



IMPACT

IMPACT Service Week Information Packet

What is IMPACT?

IMPACT is a brand new camp for middle school youth looking to grow in their relationship with God and witness their faith through acts of service. During IMPACT, we will experience the love of God through prayer and the sacraments, and then live from what we have received, through works of service and charity to the community.

IMPACT will provide youth entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades with opportunities to be enriched in the faith and formed in discipleship. During IMPACT we will have moments of community building through games, activities, and skits. Youth will receive knowledge of Christ and His Church through studying scripture and learning about social justice efforts. Participants will encounter the Lord through times of prayer, Mass, and adoration. At IMPACT, each group will visit one work site throughout the week. Service projects will involve renovating parks, serving at local community outreach centers, and working with those in need in the city of Waco. Young people will be immersed in the richness of our Catholic faith and then be given a way to manifest that faith through service.

Camp Details

- When: June 17th – 21st
- Where: St. Louis Catholic Church in Waco, Texas
- Who: Middle school youth entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades
- Cost: The registration fee is \$275 per participant

Contents of Info Packet

- Tips for gathering your group
- Sample schedule
- Registration information
- Group leader responsibilities
- Parent handout



IMPACT is hosted by Ablaze Ministries, an organization dedicated to rethinking youth ministry and engaging young people in lives of prayer and discipleship. We are so excited for the opportunity to grow in relationship with the Lord alongside you and your teens this summer. If you have any questions about IMPACT, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can do this through our website, ablazeyouth.org, or by contacting Alyssa Trutter at 979-485-9910 or alysa@ablazeyouth.org.

IMPACT Service Week Information Packet: Gathering Your Group

IMPACT is the perfect camp for incoming 7th, 8th, or 9th graders who are:

- Wanting to grow in their relationship with God
- Looking for ways to establish or enrich their life of prayer
- Desiring to learn more about social justice
- Seeking ways to put their faith into action through service
- Wanting to grow in leadership skills and develop their gifts to bless others

With this in mind, estimate the number of youth who fit this description and determine how many of them would be able to come to IMPACT. Reserve those spots online.

Adult Chaperones for IMPACT

IMPACT will be held within the Diocese of Austin and will follow the policies set forth by the diocesan safe environment program, *Ethics and Integrity in Ministry*. This policy requires a ratio of 1 safe environment compliant chaperone for every 7 middle school youth, with at least 1 male and 1 female chaperone per group. With these requirements in place, determine the appropriate number of chaperone spots for your group's size. For more information regarding the policies of *Ethics and Integrity in Ministry* visit: <https://austindiocese.org/eim-policies-1>

To ensure that all adults are compliant with diocesan policies, the IMPACT team will ask for documentation showing that each chaperone has gone through safe environment training in their home diocese.

For transporting young people to and from camp, as well as during the week, each group must have at least one safe environment compliant adult who is at least 25 years old.

Set Your Budget

The \$275 registration fee for IMPACT provides for lodging during the week, meals at camp, resources for prayer and learning activities, work site materials, and fun camp items (like draw string bags, water bottles, and camp t-shirts).

The \$275 registration fee does not cover:

- Any meals on the drive to or from IMPACT
- Transportation of youth to or from IMPACT
- Transportation during the week as your group travels to service sites

Each parish should determine how they will be paying for transportation or meals before or after camp. These costs may need to be factored into the total cost each participant pays to attend IMPACT.

IMPACT Service Week Information Packet: Sample Schedule

A sneak peak into Day 2 at IMPACT!

7:15 - Wake Up

8:00 - Mass

8:45 - Breakfast

9:20 - Load up and depart for work sites

9:35 - Arrive at work sites

12:00 - Lunch at work sites

3:30 - Leave work sites

3:45 - Arrive back at St. Louis Catholic Church for showers and free time

5:00 - Dinner

5:45 - Team building / Activities and Adventures

6:15 - Small Groups for service reflection and sharing

6:30 - Gathering praise and worship

6:45 - Sharing from worksites

7:00 - Evening Session / Prayer Experience

9:00 - Social Time

9:45 - Night Prayer

10:00 - Head to Bed

10:30 - Lights Out

Detailed schedules for the entire week will be sent out to groups in the coming months.

IMPACT Service Week Information Packet: Registration Information

Registration for IMPACT opens February 17th.

If you register before March 17th, you will receive the early bird rate of \$250 per person.

Regular registration runs March 17th – May 17th and is \$275 per person.

Registration Information:

1. Starting on February 17th, you can sign up by visiting ablazeyouth.org/IMPACT/register
2. To reserve spots, there is a \$65 nonrefundable deposit. Spots are reserved once payment is received. This \$65 will be deducted from the overall registration fee.*
 - a. For every 7 middle schoolers, please include 1 adult chaperone spot.
3. April 24th is the last day to drop spots. There will be no refund for unfilled spots.
4. The remaining balance for all registration fees is due April 30th.*
5. Late registration: All registrations between May 1st and May 17th must be paid in full upon sign up. No refunds will be issued.
6. Registration closes May 17th. No late registration will be accepted.

* All payment can be made online at ablazeyouth.org/IMPACT or sent in to the Ablaze Ministries Office via check. If mailing a check, please write "IMPACT" on the memo line and make payable to: Ablaze Ministries. The office mailing address is:
201 W WM J. Bryan PKWY #831
Bryan, TX 77803-3213

Important Dates to Remember:

March 17th – Last day for an early bird discount

April 24th – Last day to drop spots

April 30th – Remaining balance for reserved spots is due

May 17th – Last possible day to register participants

IMPACT Service Week Info Packet: Group Leader Responsibilities

Forms for your group:

In May, Ablaze Ministries will send group leaders a digital group form, asking for detailed information on each participant attending. This form will ask for each participant's name, grade, emergency contact information, t-shirt size, food allergies, and other information needed to organize for camp.

Additionally, group leaders will also receive copies of release forms to be filled out by the parents of participants. Each group leader should bring 2 copies of each form to IMPACT with them. More information will be provided about these forms when they are sent out at the beginning of May.

Contact person for your group:

The group leader from each parish will serve as the main contact person for their group, leading up to camp and throughout the week. This means that parents should be given contact information for the group leader, and informed that if they need to contact their child during IMPACT, the group leader is the adult they need to get in touch with.

Transporting your youth throughout the week of camp:

During the week, as your group goes to their service site you will be the *driver* for your group. If your parish brings more youth than will fit in one vehicle, you are responsible for coordinating the other drivers for all the members of your group to be transported to their service site.

Again, when coordinating transportation for IMPACT, please note the following:

- All drivers must be safe environment compliant and at least 25 years old
- Transportation costs are not included in the registration fee for IMPACT

Facilitating service projects at work sites:

By the beginning of June, group leaders will be sent a description of the type of service projects your group will be conducting. If you will be constructing something or renovating something that requires specific knowledge for you and your group to be able to complete the task well, you will also receive basic instructions on how to carry out this task. This could be in the form of written instructions or might be in the form of videos to watch beforehand.

Gathering materials for service projects:

Your group may be asked to bring some standard working materials for your service projects, like rakes or buckets. These materials should be able to be collected from the participants themselves. They should be clearly labeled with your parish name so that they can be returned to their owners at the end of IMPACT. A list of these materials will be sent out with the service project descriptions at the beginning of June.



IMPACT Service Week: Parent Information

What is IMPACT?

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Why should my child attend?

Your child's week at IMPACT will be a blessed encounter with the Catholic faith. They will be taught the true teachings of the Church through dynamic and compelling presentations and activities. Youth will have an opportunity to meet other young Catholics and grow in relationship with the Lord together, through sharing groups, prayer experiences, and reception of the sacraments. Because this is a week of outreach to the community, your son or daughter will be provided the opportunity to use their gifts to serve others in need. The week will empower middle school students to see how their faith can truly transform hearts. Your child will see the ways their actions proclaim the kingdom of God and make His love known in the world.

Where exactly is IMPACT going to be held?

St. Louis Catholic Church in Waco, Texas. We will be using various facilities on the property, including St. Louis Catholic School and, possibly, Reicher Catholic High School.

- St Louis Catholic Church: 2001 N 25th St, Waco, TX, 76708
- St Louis Catholic School: 2208 N 23rd St, Waco, TX, 76708
- St Louis Reicher High School: 2102 N 23rd St, Waco, TX, 76708

How can I communicate with my child throughout the week?

To get in touch with their children throughout the week, parents should contact the group leader. If youth have their cell phones with them at IMPACT, they will be encouraged to leave them stowed in their belongings at the church during camp sessions and when they leave for work sites during the

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IMPACT Service Week: Parent Information, continued

day. This will prevent any phones from being lost, damaged, or stolen while participating in activities or while serving at work sites. The IMPACT team is not responsible for any damage to or loss of phones during camp.

Where will my child be going to serve and what projects will they be working on?

During their week at IMPACT, youth will serve at various locations throughout the community of Waco. Potential work sites for your child include: renovating local parks, helping at local resource centers, like Salvation Army, and directly serving those in need through painting, cleaning, and clearing debris. Finalized details about the specific service site where your child will serve, will be sent out to group leaders by early June.

What will my child need to bring to IMPACT?

Once work sites are assigned to groups (by early June) a detailed packing list will be sent out to each group. This information will ensure that both parents and group leaders are able to gather all needed materials for the week and prepare their young people for the projects they will be participating in at IMPACT.



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Please know that the Ablaze Ministries staff and IMPACT team will be praying for you and your youth as this week of encounter and service comes closer. Again, if you have any questions about IMPACT or need more information throughout the time of promotion and planning, please do not hesitate to contact Alyssa Trutter at 979-485-9910 or alyssa@ablazeyouth.org.