



Dear Parents and Junior Highers,

We have an exciting opportunity coming our way in just a few short months. Our Junior Highers can participate in our annual Mission 2 Michigan while working with a Christian ministry called Encouragement Link near Felch, MI (For the location see the "star" in the M2M logo on the cover of this packet) in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, June 13-18, 2026.

The purposes of the trip are several:

1. To draw students closer to Christ through time spent with Him and other believers in personal devotions, Biblical challenges, and times of worship.
2. To be a blessing to the Encouragement Link staff and the people of the communities where they minister.
3. To build community and teamwork within our group.



This is not your average summer camp experience – it is even better! Each year is a little different, but generally we will be getting dirty, using a port-a-potties, and working hard to get the camp ready for campers later in the summer.



This means that we will not have all the luxuries of home, but we will be staying in a safe, although "rustic", atmosphere. For the last couple of years, because of previous teams' hard work, we are located right at Bible Camp Elijah where we will be primarily working and we will have very nice showers!



Elijah Bible Camp was given to Encouragement Link several years ago and continues to be used to provide an affordable Christian camping experience for hundreds of students living in the U.P.

Typical projects at the camp include cleaning up, weeding, painting, staining, and light construction. It is also possible that we may send a crew off-site to help some of the locals with various jobs. Most of the tasks which we work on are "get dirty" types of projects, so "old clothes" will be the order of the day most of the time with the exception of Sunday, when we'll join the locals at church.

All of this will be centered on great times of worship, prayer and Bible studies around the campfire, at Metropolitan Hall and/or at the Camp & sometimes even over smoothies from Alex's Place Coffee House!





The cost of the trip this year is \$175 with a non-refundable deposit of \$75 due by May 3rd if you'd like to go. The other \$100 will be due June 3rd. (Scholarships are available if you need help. Please talk to Pastor Walt (walt@eastwhiteoak.church)).

We are expecting a team of 25-30 students and leaders to be going. We will be traveling to the U.P. in our church shuttle bus(es) and/or vans.

Please find enclosed a student application form, a parent form (for you to fill out about your child), an Encouragement Link waiver, and an East White Oak Medical Release form. Please return these along with your deposit for the trip. Also included is a packing list for your use.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 309-824-4009.

Thank you for prayerfully considering the trip! I look forward to seeing your students sign up!

Serving Christ together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Walt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Associate Pastor – Youth
Ministries

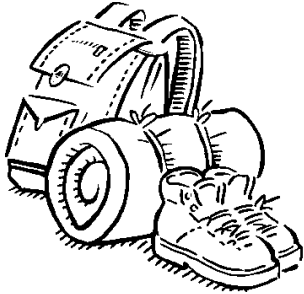
East White Oak Bible
Church 11922 E. 2000
North Rd.
Carlock, IL 61725
309-454-3833

2026 Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change):

Saturday	Travel to the U.P.	Leave at 7:00 am Enjoy God's Creation as we travel through Wisconsin to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan
	Evening	Arrival, set up tents, get settled in; Welcome, Worship, and Testimony time at Met Hall or the camp.
Sunday: "Worship and Play Day"		Worship at Watson Bible Chapel Fun adventures in the area in the afternoon and evening!
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday	Mornings and Afternoons	Working at Elijah Bible Camp and/or in the community.
	Evenings	Worship Together and do some exploring of the U.P. Culture
Thursday	Travel Day	Travel back to East White Oak with a stop near Bay Beach Park in Green Bay for some quick go cart races (included in the price and barring unforeseen weather issues)! We are usually back to EWO by 9:00 p.m., but we'll call you as we get closer and know a firm arrival time.

Jr. High Mission to Michigan June 13-18, 2026

Info at a glance



Leaving East White Oak

Saturday, June 13 7:00 AM

Returning to East White Oak

Thursday, June 18 at approximately 9:00 PM

PACKING LIST:

Bring \$\$ for lunch and supper on the way up and on the way back from the U.P.

Other items to bring:

- ✓ Bible, notebook/journal, pen
- ✓ Sleeping bag & pillow (Remember we will be sleeping in tents. It could get chilly at night.)
- ✓ Sleeping pad/air mattress (Helps sleep on possibly rocky areas; we will have pumps for air mattresses)
- ✓ Water bottle (A good one that can potentially take a beating, not a disposable – You'll likely use this through the next several years of Youth Ministry.)
- ✓ Work Clothes (that you don't value too highly)
- ✓ One set of clothes for church and adventures on Sunday! (Jeans and shorts are ok. Just not ripped up/dirty)
- ✓ Work Gloves. REALLY! (preferably with suede or leather palms)
- ✓ Swimsuit
- ✓ Hiking or work boots, athletic shoes with a good tread are ok
- ✓ Hat/bandana
- ✓ Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, towels (2), washcloths, deodorant, etc)
- ✓ Sunglasses, bug spray & sunscreen SPF 30+
- ✓ Rain poncho/jacket (Really! We've had some downpours!)
- ✓ Jacket/sweatshirt
- ✓ Flashlight!! (Once we turn out the lights on the buses, it is *really dark*. You need a good flashlight)
- ✓ Small Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
- ✓ Medications, camera, spending money

QUESTIONS? Call Pastor Walt (309-824-4009)

Student/Leader Application for Mission to Michigan

Church:	Date:	
Name:	Phone:	
Age:	Grade Completed:	Gender:
Address:		
City:	State:	
Zip:	Alternate Phone: (Cell, other)	

Do you consider yourself a Christian? Why?

When and what was the most recent lesson God taught you or is teaching you?

Have you ever been involved in any type of mission trip or service project before? When? What did you learn?

Why do you want to participate in the ministry of this service team?

What do you expect to gain from this experience?

What do you feel you can contribute in terms of work skills, attitudes, and personal abilities?

What would you think God expects of you during this experience?

What benefit would you like your church and youth group to receive from the experience of this service team?

Do you feel you will be able to follow all group rules and support the entire program with your cooperation, prayers, enthusiasm, and energies?

The process of bonding as a team, and learning more about this trip and what we will be doing with Encouragement Link requires that you attend youth group on a regular basis. Can you commit to coming to youth group on a regular basis this summer? If not, why not?

What is the one nagging question you just really want to ask about this whole experience?

Mission to Michigan

Parent's Reference Form

Student's Name _____ Parents' Names _____

Best way to reach you:

Mobile Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Why do you want your child to participate in the East White Oak Youth Ministries Junior High Work Camp?

What do you expect him/her to gain personally from this experience?

What would you guess God expects of your child during this experience?

What benefit would you like your church and youth group to receive from the experience of the Junior High Work Camp?

Do you feel your child will be able to follow all group rules and support the entire program with your cooperation, prayers, enthusiasm, and energies?

Please evaluate your child in each area by using the following scale:

1 = Help! 2 = Needs improvement 3 = Average 4 = Very good 5 = Excellent

_____	Work skills	_____	Completing a task	_____	Response to
_____	Emotional readiness	_____	Communication skills	_____	Authority
_____	Spiritual readiness	_____	Cooperative spirit	_____	Organization
_____	Physical readiness	_____	Stress management	_____	Leadership

