



Kairos 

2024 - 2025 TRIPS & PROGRAMS

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# FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you so much for your partnership with Kairos in our mission to bring young people into a life of deep and radical discipleship. I am pleased to present this brochure to you once again and excited for everything that we have in store.

Most of the pictures in this brochure were taken on Kairos trips from this past summer. Sorting through all the pictures filled me with gratitude as I considered all the ways God is using Kairos in the lives of our young people. We have spoken regularly about our desire to *foster a love for the real* through everything that we do. It was clear as I looked through the pictures from last summer that we are indeed providing simple, but powerful opportunities to love the real on all of our trips. In a world that continues to forget the real, these simple opportunities will continue to grow all the more powerful.

While our summer trips do not constitute everything that we do in Kairos, they are a major piece, and I'm pleased to say that last summer was our fullest summer yet. We are excited to share with you in the following pages all that we have planned for the coming year. It is our prayer that each of our trips and programs will continue to bear rich fruit for our young people and their families.

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		

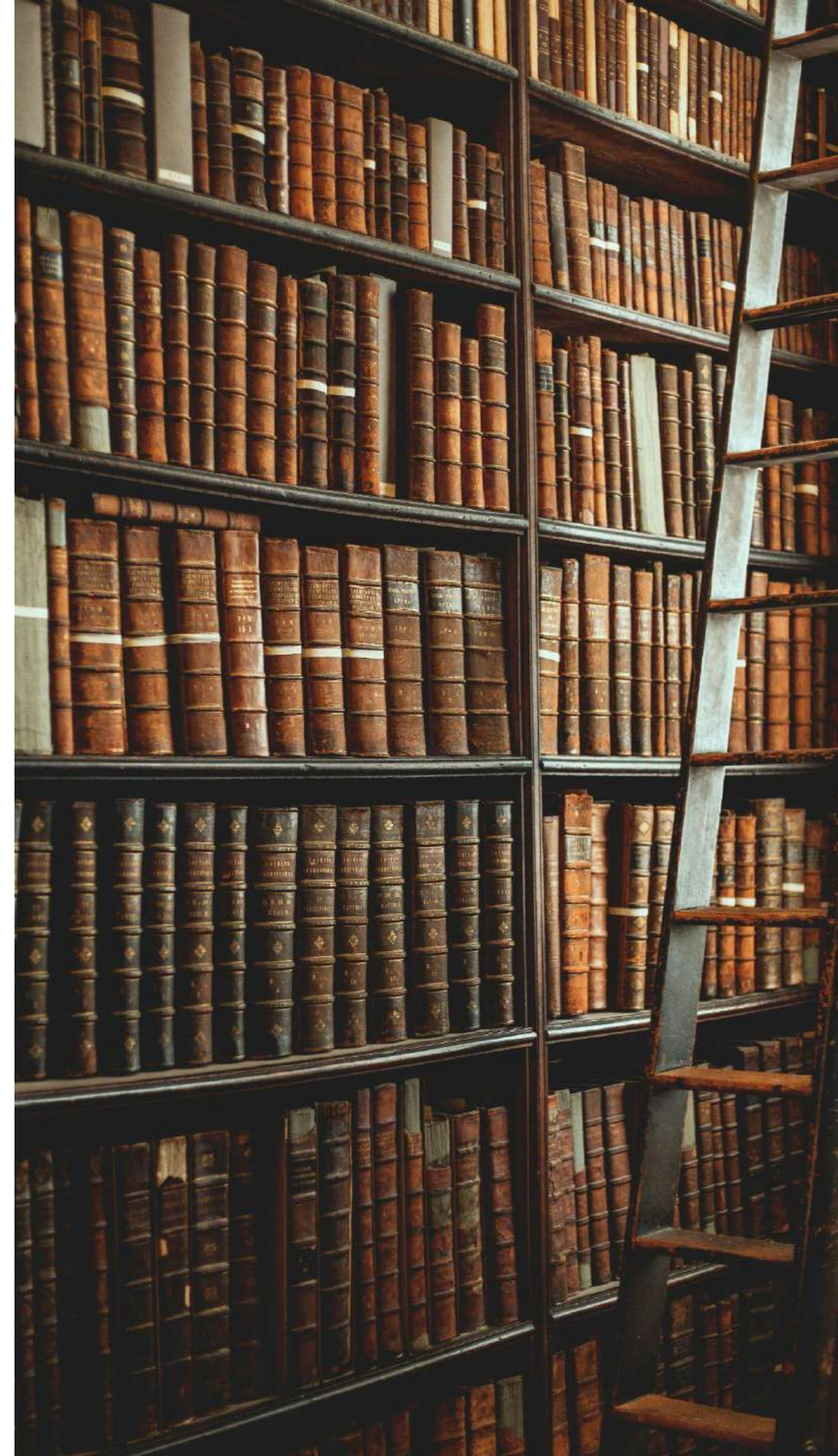
**PLEASE NOTE:**  
The grade level for summer trips indicate the grade completed by the participant.

# ANNUAL PARENTS FORUM

Each year in the late fall, Kairos gathers online with parents and youth workers from around the Region to discuss one area of significance related to raising children as disciples. For our first three years we focused on the area of media and technology, always aiming to give some thoughtful commentary as well as practical takeaways. This year we changed things up and talked about the area of dating. As always, we tried to present a balance of principle and practice, and this year we were also blessed to hear some testimonies from parents. Contact us at [kairos-na.org/contact/](https://kairos-na.org/contact/) if you would like to receive a copy of the recording. Sign up to be added to our email list to be notified for our 2025 forum: [kairos-na.org/parents](https://kairos-na.org/parents).

# YOUTH WORKERS TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Kairos exists to serve the young people in the North American Region of the Sword of the Spirit. One of the ways we do this is by being a resource for youth groups and by providing training for youth workers. In 2025, we will be offering a youth worker track at the Regional Summer Conference, which will be held in Lansing, Michigan, July 11-13. In addition, we have a number of foundational training resources for youth groups to use, and we have some availability to provide customized training experiences for local youth group teams. If you lead or supervise your local youth group and would like more information, please reach out to us at [kairos-na.org/contact/](https://kairos-na.org/contact/)



# 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!

"The YES Retreat truly inspired and helped me to find a new focus of my worth in God. The experience has grown me in my faith considerably and has helped me to continue to seek him, for His love is all that I need and He freely gives it always since His love endures forever."

**YES RETREAT 2024 FRESHMAN**

"The YES retreat was a special time to witness that God does speak to us and love us both directly and through other people. He loves each of us personally and infinitely and He works especially through His people."

**YES RETREAT 2024 SENIOR**



**DATES: MARCH 28 - 30, 2025**  
**LOCATION: HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN**  
**COST: \$220**  
**ESTIMATED SIZE: 300 YOUTH, 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 includes typical retreat elements such as talks and worship, as well as outdoor adventure activities.

The Summit exists to help youth understand their community heritage, the opportunities before them, and to call them on to radical, lifelong discipleship. Because of this, the Kairos staff believes it is the most important event we offer!

**DATES: JULY 3 - 7, 2025**

**LOCATION: NEAR LOUISVILLE, KY**

**COST: \$400**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2025**

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

*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 carpooled with other youth and local youth workers. Please connect with other families, local youth workers, and with the Kairos Staff to coordinate this.*

"The Summit taught me how important it is to slow down and live more in the moment, listening for God's voice without worldly distractions. Since then, I have tried to spend more intentional time with the Lord away from my phone and get more comfortable being in silence without distraction."

**KASIA - SUMMIT 2024**

"The Summit had a great impact on my spiritual journey. The setting was peaceful and beautiful, designed to foster reflection and connection with God. The speakers were inspiring and relatable, offering profound insights that deepened my faith. Lastly the activities encouraged fellowship and meaningful conversations with other participants, creating a strong sense of community. I left feeling rejuvenated, with new tools to strengthen my relationship with Christ."

**EDDIE - SUMMIT 2024**



## 7+8 GRADE GIRLS TRIP

This 6-day trip is a friendly introduction to camping. We will stay at a large, beautiful campsite and venture out on day hikes. Friendship, prayer, and serving alongside one another with joy are key elements of this trip.

**DATES: JULY 16 - 21, 2025**

**LOCATION: UPSTATE NEW YORK | COST: \$410\***

**ESTIMATED TRIP SIZE: 9 - 12 GIRLS**

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR ALL GIRLS TRIPS:  
MAY 1, OR WHEN TRIP FILLS UP**

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

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

## 9+10 GRADE GIRLS 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 tough and will challenge the girls physically and emotionally, teach them to rely on the Lord, and grow strong relationships with their sisters on the trip. 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.

**DATES: JUNE 22 - 30, 2025**

**LOCATION: NORTHERN MINNESOTA | COST: \$460\***

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



## 7th GRADE BOYS TRIP

This is our classic backpacking trip! We meet up at a cabin in western Virginia, then 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 wrap up and celebrate our trip.

**DATES: AUGUST 2 - 9, 2025**

**LOCATION: VIRGINIA**

**COST: \$410**

**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 21 - 28, 2025**

**LOCATION: ONTARIO, CANADA**

**COST: \$460**

**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 16 - 28, 2025**

**LOCATION: WYOMING**

**COST: \$460**

**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 us all 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 12 - 18, 2025**

**LOCATION: KENTUCKY**

**COST: \$505\***

**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 are pushed out of their comfort zone and into real responsibility. The program is 2 months long and is 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 8 - AUGUST 10, 2025**

**DATES FOR WOMEN: JUNE 8 - JULY 23, 2025**

**COST: \$3,900**

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

**AVAILABILITY: 2 MEN AND 2 WOMEN**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/SERVICE-PROGRAMS](https://kairos-na.org/service-programs)**

“I took a big step forward in my relationship with the Lord when I said yes to serve as a Kairos Adventure Guide. During this time, I learned what it meant to be a disciple on mission and to serve others, but also the importance of a daily prayer time. When I put my trust in the Lord, He gave me a better summer than I could have imagined for myself. The time I spent with Kairos has transformed me into a new man.”

**HAYDEN SCHAD**

Adventure Guide 2024





## THE GAP PROGRAM

The Gap program provides highschool graduates with an opportunity to radically orient the rest of their lives towards Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Through service, formation, community, and more, Gappers will grow into men and women who impact the world for Christ! Taking a year off to be a Gapper can be intimidating, but we have seen time and time again that doing a Gap year helps set a young person up for a life of not just success, but significance.

**DATES: EARLY AUGUST 2025 - MID MAY 2026**

**LOCATION: LANSING, MI**

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

**AVAILABILITY: 2 MEN AND 2 WOMEN**

**[KAIROS-NA.ORG/SERVICE-PROGRAMS](https://kairos-na.org/service-programs)**

## KEY ELEMENTS

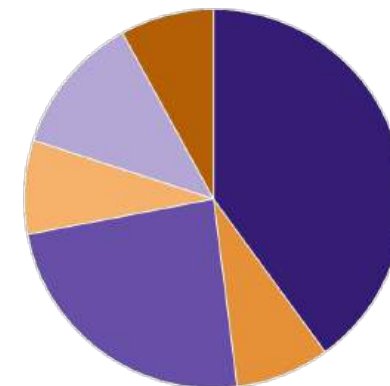
**Work** - Work a part-time job to cover living expenses and gain real life experience

**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

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 whether or where to attend university.

## For The Workplace Bound

Some of our young people will enter the workforce directly from high school or after attending a vocational school. It is the case that in North America, most of the post-high school ministries connected to our communities are focused around university life and university student outreach. This can make it difficult for a young person who is working full-time to connect with these environments. However, 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 they are not attending university, your son or daughter would usually be most welcome to join the formation programs at the university outreaches we recommend. Often, they would even be able to apply to live in a household. Have your youth contact the local chapter director (see the map on page 25 and visit our website for contact information) to express their interest to be involved with the chapter!

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

good connection with their community and a significant way to be on mission.

On the topic of mission, we should note that the communities of our region are not currently 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 who 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 when 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.

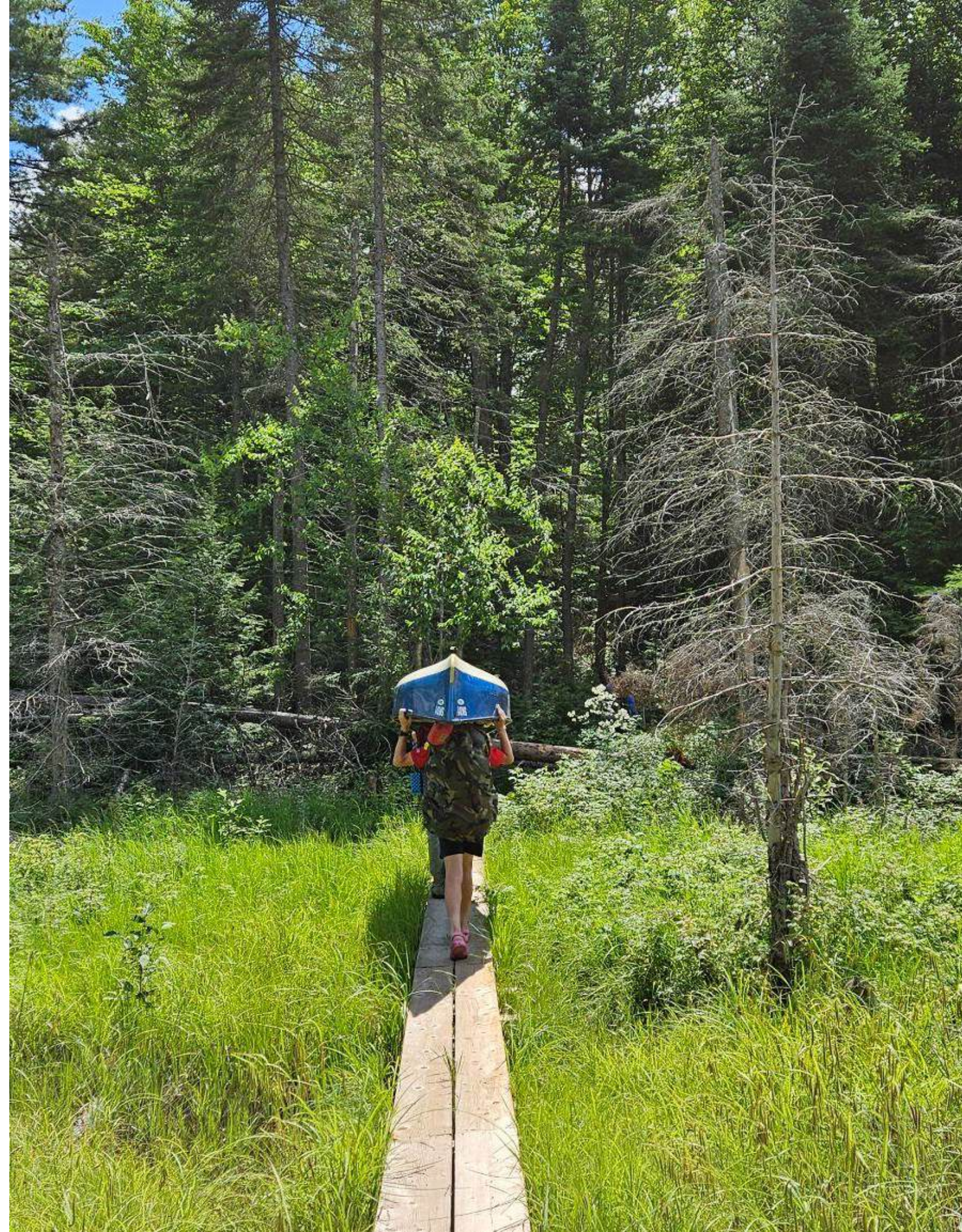
Furthermore, for us in Sword of the Spirit communities, we should note especially that the long-term ability of our young people to participate in our communities is greatly influenced by their college choice. Most community youth who do not connect with one of our Sword of the Spirit outreaches, or 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 join, will limit or encourage this contribution.

Even for young people who do well in high school, it can be extremely difficult to continue on a path to the Lord and to life in Christian community. For this reason, we strongly recommend that you help your child choose a university with a strong discipleship formation program, a vibrant community, and a 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. In addition, 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 with 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 plan to pay for or contribute to your child's college education then you have create 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 just 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 with the leaders of those chapters. Part of this strategy could be to delay their college choice for a year. Present 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. Even without joining UCO, your child can participate in UCO's *Campus Mission Academy*, a 6-day conference held each August. Both programs will provide your child with Christian inspiration, training, and a network of Christian friends.

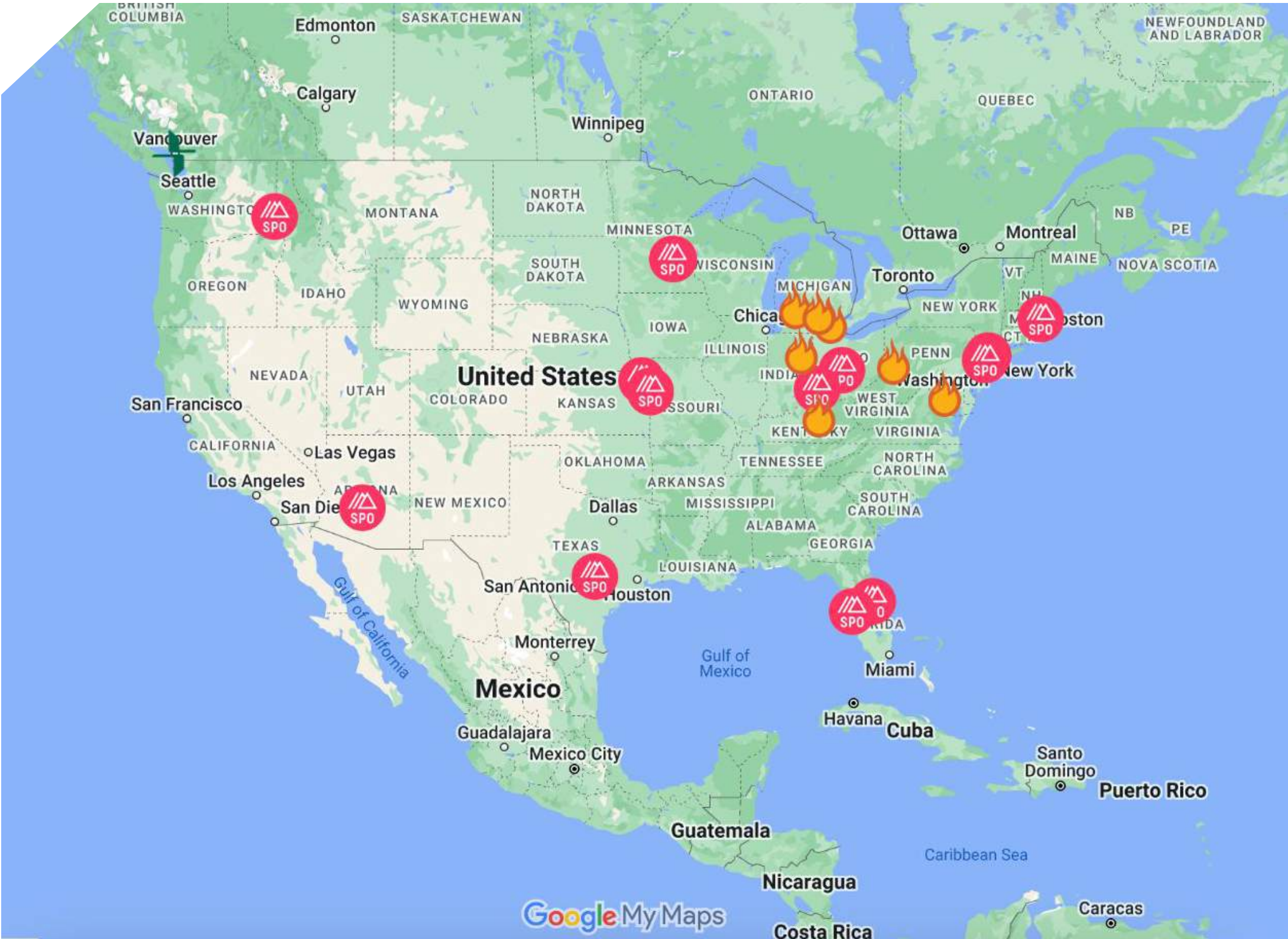
Thank you for your work in raising young men and women for the Kingdom of Christ—your parenting is a contribution to the Lord's work, and the work of the Sword of the Spirit. It is a pleasure to serve you and your children.



# 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://www.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 is an option. More pastorally, having a high schooler fundraise 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, please contact 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 bad 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 would 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 may not be 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 a lot of options in the summer, so it may 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 is 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. This is a huge service that often goes unnoticed, but it has been hugely important - so thank you! Second, we would like to offer a few thoughts to hopefully help make this area less cumbersome.

First, while we can't simply 'solve' the transportation issue, we do want to be a support. So if you think it's going to be a problem, contact us so we can work together, share ideas, and hopefully find a good solution. The sooner 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 who may 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!



# 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.

