



Kairos 

2023 - 2024 TRIPS & PROGRAMS

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# FROM OUR *new* DIRECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

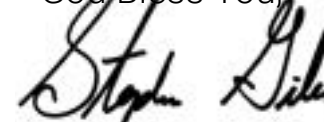
I am very excited to be able to share this brochure with you, and it is my hope that you find it to be a helpful resource. Inside, you will find information on almost everything Kairos has to offer, including parent and youth worker resources, the YES Retreat, Adventure Trips, Gap, and more.

One of our growing convictions as an organization is that we want to foster a love for the *real*, as opposed to the virtual and the artificial. This is one of the reasons we love our Adventure Trips and the opportunities for challenge they present. They help us love the real and embrace the challenges we face along the way.

In addition to our Adventure Trips, we've also begun to add some mission trips back into the mix. Our mission trips will be the 10th grade boys trip, and the 9th-10th grade girls trip (on alternating years). Mission trips are powerful opportunities that can produce real transformation and we're excited to be offering them once again.

Our mission in Kairos is to awaken youth to a venturesome faith and to help them sell all to follow Jesus Christ. **It is a joy to do this work and we are so grateful to do it alongside all of you.**

God Bless You,



Stephen Giles  
Director of Kairos



# KAIROS PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Kairos offers trips for Sword of the Spirit teens and their friends. Outdoor Adventures and Mission Trips are available for youth in 7th - 10th grade. High school students are invited to come to the YES Retreat, our regional high-impact weekend retreat. After their junior year of high school, we invite students to attend The Summit. High school graduates are eligible to serve in the summer with Kairos as Adventure Guides, and throughout the year with the GAP Program.

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Spring Weekend			The YES Retreat			
Girls Summer Trip	Outdoor Adventure		Outdoor Adventure /Mission Trip		The Summit	Adventure Guides + GAP Program
Boys Summer Trip	Outdoor Adventure	Outdoor Adventure	Outdoor Adventure	Mission Trip		

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The grade level for summer trips indicate the grade completed by the participant.

# PARENTS FORUM

On October 26th Parents, Youth Workers, and Community Leaders from around the region joined the Kairos staff for our annual Parents Forum. This year, we spoke about “the allure of unreality”. Among other things, we talked about A.I., Meta, and even Apple's Vision Pro! We discussed some pitfalls our youth will need to navigate and how we as parents and youth workers can help them. As always, we gave some resources and strategies to help foster tech-wise family life. Contact us at [kairos-na.org/contact/](https://kairos-na.org/contact/) if you would like to receive a copy of the recording.

# YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE

The Kairos Youth Workers Conference is a weekend of training for Sword of the Spirit youth workers. It is primarily for those who serve our community high school programs, though junior high youth workers are invited to attend as well. This year, our focus is on building a Kingdom culture in our youth groups. Our goal is to equip youth workers with vision for their role, for the way of life we are trying pass on, and for the unique challenges of our time. Each year our youth workers tell us that they find the prayer and fellowship we have together at this conference to be extremely valuable.

**DATES: DEC. 1-3, 2023**

**LOCATION: LANSING, MI**

**COST: \$50 PEOPLE TRAVELING TO MI, \$100 MI RESIDENTS**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/YOUTH-WORKERS-CONFERENCE](https://kairos-na.org/youth-workers-conference)**



# THE YES RETREAT

The YES Retreat is a three day, two night high school retreat for Sword of the Spirit youth and their friends. The goal for this weekend is to create an environment where youth have the chance to say YES to the Lord's call of discipleship. The retreat also aims to bring youth to initial or deeper conversion, to pray with them for Baptism in the Spirit, to help them grow in confidence in worship, and to encourage them in the use of the gifts of the Spirit.

Participants and volunteer staff can expect a weekend of awesome talks, testimonies, and breakout sessions; deep discussion in small groups; and powerful, God honoring worship!

**DATES: APRIL 5 - 7, 2024**

**LOCATION: HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN**

**COST: \$215**

**ESTIMATED SIZE: 300 YOUTH, PLUS 125 STAFF**

[KAIROS-NA.ORG/YES](https://kairos-na.org/yes)



# THE KAIROS SUMMIT

The Kairos Summit is a 5-day trip for juniors and seniors. It's a time away together to experience Kairos culture and to talk about discipleship, mission, the call of The Sword of the Spirit, and the big question: what comes next? The Summit contains typical retreat elements such as talks and worship, along with outdoor adventure activities.

The aim is to help youth understand their community heritage, what opportunities lie before them, and to call them on to radical, lifelong discipleship. Because of this, the Kairos staff believe this is the most important event we produce!

Youth will find the content to be of a deeper and more serious nature than on other Kairos trips, as we will discuss the call and costs of discipleship and help them prepare to launch into their post high school years. We offer this trip for both juniors and seniors in the hopes that all our high schoolers can attend at least once, but we think that the summer after junior year is the most strategic time.

## The 4 Goals of the Kairos Summit

1. Present a strong and radical call to discipleship
2. Invite youth to consider what's next and challenge them to make a contribution
3. Share the vision and prophetic call of The Sword of the Spirit
4. Highlight key elements of our way of life: morning and night prayer, celebrating The Lord's Day, household life, and charismatic worship

## Key Trip Elements

- Morning prayer, personal prayer, and night prayer each day
- An outdoor activity each day (hiking, swimming, paddling...)
- Service alongside one another (cooking, doing dishes, cleaning...)
- Vision and discipleship oriented content each day
- Split men's and women's time for activity and prayer
- Excellent fellowship together
- Prayer meeting with prayer ministry
- Lord's Day Celebration
- No phone/media use (helping all participants engage in the above elements)



**DATES: JULY 10 - 14, 2024**

**LOCATION: NEAR LOUISVILLE, KY**

**COST: \$300**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2024**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/KAIROS-SUMMIT](https://kairos-na.org/kairos-summit)**

*Because we think this trip is so important, the N.A. Region has agreed to subsidize this trip significantly. This is why we are able to offer the Summit at such a reduced rate.*

*A note on transportation: For those who live near Michigan, we offer transportation with the Kairos vans for an additional \$40. Those from farther away have often carpoled with other youth and local youth workers. Please connect with other families, local youth workers, and with the Kairos Staff to coordinate this.*





**DATES: JUNE 18-23**

**LOCATION: MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA | COST: \$405\***

**ESTIMATED TRIP SIZE: 6 - 9 GIRLS**



**DATES: JUNE 28-JULY 6**

**LOCATION: NORTHERN MINNESOTA | COST: \$455**

**ESTIMATED TRIP SIZE: 6 - 12 GIRLS**

## 7+8 GRADE GIRLS TRIP

This 6-day trip will be camping and canoeing in the Sylvania Wilderness Area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Girls will learn or practice their outdoor skills such as setting up and taking down camp, canoeing, portaging, and packing gear. This trip will challenge those who already have camping and canoeing skills, but will be a friendly introduction to those without experience. Prayer, relationships, and serving alongside one another with joy are also key elements of this trip.

*\*We'll ask for an additional "gas money" contribution for those traveling to and from this trip with the Kairos staff.*

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR ALL GIRLS TRIPS:**

**MAY 1, OR WHEN TRIP FILLS UP**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/GIRLS-ADVENTURE-TRIPS](http://KAIROS-NA.ORG/GIRLS-ADVENTURE-TRIPS)**

## 9+10 GRADE GIRLS TRIP

This year we are launching our Kairos Girls Boundary Waters Canoe Trip!

This 9-day trip will be camping and canoeing in the beautiful Boundary Waters between northern Minnesota and Canada. In addition to building on the basics of their camping, wilderness, and canoeing skills, this trip is hard and will challenge the girls physically and emotionally. By working at it together, it will build their confidence in themselves and deepen their relationships with their sisters on the trip. They will have to rely on the Lord to get through it, and He will be there for them. It is also so much fun, and incredibly good to be that far away from any form of technology for 9 days! A trip to the boundary waters has been a significant thing in the life of many, many women, and there is perhaps no other place on earth like it! Prayer, relationships, serving one another, and intentional conversations about discipleship will also be key elements of this trip.



## 7th GRADE BOYS TRIP

This is our classic backpacking trip! We meet up at a cabin in western Virginia, then we hit the trail Monday through Friday, carrying everything we need for the five days and four nights. At the end, after we've learned to hike, cook, and chase wild ponies, we return to the cabin to close out the trip.

**DATES: AUGUST 3 - 10, 2024**

**LOCATION: VIRGINIA**

**COST: \$405**

**ESTIMATED TRIP SIZE: 6 - 16 BOYS**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 16**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/BOYS-ADVENTURE-TRIPS](https://kairos-na.org/boys-adventure-trips)**

## 8th GRADE BOYS TRIP

For our 8th grade trip, we meet up at Algonquin Provincial Park north of Toronto, in Ontario, Canada. Instead of backpacking, we go canoe packing. Our backpacks will be tied into our canoes and we float from campsite to campsite for the entire week. Passports are not required for the boys; just birth certificate copies and a border-crossing consent letter.

**DATES: JUNE 29 - JULY 6, 2024**

**LOCATION: ONTARIO, CANADA**

**COST: \$455**

**ESTIMATED TRIP SIZE: 6 - 16 BOYS**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 31**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/BOYS-ADVENTURE-TRIPS](https://kairos-na.org/boys-adventure-trips)**





## 9th GRADE BOYS TRIP

Big mountains, big adventure. This trip has everything. Two days out and two days back for driving, three National Parks, backpacking, fishing (trout), mountain climbing (13,000 feet), and great times with the guys. This is our “capstone” wilderness trip for good reason.

**DATES: JULY 17 - 29, 2024**

**LOCATION: WYOMING**

**COST: \$455**

**ESTIMATED TRIP SIZE: 6 - 16 BOYS**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 28**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/BOYS-ADVENTURE-TRIPS](https://kairos-na.org/boys-adventure-trips)**

## 10th GRADE MISSION TRIP

The 10th grade boys trip is a mission trip to eastern Kentucky; a region of the country with a lot of need! We will be doing home repair and other construction work for vulnerable families and individuals. This trip will help all of us grow in our Kairos value of “servant-heartedness” and will help the boys take their next steps as young men in the Lord.

**DATES: JUNE 16 - 22, 2024**

**LOCATION: KENTUCKY**

**COST: \$500\***

**ESTIMATED TRIP SIZE: 6 - 10 BOYS**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 1, OR WHEN TRIP FILLS UP**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/BOYS-ADVENTURE-TRIPS](https://kairos-na.org/boys-adventure-trips)**

\*Fundraising is a good option for offsetting the cost of this trip



# KAIROS ADVENTURE GUIDES

The Adventure Guide program is the apex service opportunity within Kairos. Adventure Guides will be pushed outside their comfort zone and into real responsibility. The program is 2 months long, and designed for 18-22 year olds who have graduated from high school. Guides will spend their summer serving as staff on the Kairos summer trips and will act as big brothers and big sisters to participants. It will be a summer of growth, mission, and friendship.

**DATES FOR MEN: JUNE 9 - AUGUST 11**

**DATES FOR WOMEN: JUNE 9 - JULY 27**

**COST: \$3,900**

**\*THIS AMOUNT IS FUNDRAISED, AND A \$600 STIPEND IS INCLUDED**

**AVAILABILITY: 2 MEN AND 2 WOMEN**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/KAIROS-ADVENTURE-GUIDE](https://kairos-na.org/kairos-adventure-guide)**

“The Kairos Adventure Guide program—the primary means by which the Lord launched me into everyday prayer—transformed my faith into something dynamic, something grounded in Him. Every challenge, easy or hard, was how the Lord trained me to be courageous in the present moment.”

**KRISANNE BAUTISTA**  
Adventure Guide 2023





# THE GAP PROGRAM 2.0

The Kairos GAP Program has been refreshed. High School graduates often find it helpful to take a year off, whether to experience a new community, grow in self-knowledge and discipleship, or to serve in a more significant way. The GAP Program provides just such an opportunity. Through service, formation, community, and more, Gappers will grow into men and women that impact the world for Christ! Taking a year off to be a Gapper can be intimidating, but we have seen time and again that doing a GAP year helps set a young person up for a life, not just of success, but of significance.

**DATES: EARLY AUGUST 2024 - MID MAY 2025**

**LOCATION: LANSING, MI**

**COST: \$2500 (FUNDRAISING HELP AVAILABLE)**

**AVAILABILITY: 2 MEN AND 2 WOMEN**

**INTERESTED? LET US KNOW AT [KAIROS-NA.ORG/CONTACT/](https://www.kairos-na.org/contact/)**

# KEY ELEMENTS

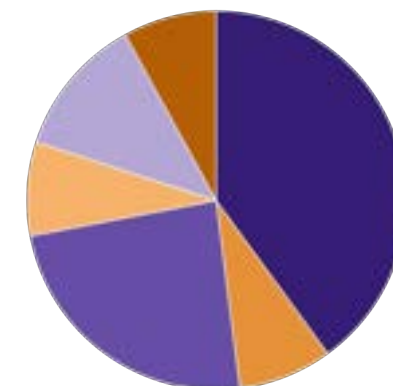
**Work** - Work a part time job, to cover living expenses and gain real life experience

**Service** - Serve in the Work of Christ, Kairos, and in the broader community

**Formation** - Receive formation through UCO and GAP Training

**Community** - Live deep and rich relationships

**Trips and Retreats** - Spur deeper growth through various trips and retreats



## GAPPER SCHEDULE

- Work
- Gap Training
- Service
- Household Life
- UCO
- Trips/Retreats

# BRIDGING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Here at the end of this brochure, we want to take some time to talk about what comes next for your high school graduate. For parents of upperclassmen, the time is approaching when your son or daughter will make a significant decision about his or her future—the decision of if or where to attend university.

## For The Workplace Bound

A number of our young people will enter the workforce directly from high school - or will do so after attending a vocational school. It is the case that in North America, most post high-school work connected to our communities is oriented around university life and university student outreach. This can make it hard for a young person who is working full time to connect with these environments. That being said, it is still quite possible and usually very good for your high school graduate to connect with his or her peers in a university outreach context.

Even if not attending university, your son or daughter would usually be most welcome to join the formation programs in the university outreaches we recommend - often, they would even be able to apply to live in a household. Have your youth reach out to the local chapter director (see the map on page 25, and visit our website for contact information) and express an interest to be involved with the chapter!

For some people entering the workforce right out of high school, being part of a university environment simply doesn't work. This can be because of something as simple as an early morning work schedule. If this is the case, encourage them to speak to a local coordinator about getting into an appropriate men's or women's group, and about a way to receive formation in a way that works with their life. This will likely mean they will be relating to people that are a few years older. But having the input of people with more life experience can be very helpful for a person trying to get established in life. It should also be noted that some community youth have found it very fruitful to serve the high school programs from which they have graduated. This seems to give them a good connection to their community, and

a significant way to serve and to be on mission.

While on the topic of mission, we should note that the communities of our region are currently not very effective in reaching people that work in the trades or take a career path right out of high school. But likely all of us realize that it's not just college students that need to be evangelized or need Christian community; it could be the case that our own children will help us improve in this area!

## For The College Bound

The transition from high school to university is one of the most crucial times in the life of a young person, and the four years (or more!) spent in university are the years in which the seeds for many decisions about the future are planted and nourished. These decisions have long-term effects on one's life and stem from the choice of where to attend university.

Further, for us in Sword of the Spirit communities, we should note especially that the long-term ability of our young people to participate in our communities is greatly influenced by their college choice—most community youth who do not connect with one of our Sword of the Spirit outreaches, or college outreaches friendly to our movement, during their college years do not participate in our communities as adults. Finally, our community youth have an important part to play in reaching their peers, and building Christian communities on campus. Where they go to college, and the groups they get involved in, will limit or encourage this contribution.

Even for young people who are doing well in high school, it can be extremely difficult for them to continue on a trajectory towards the Lord and life in Christian community. Because of this, we strongly recommend helping your child choose to attend a university with a strong discipleship formation program, vibrant community, and missionary culture - and among these, we want to recommend the chapters of University Christian Outreach (**UCO**), and Saint Paul's Outreach (**SPO**). The following

map shows the chapters we recommend, and you can find contact information for each chapter by visiting our webpage. Further, here are some very simple strategies you may find useful in helping your son or daughter connect with such outreaches:

1. Over the next few months, talk to your child about how their college choice will or will not allow them to connect to the SOS and its broader work. Recommend that the presence of a UCO or SPO chapter be an important factor in choosing a college.
2. Financially support the options you support: if you are planning to pay for or contribute to your child's college education then you have built for yourself a large seat at the decision-making table. Use it to encourage your child to choose a college with a UCO or SPO chapter.
3. Some of our young people simply want to "get out of town" for a while. This is not always a bad thing. Talk to them about where they could go to college within the wider networks of UCO and or SPO, and help them connect to the leaders of those chapters. Part of this strategy could be to delay the college choice for a year: presenting the option of doing a year of service before deciding on a college - Kairos' GAP program (page 19) might be a great fit!
4. Even if your child attends a college without a UCO or SPO chapter, there are still ways for them to connect. The *Kairos Adventure Guide* program is available to any high school graduate (see page 18) - we've loved having college students spend their summer with us. Also, your child will likely have the opportunity to participate in UCO's *Campus Mission Academy*. Both these programs will provide your child with Christian inspiration, training, as well as a network of Christian friends.

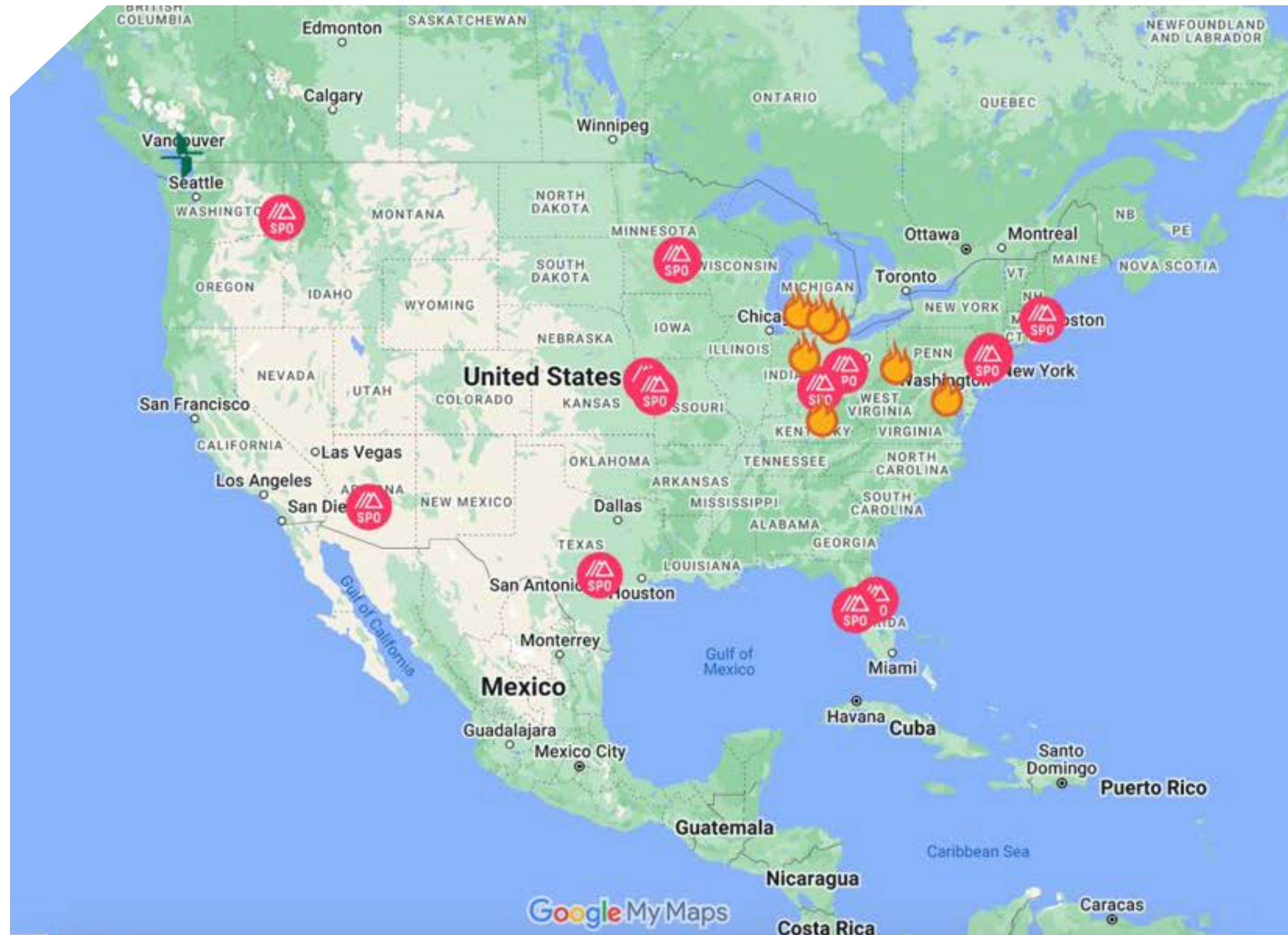
Thank you for your work in raising young men and women for the Kingdom of Christ—your parenting is a contribution to the Lord's work, and the work of the Sword of the Spirit. It is a pleasure to serve you and your children.



# KAIROS RECOMMENDED OUTREACHES

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, TEMPE CAMPUS  
BENEDICTINE COLLEGE  
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
RUTGERS–NEW BRUNSWICK  
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY  
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Visit [kairos-na.org/recommended-university-outreaches](https://kairos-na.org/recommended-university-outreaches)  
for the digital version of this map



# HOW TO MANAGE ALL THESE TRIPS

All the trips and retreats Kairos offers can really add up. Both in terms of quantity and cost - especially if you have a large family! We'd like to offer you, the parents, a little input as to how to navigate and prioritize.

## How do we pay for all this?

1. If you're having trouble affording a trip, first check with your local community. Most of our communities have funds to get their youth on regional trips.
2. Many communities have systems in place that allow youth to fundraise for their trips; check with your local youth group leader to see if this would be an option. More pastorally, having a high schooler fund raise for their own trip is a great way for them to take ownership of that trip!
3. If your community is not in a position to help, and fundraising is not an option, do reach out to us. While it's true that Kairos is not set up to provide scholarships to all the youth of our region, we're usually able to offer some sort of discount. We believe that lack of funds is a poor reason for your child to miss out - so, we'll do our best to make something work.

## What trips and events should we prioritize?

1. We think that The Summit is the most important thing for your child to attend - we'd love to have 100% of our incoming high school seniors attend!
2. The YES Retreat is the second most important; ideally, a high schooler would attend this Retreat every year (though we certainly recognize that for the communities that have to fly to the retreat, this is not a possibility).
3. For the adventure trips, while it's great if youth can go on all of them, if that's not possible, going on one or two is excellent! High schoolers usually have lots of options in the summer, so it might work better to prioritize trips for 7th and 8th graders. This is also a strategic way for your youth to build relationships with future YES Retreat participants.
4. Lastly, we don't want to compete with the plans of local communities. If there's a direct conflict, we think it's good to participate in the local community's trip, camp, or retreat.

# ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION

We know that arranging transportation to and from a Kairos summer trip can be a real challenge. First of all, we would like to thank the many parents who, over the years, have driven youth to trips, planned with other parents, and volunteered their cars to make it possible for young people to attend. That is a huge service that often goes unnoticed, but one that has been hugely important - so thank you! Second, we want to offer a couple of thoughts to hopefully help this area be less cumbersome.

First, while we can't simply 'solve' the transportation issue, we do want to be more of a support. So, if you're thinking that this will be an issue, get ahold of us so we can work together, share ideas, and hopefully find a good solution. The quicker we start the conversation and get other families looped in, the better. The first step would be to fill out the trip interest form and contact the listed trip leader.

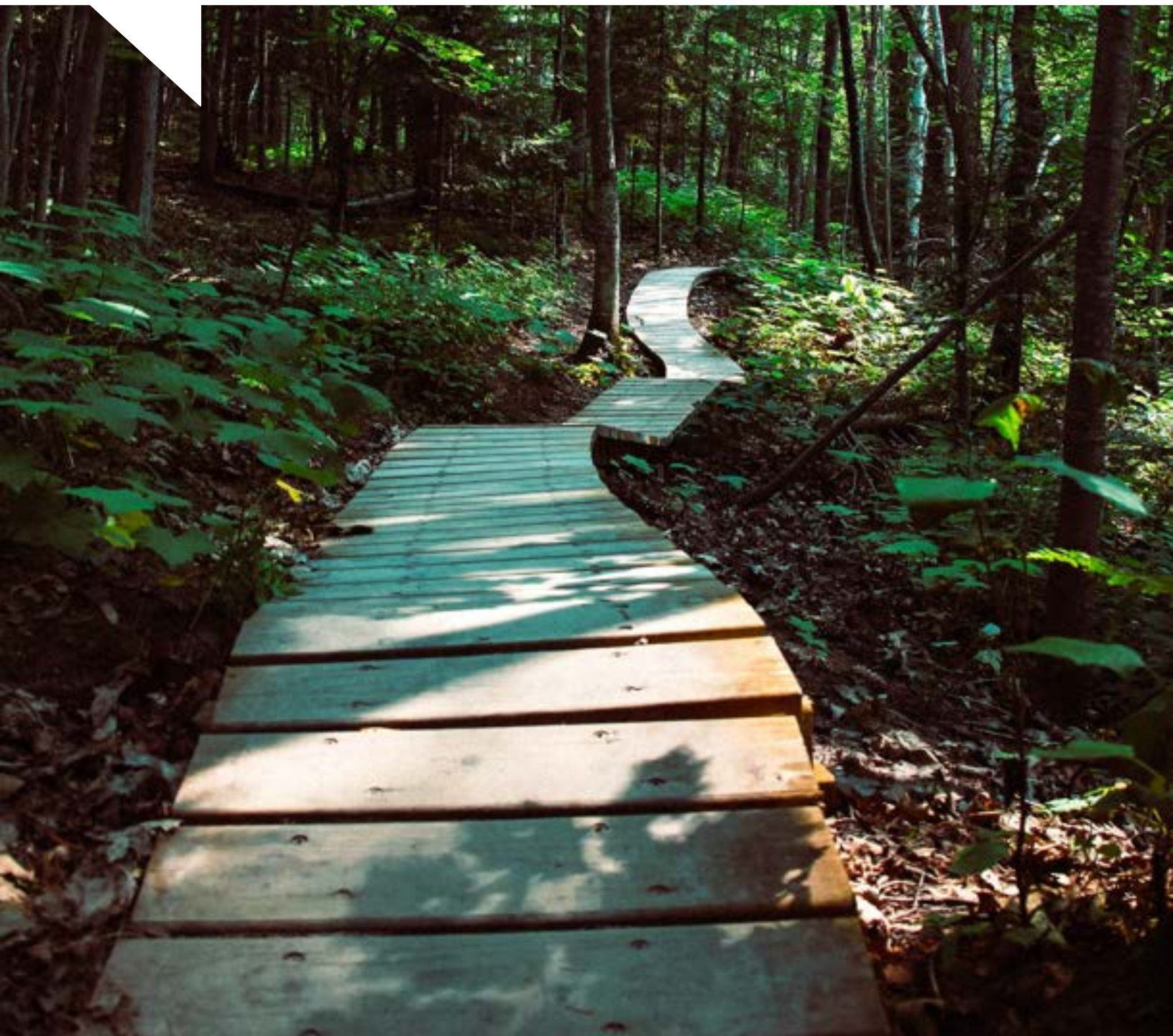
Second, get in touch with other families from your community that might have youth on the same trip. We can let you know who else has expressed interest. Starting these conversations early can be very helpful.

Finally, there is often one parent who does a lot of work to organize transportation for a number of youth from their area: a *transportation champion*, so to speak. We'll now be offering a trip discount to that family based on the work they do to make the trip a reality for multiple youth. If you're interested in doing this, let us know!





**“Our purpose is to help youth find theirs.  
We exist to call young people to follow Jesus Christ,  
And to invite them into a venturesome faith.”**



## **WHAT WE VALUE**

### **Kairos Time**

We value time that is set apart: different from the everyday, protected from distraction. These are times when God acts, and we can respond.

### **Embracing the Struggle**

Life is full of hardships and obstacles. We want to encourage our youth to rise to these challenges, meet them with hope, and become antifragile.

### **Community-Glue**

Christ-centered, life-long relationships help hold our communities together. We seek to provide the environments where these are built.

### **Servant Heartedness**

We are honored to serve young people. And we serve them greatly when we model a servant's heart, and invite them to serve one another.

### **Big Life Vision**

God's plan for our life is bigger than our own. We want to help young people look to eternity, and see their lives as The Lord sees them.

### **“Yes, Lord”**

Every person's walk with God involves a next step. We value these opportunities for growth, and invite all to say “yes” to Jesus, The Lord.