



OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO SERVE IN HOUSTON

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16

As people loved by God, we want to take every opportunity to serve the people of the Houston community. We want to encourage youth and adults to use their gifts, skills, passions and experiences to care for other people in Jesus’ name. Through the Holy Spirit, we walk through the city as a light, serving those we interact with and giving glory to God.

One of the remarkable things about LCMS Youth Gatherings in the past is the impact the youth have had on the local community and merchants. Time after time, it is reported that they cannot believe the kind and caring nature of thousands of Lutheran youth. We give God glory for that and remember that God can work through these thousands of young and adults in powerful ways.

We pray that all our groups will work together to continue that impact, to, during and returning from the Gathering! From servers to fellow pedestrians, an opportunity to serve is literally around every corner. Here are a few suggestions.

- Hold the door open for others.
- Give up your seat and be conscientious of other travelers in airports and public transportation.
- Help someone carry a bag/suitcase or place that bag in an overhead compartment.
- Set a good example in following street signs and helping others cross the street at appropriate times and places.
- If you have extra snacks, leftovers from a meal or a bottle of water you can share with someone you might see on the street.
- Greet everyone with a smile.
- Share words of encouragement and thanks for those workers who help support our event.
- Find a way to show your appreciation for your adult leaders. They have committed a great deal to being part of your experience. Appreciation and a thank you note goes a long way.



- Leave a thank you note behind
 - For housekeeping (along with a financial tip)
 - For your bus driver
 - For the security people at the convention center
 - For Gathering Volunteers
 - For your server (along with a financial tip)
 - For a session leader
 - For the flight attendants/pilots
- Have eyes out for ways that youth can assist others both in travel and during the event. There can be lots of ways they can care for other youth, adult leaders, and those around the city. This can be small acts like:
 - Stacking plates together at a restaurant before leaving.
 - Listening to Gathering Volunteers and passing on information that may be helpful.
 - Keep your hotel room mess to a minimum or mark your rooms as “Do Not Disturb” if you don’t need maid service.
- Tip more than you should:
 - For housekeeping
 - For restaurant servers
 - For Uber/cab drivers

There are so many opportunities for you to show love and grace to others during the Gathering. This is a great to remind your youth how deeply they have been loved and forgiven by Jesus and how they can reflect that love to others. May you go into the city reflecting God’s light to others!