

FAQS

Q. What is the history of RYM?

Raleigh Youth Mission (RYM) began in 2013. It was developed as an expansion of [Asheville Youth Mission](#), which was founded by Aimee and Bill Buchanan, Christian educators and ordained PC(USA) ministers. Over the years this ministry has grown to include over a dozen partnerships and hundreds of youth. It is a ministry location of [Youth Mission Co.](#)

Q. Who is RYM Staff?

Bill Buchanan is the Executive Director of Youth Mission Co. The Mission Immersion Director for RYM this summer is Elaine Austin. RYM employs interns for the summer season and relies on many volunteers, adjunct staff, and support staff to keep us up and running.

Q. How do I register?

Please fill out the registration form. You may submit the form [on-line](#).

Q. What is the cost to participate in RYM?

- For a week-long experience (Sunday evening through Friday morning), it is **\$380 per person**.
- For a weekend experience (Friday evening through Sunday morning), it is **\$180 per person**.

For week-long groups there is also a parking fee of \$20 per vehicle which goes to the hosting church (First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh) to support their outreach ministries.

Q. When and how is the money due?

Once your registration has been received and you have been notified that your date is penciled-in, please send a **non-refundable deposit of \$190 per participant** (for a week) or **\$90 per participant** (for a weekend). This deposit is due within fourteen (14) days of the email notification from RYM. Please make all checks payable to "Raleigh Youth Mission" and mail them to the following address: P.O. Box 2988 Asheville, NC 28802. (All registrations and payments for YMCo locations are processed at our YMCo office in Asheville.)

Upon receipt of your check, RYM will send a confirmation email that we have received payment and that your spots are reserved. Final numbers and payment in full (the balance due) are due thirty (30) days prior to your scheduled arrival. Click here to see the full [Financial Policy](#).

Q. What if we have to cancel?

RYM's cancellation policy is as follows:

30 days and more: If your group or any registrant in your group must cancel 30 days or more prior to your arrival date, **the payments paid prior to cancellation will not be refunded**. Any registrant deposit is transferable to a replacement registrant for the original and currently reserved week.

29 days and less: If your group or any registrant in your group must cancel 29 days or less prior to your arrival date, **the payments paid prior to cancellation will not be refunded AND payment in full is due for each registrant cancellation**.

The deposit and payments that are held for an RYM experience by any group are only good for the original and currently reserved week for that group. If you must reschedule your RYM experience, a new deposit and payments are required. Please contact us ASAP to make arrangements.

Deposits from canceled participants cannot be used to pay the balance due on remaining participants.

Q. Can we arrange for our group to be the one and only group staying at RYM when we come?

RYM has a wide variety of groups, from very small to very large. If you have a large group, you may end up being the only group staying with us at that time. However, as long as slots remain for that time, we cannot promise that you will be the only group here during your week or weekend.

Q. Where will we be staying?

You will be staying at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC (120 West Hargett St. 27601). There are rooms designated in the Stock Building for RYM. The parking lot entrance is on Hargett Street.

Q. When should we arrive?

If you are a summer week-long group, we will be ready to receive your group at 7:00 pm on Sunday. Please have dinner prior to your arrival. Orientation will begin promptly at 7:30 pm.

Q. What if we're running late on arrival day?

Please contact RYM Director Elaine Austin by call or text (540-309-3328).

Q. What are sleeping arrangements?

In our designated (and gender specific) sleeping rooms there is plenty of floor space. PLEASE BRING SINGLE SIZE AIR MATTRESSES as well as sleeping bags and pillows (sheets are recommended during the warmer months). First Presbyterian Church has air conditioning (and heat).

Q. Where should we park while at First Presbyterian Church?

RYM related vehicles will be parking in the main parking lot, located in the center of the church campus. Enter the lot at 120 Hargett Street, 27601.

For week-long groups there is a \$20 fee per vehicle that will go to our hosting church, First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, to support their outreach ministries.

Q. What do meals look like? How do we request special diets?

RYM provides a fully stocked kitchen for breakfasts, lunches and dinners (with the exception of dinner on Thursday, which is free afternoon). You'll be on your own for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch after closing worship. There is also an option to opt out of Thursday's lunch (a bagged lunch), if you so choose. As for special diet requests, please let us know at least a week in advance so that we can have it ready for you. You will not go hungry at RYM; however, if your group likes to have particular snacks and/or gets hungry in between or after meal times, feel free to bring snack food.

Q. Where do we shower?

Showers are located at the end of the RYM wing at First Presbyterian Church.

Q. Is there a kitchen available?

Yes. There is a smaller kitchen space that we use for breakfasts and lunches and a larger kitchen provided for dinners. If you need to bring something refrigerated, please let us know, as we'll try to make room in our limited fridge space.

Q. What does RYM provide?

An orientation upon arrival as well as facilitation and activities for debriefing during the week. RYM provides evening programs Monday-Wednesday as well as a closing worship on Friday morning.

Q. What do we need to bring?

Please bring the following:

- Flexibility and humility (most important as they're keys to a fantastic mission experience)
- Work clothes (knee-length shorts are okay but no "short" shorts)
- One pair of long pants (as some sites require pants).
- Closed-toe shoes or work boots (socks, please)
- Work gloves and **rain gear**
- Casual clothes/shoes for non-work times
- Shower shoes, toiletries, towel, small bag or caddy for toiletries
- Prescription meds (inhalers, insulin, allergy meds, etc.)
- Sunscreen
- Sleeping bag/sheets, twin air mattress/pad, pillow
- Bible
- Reusable water bottle (RYM has water bottles available to purchase)
- Bathing suit (if your group is doing something water-related on your free day)

Please bring a mask for times when they may be needed at worksites

Q. What is the dress code for RYM (adults and youth participants at work sites)?

We have a fairly strict dress code **for work sites**. Any RYM participant not adhering to this dress code will be asked to change immediately or not work at the site.

Dress code for work sites:

- Long shorts
- closed-toe shoes
- t-shirts (shirts must have sleeves – no tanks, spaghetti straps, or low cut shirts)
- underwear (please wear it but no one should be able to see it)
- It is also helpful to bring a pair of long pants.

These dress code requirements are **only for certain worksites**, not for the other elements of Mission Immersion programming or free time.

Q. What things won't we need?

Please leave all valuables (jewelry, bags, electronics, clothing, etc.) at home. Don't bring anything you wouldn't want to lose, as RYM will not be held responsible for lost or stolen personal items. Do not bring lots of money. Leave clothes/shoes that you don't want to get dirty/sweaty at home.

Q. What are some suggestions of things to do on our free day?

Please refer to your Leader Packet for the "Fun in Raleigh" resource provided by RYM. Please let RYM know BEFORE your arrival if you are doing something on your free day that takes the entire day.

Q. Where is RYM located?

The RYM offices are located at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC.

Q. What age groups does RYM host?

We welcome rising 6th graders through graduated seniors during our summer mission immersion. We also welcome college-aged groups.

Q. What can we expect in our time with RYM?

The RYM Staff will accompany your group to all service sites. We will serve as the liaisons between your group and the work sites and will coordinate with the sites to ensure things are running smoothly. You will be doing all kinds of work from physical labor to visitation to playing games with kids or simply sharing with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. We will all be experiencing what it means to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. In the evenings, we will reconvene after showers and dinner for a program where we'll explore and debrief our daily experiences. We will close our time together with worship, led by RYM.