

Appalachia

Fundraising Instructions

Monetary support is necessary for the Appalachia Mission Trip and fundraising **is a necessary part of the trip.** It is never easy to ask for money, but the response has always been positive among neighbors, co-workers (of parents too), relatives, and friends. Sharing your words with others about how you will be of service to those less fortunate will be rewarding to you, as well as to those who give a donation. Be sure to allow more than your parents to share in this 'giving opportunity' for this mission trip.

High school students are asked to fund-raise \$450. Adult volunteers are welcome and encouraged to fundraise but are not required to do so. Fundraising must be complete by **July 10, 2026.**

Instructions:

1. Solicit donations ASAP in accordance with the tips below. Emails, phone calls, and personal conversations are all effective means of soliciting donations, but letters are often the most effective.
2. Record the donations on the Tracking Sheet. It is extremely important to indicate the name and address of each donor so that they receive a tax deductible letter from the Church and a thank you letter. Cash and checks will both be accepted (checks should be payable to St. Vincent de Paul Church).
3. Once you have met your solicitation goal and collected all of the money, use the Tracking Sheet to complete the online donation submission and return to the parish center.
4. Place cash, checks, and tracking sheet in an envelope and bring to the Parish Office.
5. **Return all donations by** July 10, 2026.

Fundraising Tips:

- r Write your letters and get them in the mail as soon as possible so that the donations are returned to you **by** July 10, 2026 DO NOT DELAY!
- r Be sure to indicate:
 - that you are a part of the Appalachia Mission Trip and the dates of the trip
 - that the trip is sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
 - the total amount (\$450) that needs to be raised by each teen
 - that all contributions/donations are used to purchase the supplies needed to repair the homes
 - the reason why you have decided to attend this trip (this is very important!)
 - the due date for donations - July 10 remember, you need to have everything submitted by July 13th)
- r Include a modest request of financial support (perhaps the person may send a little more)
- r Include a 'promise' to share photos, a note about experience, an email, etc. so that the contributor will know the outcome of their donation
- r Thank the person/family member/friend in advance in the letter
- r Be sure to include the words "Check payable to St. Vincent de Paul Church"
- r Enclose a self-addressed STAMPED envelope to you
- r **IMPORTANT:** Be sure to send a thank you note to anyone who donates! You may want to wait until after the trip so that you can include pictures/stories from the week.

To make an online donation please visit stvincentschurch.org/appalachia and click on the red DONATE button. Please be sure to select "Appalachia Trip" from the drop down menu.

Sample Fundraising Letter

Dear Friends and Family,

This summer, instead of going to LBI in August, like I usually do, I have decided to participate in a trip to West Virginia with St. Vincent de Paul Church from July 26 to August 1. It's called the Appalachia Mission Trip.

West Virginia is one of the poorest state in the United States, and my church sends a group of high school and college students to rebuild houses and do 'fix up' projects. I decided to take time from my vacationing beach week and participate in this service project. My dad has volunteered too!

Each one of us pays \$250 for our cabin and food, but we are asked to raise \$450 which completely covers the cost of the materials that will be used.

I am simply asking for a donation. It can be as generous as \$10. Even a blessing would be welcomed. Please do not feel obligated. I'm simply giving you a chance to help people less fortunate than yourself through my efforts.

If you are able to help, please return a check made out to St. Vincent De Paul Church in the self-addressed envelope I included by July 10. Your donation is tax deductible, and a letter from the church will be sent to you.

I'll be sure to send pictures and an overview of what happened when I get back!

Thank you.

With Love,

To learn more about our trip and to make online donations please visit stvincentschurch.org/appalachia and click on the red DONATE button. Please be sure to select "Appalachia Trip" from the drop down menu when donating online

