



Work Group Planning Information

For those groups that would like to serve Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm, please read through the following information. If there are any additional questions, please call us at: (410) 275-2194 or email us at: info@deeproootsinc.org. Thank you!

Location

Mission trips and work groups that plan to spend time with Deep Roots will be hosted at Clairvaux Farm.

Deep Roots provides shelter to families with children who are experiencing a period of homelessness in their lives.

Deep Roots is located approximately 15 miles south of Elkton, Maryland and 15 Miles west of Middletown, Delaware. We are located in the Bohemian River Watershed, but we do not have direct access to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Farm consists of 20 acres of fields, woodland, pasture and wetlands. There is sufficient space for games such as football, volleyball, softball, and soccer. There is a chapel, pavilion, and a campfire area available for worship and/or work group activities.

Accommodation

Groups stay in the Mission House. The Mission House is air-conditioned and heated, has five sleeping areas, two common rooms, and two toilet and shower facilities. We can accommodate up to 25 persons in this building. For groups larger than 25, sleeping accommodations are split between the Mission House, the Chapel, and other buildings as needed.

Food is prepared and served in the central dining hall which has a commercial grade kitchen. We ask work groups to consider rotating some members of their group to assist our residents and staff with food preparation and clean up.

There is wireless internet access at Deep Roots, but as we rely on a satellite provider, we request groups to be mindful that access may be uneven in quality.

Schedule

In general terms, for groups that plan to spend a week at Deep Roots, we recommend the following schedule:

- Sunday— arrival in the afternoon; supper; orientation in the evening.
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday— work days, generally from 9 to 12 and 1:30 to 5. This may change depending upon the work required and the weather.
- Wednesday— day off. Some groups travel to Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Washington DC while others travel to Ocean City, MD or Rehoboth Beach, DE.
- Saturday— departure in the morning after breakfast.

For groups that plan to have a shorter visit, we can provide a more condensed or flexible schedule. Just let us know.

Because Deep Roots has a number of children and youth on site at any given time, we ask work groups to consider organizing a fun activity that can be done with them in the evenings. Previous groups have done arts and crafts, sponsored a game night, facilitated a softball game, among other things.

What to Bring

Casual clothing for outdoor work, hat, sturdy shoes, work gloves, insect repellent, re-usable water bottle, sunscreen, sleeping bags, pillows, towels, soap, shampoo, sports equipment for free time (soccer and basket balls available), swimsuits and water shoes if planning a beach trip on the day off.

We recommend that everyone in your group have a valid tetanus immunization.

We require that persons wear sturdy, closed toe shoes while on work project sites.

Rules

We ask every mission trip or work group leader or coordinator to familiarize the group with our social media policy which states:

As we do not have release forms for all of our residents and some come from extraneous situations where they do not want to be found, we respectfully ask you to refrain from taking pictures of the residents, adults and children, without consulting Deep Roots staff.

Drugs and alcohol are not allowed at Clairvaux Farms.

Work group members are not allowed into the residents' private apartments unless the project specifically targets that area. We recommend entering private spaces only with the instruction and permission of Deep Roots staff.

If a resident requests you or a member of your work group for personal assistance (e.g. medicine, money, transportation, etc.), please refer their request to a member of staff.