

You Signed Up for an Idaho Servant Adventure...now what?

Exciting things happen on a Servant Adventure: houses get built, people sing, kids get hugs, teens make new friends, rivers get rafted, the Gospel of Jesus Christ gets preached in word and action, and everyone pretty much always comes away learning something new about themselves, about others, and about God.

This may be a new experience for you ~ not your everyday "get-up-in-the-morning-go-to-school-then-to-practice-slam-down-dinner-blah-blah-blah" kind of routine. So it's best to keep a few things in mind right now. **You may be asked to do something you've never done before** (for some people that means cooking breakfast, for others, it might mean pouring cement).

Servant Adventures touch peoples' lives. You may face some very wonderful situations and some very difficult situations. If you remember that **this Servant Adventure is meant as an opportunity for you to grow in faith and an opportunity for God's love to be shared through your actions and words**, then you can face each situation in a way that makes it a blessing!

Oh, and did we mention...have fun!

1. You will get dirty, and we're not talking to just you construction folks! Even if you end up working with kids in a Day Camp setting, don't forget about their sticky little fingers and the grass stains you'll get when they tackle you! **Bring clothes that can get dirty and something casual to change into after** a hot, sweaty day.
2. All outreach events are different. This may be your first servant-type event, or it might be your 20th. **Each event has unique tasks, people, rules, and lessons** for you to experience. Remember that many people planned for many months in order for you to be a part of this servant opportunity.
3. You might have to sleep in a room with 20 or so other sleeping bodies. **Bring patience!**
4. You will **not always be with the group you came with!** Idaho Servant Adventures groups are mixed for living, working, and small-group times.
5. You may not get to eat your favorite foods. Eat anyway. The food at Idaho Servant Adventures is awesome! **Make sure we know ahead of time about special dietary needs.** Oh, and bring **money for the Trading Post!**
6. You'll need **to take care of yourself**, which means getting enough sleep, eating enough food, drinking plenty of water, and watching out for rusty nails. We're not just your mom talking here!
7. Serving means **helping others in what they need**—not in what you think they need.
8. You may be **surprised by the feelings** you have during a Servant Event!
9. You may **make one or several new, life-long friends.** On the other hand, **you may not get along with everyone.** Welcome to life, 'cause Jesus says love 'em anyway!
10. Work together and care for each other in accomplishing your goals. **Serve as you'd like to be served.**

11. You may learn to **care for people that you have struggled with understanding or loving before** (maybe people who are homeless, people with disabilities, or those who don't shower regularly).
12. You may be confronted with an eye-opening, firsthand **experience of the realities of other cultures** (injustice, living conditions, repressed populations, poverty, prejudice...)
13. Life in a group really isn't a democracy. The **needs of the group take priority over the wants of one.**
14. **Complaining only brings down a group**, and it won't get you that extra two hours past lights-out.
15. You'll probably **learn something new about yourself**: ("Hey, I like first graders" or "Hey, wearing gloves to haul those logs was a good idea!")
16. You signed up to be a servant! **A servant is one who serves**, not one who expects to be served.
17. This experience could **change your life**. Go for it!
18. You are **an important part of the body of Christ**.
19. You have **wonderful gifts** that can be used to **help others**.
20. **Expect the unexpected**; be flexible.