

Summer 2026 - Adult Leader (Chaperone) Packet



Agape Service Project

Agape Service Project fosters service, community, and prayer as participants encounter Christ and uphold the dignity of our farmworker brothers and sisters.

since 2004

Encounter & Kinship

Farmworker Community - relational, direct services include food bank & mobile food distribution, summer enrichment for children, increased access to health & human services

Middle & High School Students - service-learning immersion experiences, put Catholic Social Teaching & prayer into action, empowered to be agents of change

College-Aged Young Adults - servant leadership formation, summer of faith-filled work, leading & serving all aspects of program

Highlights

- Summer 2025: 270 youth & adult participants from 20 Catholic parishes & schools
- Summer 2025: Served 28,924 people in 7,384 households over 10 weeks at Agape Food Bank
- Over 30 hours of direct service & 11 hours of formation/prayer led by Agape staff for groups in 5-day experience
- Aug. 2025: 493 backpacks full of school supplies distributed
- Always strive to provide culturally-relevant items served in a bilingual (Spanish-English) setting



Who are Farmworkers?

- Approx. 1.5-2 million men, women, & children who plant, pick, & pack our fruits & veggies; work our dairies, nurseries, & feedlots
- 71% are Foreign-born workers; at least 50% are working without legal documentation
- Age of 12: one can be legally hired to work
- For every \$1 you spend on produce, a farmworker only gets 9 cents
- Agriculture is one of the most hazardous occupations in the U.S.
- Skilled laborers whose work is dignified & essential
- Our neighbors who have touched our food, and therefore our lives

njwm.org

Most dramatically of all, farmworkers too often struggle with food insecurity, meaning the workers who feed America too often cannot feed their own families.

Rep. Joaquin Castro (TX)
in *America Magazine*

Learn more ...

Follow

- United Farm Workers @ufwupdates
- National Farm Worker Ministry @nationalfarmworkerministry
- Fair Trade Certified @fairtradecertified

Watch

- Food Chains (documentary)
- Cesar Chavez (2014 film)



/agapeserviceproject



@agape.service.project



Agape Service Project

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Welcome to the 2026 Agape Service Project! I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as the new Program Coordinator and to partner with you in this meaningful ministry. As I prepare to experience Agape for the first time, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the prayer, service, learning, and community we will share. Thank you for offering your time and leadership this year as your presence and commitment as an adult chaperone are essential to making this mission come alive. I look forward to accompanying you throughout the week as, together, we encounter Christ and uphold the dignity of our farmworker brothers and sisters.

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A link to the individual (both student & adult) registration form will be provided by your Group Leader. All of the required forms are included in the one registration form.

- **Note:** *All adults must have a processed Archdiocesan Volunteer Background Check and be trained and up to date with Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program.*

We hope you find these resources helpful as you prepare for Agape. We are excited and blessed to be in the 23rd year of serving and providing opportunities for youth to encounter the farmworker community of Whatcom County.

In addition to serving as a chaperone, we hope that you are able to enter into this opportunity as a personal service-learning experience, enabling you to grow in your faith and love of God's people.

In gratitude,
Jennifer Lautenbach
Agape Program Coordinator

Adult Leader (Chaperone) Expectations

Adult leaders have an amazing opportunity to serve the youth while with Agape Service Project. Your involvement, support, and positive leadership will set a good example and create a rewarding experience for the youth of your parish/school and those of the community we will be serving.

Agape Staff Roles: Agape has 12 full and part-time staff during the summer who work together to coordinate and plan the entire program. This includes: facilitating morning and evening sessions of prayer and reflection, leading community building exercises, cooking, general cleaning, and facilitating all service projects. They will keep you informed about the service projects, activities, and expectations through nightly adult meetings. **Please note that the staff are not chaperones, drivers, or disciplinarians.** It is up to you to support the staff, enforce all rules, and make appropriate disciplinary actions if necessary. If a participant's behavior does not consistently align with the Code of Conduct, the Agape Program Coordinator may request that participant be sent home.

The adults serve many roles in addition to participating in the experience:

Driver: Adult leaders are responsible for the transportation of all youth to and from Agape, as well as to and from service sites during the week. All drivers must be 21 years or older and have an approved *Archdiocese of Seattle Driver Information* form on file at their parish/school.

Chaperone: You help to set the tone of the week by maintaining a positive attitude, affirming the youth, and maintaining clear expectations. **As an adult leader you will chaperone youth at all times and are responsible for the behavior management of all youth.** It is expected that adults monitor lights out and ensure students are sleeping before adults go to bed.

Participant: During the morning and evening sessions, you get to participate with the youth in the activities, prayer, and discussion as well as help facilitate small group discussions.

Small Group Leader: Each parish/school will be divided into small groups, and you will lead one of these groups. As their small group leader, you will lead the small group conversations. You will also supervise the youth in their scheduled daily chores (but not do it for them). These chores give the youth ownership of their service week and are a large part of the experience of living in community.

Role Model: During service projects, you will monitor and guide the youth as they serve. It is important to be encouraging, keep them on task, and serve alongside them.

A few things to note:

- All adults must fill out the individual registration form via the link from their group leader.
- Each adult leader **must** be trained within the Archdiocesan *Safe Environment* Program and **fill out and have processed** the *Archdiocesan Volunteer Background Check* before chaperoning. (Arranged through your parish/school). If already completed, it must be updated online as necessary.
- We ask that once you arrive at Agape to **not make any special side stops** to stores or cafes. During Agape we are trying to live in solidarity with our family in Christ, so we limit extra things that could distract us from the overall mission of service.

Most importantly, you get to help youth grow more in their Catholic faith through serving Christ in others. We thank you for your willingness to give of your time to serve the youth of your parish/school. Without your commitment and dedication, this week would not be possible. The youth are blessed to have supportive, encouraging, and faith-filled adults in their lives!

Agape Expectations for the Week

These are some basic expectations that we ask everyone (Agape staff, youth, & adults) to follow and keep in mind during our week of service. We will have a great week if we all strive to apply these while we live in community and serve!

- **Be Respectful:** To all group members, adult leaders, Agape staff, Church/School staff & facility, the farmworker community, and everyone we encounter at service sites.
- **Think About Others While Living in Community:** We are working, living, and eating in community this week. Challenge yourself to think about the needs of others before yourself. Get to know new people! Clean up after yourself and help with chores. Respect the space and items of other group members.
 - a. **Honor Our Hosts** (the teachers who have given us their space this summer) – do NOT touch any of the classroom/school equipment in the rooms, hallways, gym, or stage
 - b. Do *not* enter the hallway that you are *not* sleeping on
- **Keep Quiet Hours Quiet (10:30pm-7am):** Be conscious of noise levels in the school building, near offices, & remember that we are in a neighborhood. Sleep is good & critical to our capacity to serve.
- **Be Mindful of Your Clothing:** Please dress comfortably, simply, and modestly, with particular attention to comfort, work, and activity. Many days will include manual labor, lots of movement, and being outside. Pants or longer shorts will be more comfortable when working on the farms or at the food bank. Be ready to work, play with kiddos, and lift objects.
- **Use the Buddy System:** When we are on service outings, you will need to stay in groups of three and have adult supervision.
- **Be Positive:** Strive to have a positive attitude towards all activities, reflections, and experiences. You will get back what you give to this experience.
- **Serve and Have Fun!:** Do everything with sacrificial God-like love (agape!), embody love & joy.

Additional Notes:

- Expect simplicity during the week, embrace it as an opportunity to learn and enter into solidarity
- Do not bring snacks - all food is shared & eaten as a community striving for simplicity & equality
- Youth will not have their cell phones or other devices during service projects and programming
 - Group leaders may determine their policy during evening free time – Agape encourages a disconnection from technology for the week to best engage and be present.
 - *Suggested Best Practice:* no cell phones at all or a brief evening call home if needed
- Do not bring drugs, alcohol, fireworks, or weapons of any kind

Overall Agape Information

Arrival Time: Please arrive in Bellingham **by 2:00pm on Sunday**. When you arrive, you will unpack your gear and donations. Dinner will be provided Sunday night, lunch will not be provided Sunday.

Packing: Please pack lightly. Everyone will be living in community and sharing rooms.

Clothing: Please dress comfortably, simply, and modestly, with particular attention to comfort, work, and activity. Many days will include manual labor, lots of movement, and being outside. Be ready to work, play with kiddos, and lift objects.

Money: One Agape shirt and all your meals and snacks are provided. There will be an opportunity for individuals to buy an Agape sweatshirt (\$30), shirt (\$15), or sticker (\$2), cash, check & card accepted. Other than that, there will not be any need for money during the week. Drivers/Groups will be responsible for purchasing gas for their vehicles.

Free time: There is designated free time each day. Youth may not leave the facility to go beyond the campus premises unless are accompanied by a chaperone. We ask that you check in with Agape staff before leaving to make sure there is time to do so. Even on the premises, chaperones should be aware of the activities and location of all group members.

Cell Phones: No cell phones or other devices for the youth during service projects and programming. Group leaders may determine their policy during evening free time – Agape encourages a disconnection from technology for the week to best engage and be present.

Chores: Small groups will be assigned chores each day, ex: meal set up/clean up, bathrooms, etc. Each small group, with their adult leader, will be responsible for the various tasks. This is a large part of the experience of living in community, as well as serving those in the group.

Food: In keeping with the spirit of Agape, the meals and lodging are simple. This is to help us grow in solidarity and bring us closer to those we are serving.

- All meals and snacks are provided. The kitchen is not to be used by youth outside of mealtimes, unless there are special dietary reasons. Please do not bring any snacks.
- *Please notify us of any special dietary needs on the participant list; some may require the participant with special dietary needs to supplement their daily meals with food from home.*

Lodging: Groups stay at Assumption Catholic School and Parish in Bellingham. Groups will sleep on the floor of the gym stage (males) or classrooms (females). Twin summer camp mattresses will be provided for each person. Anyone is welcome to bring their own air mattress/camping pad. Short showers will take place on 2 days at a local locker room.

Medications: All medications, whether prescription or over the counter, will need to be bagged and labeled with the participant's name and instructions for dispensing. The Group Leader has the responsibility of holding and dispensing medication for the youth they are chaperoning. Ensure that the parents complete the medication portion of the Parent/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver.

Departure: Plan to **depart by 12:30pm on Thursday** of your mission week, a large brunch will be served on Thursday, but not lunch.

Sample Agape 2026 Schedule

****This schedule is tentative and is subject to change****

<p>Sunday: 2:00 - Groups arrive, unpack & get settled 2:30-4:30 – Program orientation, community building, intro session 4:45 – Depart for farmworker housing site 5:15-7:15 - BBQ dinner & activities at housing site for farmworker families 7:45 - Return, unpack 8:00-9:00 - Evening prayer & reflection 9:15-9:45 - Adult meeting 9:15 - Group free time 10:30 – Lights Out</p> <p>Monday: 6:30 - Wake up & breakfast 7:30 - Morning Prayer & Reflection 8:00 - Depart for farms 8:30-11:00 - Farm work 11:30-2:00 – Lunch activity 2:00-3:00 - Showers 3:45-6:00 – Enrichment activities at farmworker housing 6:30-7:15 - Dinner 7:30-8:30 - Prayer & reflection (including snack) 8:45-9:15 - Adult meeting 8:45 - Group free time 10:30 – Lights Out</p> <p>Tuesday: 7:15 – Wake up & Breakfast 8:15 – Morning Prayer & Reflection 9:30-11:45 – Food Bank Prep & Set Up 12:15-1:00 – Lunch & Chores 1:00-3:15 – Showers and Break 3:15 - Prep dinners & pack for farmworker housing 4:00-7:30 - Food Distribution & Enrichment Activities; Invitation flyers for food bank <i>Dinner eaten 'on road'</i> 7:45-8:45 - Evening prayer & reflection 9:00 - Adult meeting & group free time 10:30 – Lights Out</p>	<p>Wednesday: 6:45 – Wake up & Breakfast 7:45 – Make lunches & pack vehicles 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Reflection 8:30 – Depart for food bank 9:00 – At Food Bank: overview of day & set up 9:45 - Food Bank roles & get ready 10:00 - Food Bank Opens <i>Lunch shifts & snacks throughout food bank</i> <i>Rotate stations, jobs throughout food bank</i> 5:00 - Begin tidying & initial packing 6:00 - Food Bank Closes 6:30 – Depart Food Bank 7:00 – Dinner 7:45-9:00 - Prayer & reflection with Eucharistic Adoration 9:00-9:30 - Adult meeting 9:00 – group free time 10:30 – Lights Out <i>*We hope to offer showers Wednesday evening, this is dependent on local locker room availability</i></p> <p>Thursday: 6:45 – Wake up 7:15 - Mass 8:00-9:00 – Pack & deep clean 9-9:45 - Celebration brunch 10:00-11:00 – Final Prayer & Reflection 11:00-11:45 – Advocacy & next steps 11:45-12:30 - Celebration & sending forth 12:30 - Groups depart (lunch not included)</p> <p>*The schedule is subject to change depending on needs of service projects, facilities, and activities. You will be given an updated schedule upon your arrival at Agape.*</p>
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Agape Food Bank - Donation List

This year, Catholic Community Services (CCS) has taken over managing the food bank, but it will be familiar faces – Kelsey Harrington and Rosa Figueroa! Agape staff and participants will continue to volunteer at the farmworker food bank on Tuesdays (set-up) and Wednesdays (distribution).

To serve our food bank guests best, we ask that each group collect specific items. Our goal is to have enough to serve **550+ families**. As we strive to provide the most culturally-appropriate food items, all the food for the food bank is purchased. Please do not collect food from your community, instead focus on the specific item requested for your week or monetary donations.

Group	Specific Item to Collect
Week 1: June 22-26	Backpacks & baby wipes
Week 2: June 29-July 3	Backpacks & baby wipes
Week 3: July 6-10	Backpacks & baby wipes
Week 4: July 13-18	Backpacks & baby wipes
Week 5: July 20-24	Backpacks & baby wipes
Week 6: July 27-31	School Supplies
Week 7: August 3-7	School Supplies

MONETARY DONATIONS: The farmworker food bank relies on donations, so any monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Money will be used to purchase items such as culturally-appropriate foods, protein (chicken or beef), diapers, baby formula, and other hygiene supplies all to ensure that we have enough for each family that comes to our food bank.

BACKPACKS:

- We will take **new** backpacks only – our goal is **550** backpacks
- All sizes and ages (kindergarten through high school) are needed

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- We will distribute fully stocked backpacks at the food bank on August 6
- Our goal is at least 550 of each type of school supply
- The Agape Program Coordinator will be in contact with a sign-up sheet for each parish to select which items they will collect

AGAPE WISHLIST

In addition, we have made a list of items we need for the betterment of the program. If you or your group would like to donate a program need in addition to the donation list, we would be so grateful!

- Visit <https://tinyurl.com/WishListAgape> to see our wish list.

Agape Packing List

For Sleeping:

- Twin summer camp mattresses will be provided for each sleeper. Anyone is welcome to bring their own air mattress/camping pad
- Sleeping bag (suggested: with a twin sheet to cover the mattress) -OR- twin sheet set & blanket
- Pillow
- Ear plugs for sleeping (suggested)

Personal Hygiene

- Towel/washcloth
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, brush, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Baby/Body wipes (suggested for in between showers)
- Sunscreen
- Small bag (like a drawstring backpack or reusable shopping bag, to carry shower gear)
- Shower sandals (if desired)

Clothing

5 days, 4 nights – *note: with mid-day showers on 2 days, 7 days of outfits are suggested*

- Pants (3+ pairs) (make sure to include clothing for farm work)
- T-shirts (if packing tank tops please ensure they are wide straps)
- Shorts (must be at least fingertip length – just above knee is better for work at the farms & foodbank)
- Closed-Toed Shoes (required for food bank, good for activities with kids)
- Shoes for farm work (ex: tennis shoes or boots that are ok getting dirty)
- Underwear and Socks (7+ pairs)
- Sweatshirt & Jacket – check the weather for Lynden, WA (many of our activities are outside)
- Pajamas
- Hat or visor
- Swimsuit for showering (if desired)
 - Showers are in a high school locker room with individual curtained stalls

Other

- Water bottle (A MUST!)
- Work gloves (for farm work)
- Backpack/drawstring bag to carry items to daily service outings
- Book, board/card games for down time, journal for additional reflection (an Agape journal will be provided)
- Cash, check, or card if interested in purchasing Agape swag (sweatshirt \$30, shirt \$15)
- Any medications – follow the distribution guidelines of the group leader
- Good attitude and a servant's heart

Please follow group policy on packing electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.).

No weapons, fireworks, drugs or alcohol.

PLEASE PACK LIGHTLY!

Lodging

Groups will be staying at Assumption Catholic School & Parish in Bellingham. Please arrive and park in the interior lot within the campus.

Note: with 2pm arrival time, the Spanish Mass is still getting out, so park where you can find space & move closer to the school building once Mass has concluded

Groups will sleep in separate spaces according to gender. Female groups and chaperones sleep in classrooms (on the floor) in the school. Male groups and chaperones sleep on the gym stage. Summer camp mattresses are provided for all youth and adults, anyone is welcome to bring their own air mattress or camping pad.

Group leaders will decide if:

Chaperones sleep in the same space with the students **-OR-**

Chaperones sleep in an adjacent space to the students with regular monitoring

Assumption Catholic School & Parish

2116 Cornwall Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225

