the main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this service touches lives and nurtures hope, faith and wholeness. SYP project sites may also include non-disaster locations where you will serve in construction or disaster mitigation activities.

Following is a list of things to review with your parents and your youth group as you prepare together for a service week with MDS. Thank you for taking the time.

- Set aside a few minutes to review the ***Information for Parents*** with your parent or adult guardian. The ***Volunteer Guide*** is chock full of information about what to pack and what to expect day-to-day on an MDS project site.
- We recommend that you check out the weather forecast for your location and week and pack accordingly. Keep in mind that the MDS dress code includes:
  - Shirts with sleeves that cover the shoulders to the waist and have a regular neckline and pants or shorts that cover from the waist to the knees.
  - Closed toes shoes on the job site. Sandals or flip flops may be worn off the job site.
- **MDS accommodations are always adequate but they are not like home.** You will be sharing sleeping and dining space, restrooms and showers with others in your group and with MDS project leaders. Please be flexible and be respectful of shared spaces and leave them cleaner than you found them.
- **Meals and snacks are often one of the highlights of being on an MDS projects.** MDS cooks have a reputation for offering **great food but it may not be what mom makes.** Be willing to try something new or fill up on what is familiar to you!
- **Put your best effort into whatever is asked of you.** When you are on an MDS project, you represent yourself, your church and MDS in the community where MDS is working. Be prepared to work hard, get dirty, have fun and take time to get to know the MDS project leaders, the homeowners, their families and their neighborhoods. Be willing to follow the instructions from project leaders, listen well, and ask questions.
- **Be considerate with the use of cell phones and other electronics.** You **will be asked not** to use cell phones or headsets on the job site. Keep in mind you are responsible for your electronic devices. If you don't need them, please leave them home. The possibility is real for items left in a vehicle or at the project to be lost, stolen or damaged.