
Many Mennonite camping ministries welcome the assistance of older adult volunteers. Just ask – we will gladly explore other locations and opportunities for service not listed.

SOOP – Canada Locations – November 2006

ALBERTA Evansburg, Alberta SOOP - Brightwood Ranch

Brightwood Ranch is a Christian camp providing a summer camp experience for inner city and underprivileged children and youth of Edmonton and surrounding areas. The camp owns 220 acres in rolling hills located one hour west of Edmonton. Brightwood Ranch operates programs for youth ages 8-17 through 6-day resident and out-tripping camps. Brightwood Ranch is a program of Hope Mission of Edmonton - and throughout the year hosts groups from Hope's youth shelter, women's shelter and men's drug and alcohol rehab program plus likeminded groups and church youth groups. Volunteers at Brightwood can assist with kitchen work, maintenance, office work, nursing responsibilities or lead camp activities.

Lodging: Space is available for RV hook-up and lodging in a private trailer is an option. The trailer has a livingroom, kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom. Food is provided for volunteers.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Abbotsford, BC SOOP - Fraser Valley Gleaners

Fraser Valley Gleaners has been in operation since September 2001. Their purpose is to process and dry local vegetables and fruit for distribution to the hungry people of the world. Opportunities include, sorting, cutting, spreading and removal of processed products.

Lodging: There are seven RV sites on the Fraser Valley site. These are free to individuals working at the Fraser Valley Gleaners. In addition there are RV sites in the vicinity and numerous motels. Informational web site: motels and other points of interest:

www.abbotsfordchamber.com

Burns Lake, BC SOOP - Ootsa Lake Bible Camp

The purpose of the camp is to give children and youth the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and become acquainted with their Creator. SOOP volunteers would be involved with maintenance, cooking, and building when needed.”

Lodging: RV spots, cabins and when necessary, accommodations in homes can be arranged.

Hope, BC SOOP - Camp Squeah

Camp Squeah is owned by Mennonite Church British Columbia. The camp is utilized in every season. In summer for children’s camp; spring/fall for weekend use by churches, mid week use by school groups for outdoor education; and in winter for weekend rentals to various groups. The mission statement is “in response to God who loves us and calls us.” Camp Squeah provides a place of refuge in a natural setting where people of all ages can build relationships, grow and be nurtured. The service opportunities available are maintenance assistance. Their full time site manager would enjoy working alongside people who enjoy working to make things work well and safely. Spring and fall are the best seasons to serve.

Lodging: RV hook-ups available. Meals available when groups are on-site. Volunteers will be

responsible for their food when camp is not booked.

Oliver, BC SOOP - Okanagan Gleaners

Okanagan Gleaners, begun and operated by Christian volunteers since autumn of 1994, processes and dries local fruits and vegetables for distribution to needy people in the world. Volunteers participate in the various aspects of the process.

Lodging: Limited billeting is available. Volunteers are encouraged to bring tents or RVs to this pleasant orchard setting where electrical hookups are provided. Shared kitchen, showers, laundry and other facilities are available in the nearby plant. Opportunities are from May through November.

MANITOBA Darlingford, MB SOOP - Pembina Valley Camp

A Christian youth ranch camp on 240 acres in the beautiful Pembina Valley, located in southern Manitoba approximately 35 minutes from Winkler (two hours from Winnipeg). Numerous Mennonite churches are in close proximity. Volunteers can help with construction of a cabin, maintenance, food services, office work and gardening, and be a part of the spiritual ministry of the camp through devotions and involvement in chapels. Opportunities available May to October.

Lodging: Trailers or RVs could be accommodated; camp staff housing is available.

Gretna, Manitoba SOOP - MCI (Mennonite Collegiate Institute)

MCI is an Anabaptist Christian high school and includes a full residence to approximately 150 - 200 students. MCI offers many opportunities in music, drama, leadership, development, Christian service, sports, personal enrichment trips, and experiences. Many meaningful short-term (or extended) service opportunities are available. These include, but are not limited to the following: Helping students with their homework, helping international students learn English, listening and loving young people as a surrogate grandparent, taking students to medical appointments, assisting with food services, doing maintenance and repair work, working on computers, writing articles, doing historical research, and working in the office or library.

Lodging: Accommodations are available in a visitor's suite at MCI, or in a guest residence one block away. Donations for accommodations would be appreciated. MCI is located near the USA border.

Winnipeg, Manitoba SOOP - Agape Table Inc.

Agape Table Inc. is a nonprofit organization sponsored by religious communities and other organizations and individuals in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. Agape Table offers hot, free meals to poor and hungry people once daily at three different locations in downtown Winnipeg. Hospitality, acceptance and building community so people may feel they have a place to belong, are greatly encouraged. The goal of Agape Table is to blur the lines between server and those served, between poor and non-poor, in order to create one circle of people. Volunteers would be involved in cooking, serving meals, and providing hospitality and friendship.

Lodging: Accommodation may be arranged.

Winnipeg, Manitoba SOOP - Camps with Meaning

Camps with Meaning, a ministry of Mennonite Church - Manitoba, operates three year-round camps in Manitoba. Summer volunteers help with the following areas: camp nurse,

maintenance, kitchen work, horsemanship, camp pastor (chaplain to the staff). Terms are for 1-9 weeks. There is opportunity to interact with children, youth and mentally handicapped adults during the summer program. Winter volunteers help with the following areas: maintenance, building projects, kitchen work, hosting, horsemanship. Special opportunities also could involve research and development, graphic arts, and program design. The camps are located near Winnipeg, Boissevain and Sprague.

Lodging: Accommodations on site. RV hook-ups or use of room in lodge or dormitory.

Winnipeg, Manitoba SOOP - Habitat for Humanity

Habitat's mission is to assist people in obtaining decent, affordable housing. Volunteers also serve extensively on various working committees and in the office. Habitat Re-Store is another area for volunteer involvement. Re-Store diverts used construction materials, and offers them for sale to the public at costs that are considerably lower than retail. All proceeds from sales go toward assisting in the primary mission of Habitat. Construction activities are generally scheduled for sometime during the summer. However, there are also occasional slow builds, which may take place any time of the year.

Lodging: Accommodations may be able to be arranged for a group. No one particular lodging place regularly accommodates out-of-town volunteers as yet - other lodging can be arranged.

Winnipeg, Manitoba SOOP - Family Community Centre

YPCC, located in the core area of Winnipeg, serves expectant mothers, parents and young children 3 months to 6 years old. The childcare part of YPCC can accommodate 20 children. Where necessary, the children receive individualized attention to help meet their social, emotional and intellectual needs. The Centre also provides a drop-in for young moms to chat and discuss issues affecting them. SOOP volunteers assist regular staff in these services.

Lodging can be arranged.

Winnipeg, Manitoba SOOP - Union Gospel Mission

Union Gospel Mission was founded in 1933 as a ministry to the homeless and hurting of skid row. Its primary focus is to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the unsaved. Physical needs are also met by food and clothing distribution and by hot meals being served three times a day. Core area children are taken by bus to a Christian school; adult education is also provided, and there is a treatment program for men with addictions. Women and children are ministered to at the Family Life Center and an aboriginal church in that same center disciples families and individuals. Volunteers have the opportunity to sort and hand out clothing, prepare soup, serve soup, meet and greet people, minister to children, work on computers, help with chapel services, do receptionist work, carpentry, maintenance, bus driving. Opportunities for service all year round.

Lodging: Accommodations are currently available for men only; other arrangements possible.

Winnipeg, Manitoba SOOP - Winnipeg Harvest

Winnipeg Harvest is an organization committed to distributing surplus food and eliminating hunger in our city. Harvest requires volunteers year round in a variety of positions, from general warehouse work and truck driving to administrative duties. Winnipeg Harvest is very flexible and can accommodate single people as well as couples wishing to serve together.

Lodging can be arranged.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Peticodiac, New Brunswick SOOP - Ten Thousand Villages-PMC

Every autumn, the Peticodiac Mennonite Church organizes over 24 Ten Thousand Villages Festival sales in Atlantic Canada (NB, NS, PEI and NF). The warehouse is located in Peticodiac, New Brunswick, with a small storefront. Couples spend part of the week working in the warehouse, pricing, organizing products, loading and unloading with every weekend on the road in rental trucks, going to sale sites, setting up, selling, and packing up the Ten Thousand Villages products with the help of local volunteers. Sales are sponsored by many denominations across the Maritimes with couples being billeted at each sale location. Previous Ten Thousand Villages or retail experience is a great asset. One person of each couple will need to be able to lift heavy boxes, up to 15kg, and couples should be healthy, enjoy travel, and work independently. One couple is needed from September 1 until December 15 and a second couple or 2 single people are needed from the middle of September until December 15. Laptops are brought with each sale so couples must have some comfort with computers. Note: Two single people may also fill the position provided one of them can do the lifting required. This is a full-time assignment of 40-50 hours/week- includes travel time.

Lodging plus stipend provided.

ONTARIO **Hamilton, Ontario SOOP - Welcome Inn**

The Welcome Inn Community Centre and Church responds to spiritual, social and physical needs of residents struggling with issues related to poverty in the inner city. Programs include women's groups, children's after-school learning program, reading program, drama and art enrichment program, youth life skills program, visitation of isolated seniors, lunch and recreation program for seniors, emergency food pantry, Bible study and Sunday morning worship, community building events, summer day camp and March break program for kids. SOOP volunteers will have opportunities to participate in and assist with all of the above programs. Other opportunities exist for administrative and building maintenance positions. Opportunities are available year round for short- and long-term positions.

Lodging: Accommodation can be arranged in local homes.

Stouffville, Ontario SOOP - Fraser Lake Camp

Volunteers at Fraser Lake Camp can serve as Bible teachers for children attending camp during the summer, help with the nature program, mentor younger staff, or help with camp maintenance. Projects at McArthur's Mills Mennonite Church in nearby Bancroft also a possibility. Opportunities from May to August only.

Lodging: Trailers or RVs could be accommodated, and camp staff housing is available.

Toronto, Ontario SOOP – Toronto

Volunteers in Toronto can serve in the various service ministries of Mennonite and other churches. Settings include visiting with and helping seniors at a seniors complex, assisting the staff at a Mennonite refugee and immigrant centre that provides holistic services, and an outreach in a high-rise community where thousands of people from all over the world reside. Also volunteers can serve in homeless shelters and soup kitchens, by serving meals, and

interacting with marginalized people - plus helping at the local MCC Thrift Shop, and Ten Thousand Villages stores.

Lodging: Housing arrangements will be made by the MCC Toronto office.

QUEBEC

Montreal, Quebec SOOP - Learning Through Service

Volunteer groups in Montreal can participate in service and learning opportunities organized by Mennonite Central Committee Canada staff. The groups should number at least four to six and no more than 18 people. Groups must commit themselves for a minimum of four days and nights and may stay for several weeks. Work opportunities include involvement at centers for people who are homeless, refugees, abused persons, elderly persons and with food preparation, maintenance, craft and recreation activities, visitation, Bible study, repair work.

Lodging: Housing arrangements are made with the individual groups.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO SERVE AT A LOCATION OF NEED THAT IS NOT LISTED AS YET. WE WILL CALL AND EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR SOOP SERVICE AND THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL SUPPORT PERSONS.