

# Schuylkill County, PA

## Who Can Go:

### **Youth: Junior and Senior High Students**

- Entering 7th grade in fall 2011 through current 12th graders



### **Adults: 1 adult leader for every 5 students**

- Male and female adult leaders are required if bringing students of both genders
- Adult leaders **must** be at least **20** years of age (not younger)
- If you require additional leaders, please seek approval

*We know that you may have others in your ministry that would love to serve with your group, but due to liability and agreements with ministry partners, students who will be entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in fall 2011 and younger, and students who have already graduated high school, cannot attend the mission trip.*

## Where You'll Stay:

We typically house at area churches, schools or community centers and sleep on classroom floors.

## Travel Information:

**Arrival/Departure:** Arrive between 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM on Sunday. Depart by 9:30 AM on Friday.

**Airports:** YouthWorks houses in Mahanoy City, which is in east central Pennsylvania, north of Pottsville and 54 miles from Harrisburg, PA. The Philadelphia airport is 105 miles south of Schuylkill County.

**Vehicles:** You will need to have enough seatbelts for each person attending the mission trip with your group. This site can only accommodate standard 15 passenger vans or smaller.

**Note:** *You will need to transport students and adult leaders from other groups in your vehicles, and may be asked to transport community children for Kids Club. Please check to make sure that your insurance will cover these requirements.*

## Ministry

Participants serve in a variety of ways during a YouthWorks mission trip. Students may spend all week at one ministry or switch between ministries during the week. We ask that you come with a willing and flexible spirit!

**Kids Club:** A hands-on program led by your youth offering high-energy games, crafts, skits, songs and interactive lessons all designed to help kids learn about Jesus. Due to school end dates, Kids Club will not be offered until late June.

**Work Projects:** Whether we're painting houses, performing minor home repair, cleaning up debris, volunteering in community gardens or other projects in the community, the projects students work on will serve as our way of blessing people in need.

**Local Ministries:** Our goal is to partner with local organizations and programs that seek to address the very basic needs of residents. Examples of possible service opportunities include, but are not limited to, children's programs, elderly centers, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and thrift stores.

We cannot confirm until all groups arrive exactly what ministries your students will be a part of during the week.

## Evening Activities

Evening activities are designed to give participants insight into the lives of local residents and the culture of the area.

These are examples of what your group could partake in during your mission week. Evening activities are subject to change due to weather or availability. In case of change, suitable substitutes will be provided.

- Tour a coal mine
- Tour of historical Pottsville
- Spend an evening at Tuscarora State Park
- Community cookout

## A Look at the Community

Schuylkill County is situated just west of the Pocono Mountains, on the northern edge of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. The Delaware Indians were permanent settlers in the area of Schuylkill County until white settlers came from the Blue Mountains around 1750. The history of Schuylkill County is intricately tied to that of the coal industry. The county opened the Schuylkill Canal in 1825 and built the early American railroad in 1833, which improved transportation and helped the coal-mining industry to continue to grow and dominate economic life. Eastern European migration increased the population and the coal industry led to other industries such as powder mills, mining equipment and textile manufacturing. During this time, the rise of the American labor movement began in Schuylkill when poor working conditions in the mines led to the Working Men's Benevolent Association. However, though work conditions and wages improved, the Great Depression led to the decline of the coal industry. Since the 1950's, Schuylkill County has been dedicated to redeveloping its economic base to include manufacturing and service-related businesses. Despite these attempts, the anthracite landscape still dominates the scenery in Schuylkill through the coal reserves and the rich heritage of the industrial revolution. Local memorials and museums pay tribute to the coal-miners of Schuylkill County's booming industrial days. Today, the county is home to an estimated 147,269 residents. Without the demand for the region's natural resources, Schuylkill County has faced some economic challenges. The unemployment rate (approximately 5 percent) is growing.

### Weekly Schedule\*

*Sunday Arrival: Between 4:30pm – 6:00pm*

#### Monday-Thursday

Breakfast:	7:00am – 8:00am
Devotion Time:	8:00am – 8:30am
Depart for Service Sites:	9:00am
Shower/Dinner Prep Time, Adult Leaders' Meeting:	3:30pm – 5:30pm
Dinner:	5:30pm – 6:30pm
Evening Activity:	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Evening Program "Club":	9:00pm – 10:00pm
Church Group Time:	10:00pm – 11:00pm
Prepare for Bed/Lights Out:	11:00pm – 11:15pm

*Friday Departure: Between 9:00am and 9:30am*

*\*We make every effort to follow a schedule similar to this at each site, but it may be different based on community needs. We ask for your flexibility throughout the week.*

### Schuylkill County Statistics

- Population of the county 147,269.
- We stay in Mahanoy City, which has a population of 4,394 – a decline from over 13,000 in 1900.
- 29.3% of children and 22% of adults live below the poverty line.
- The median household income is \$30,408 compared to \$48,576 statewide.
- Mahanoy City was a major center of anthracite coal production.
- In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Schuylkill County coal mines were the scene of the Molly Maguire incidents. These events are featured in the movie *The Molly Maguires* starring Sean Connery.
- In 1925, the Pottsville Maroons football team won the equivalent of today's Super Bowl when they beat the Chicago Cardinals at Soldier Field.