

STARTING OUT

Your beloved summer staff is settling into their home for the summer, while also doing a very long list of tasks alongside their teammate(s). For their first week or so on site they're in what we call "Prep Week," and they are BUSY – cleaning, organizing, inventorying, practicing programming, meeting community partners – setting up their site to welcome their first group of teenagers and their adult chaperones the first week of June.

They are coming off a week of concentrated training and starting to put all they've learned into practice, learning what works best for them and their site. They are likely feeling tired – mentally, spiritually, and physically – and likely excited for groups to arrive.

Once groups do arrive the real work (and ministry!) begins. Community Hosts often feel a steep learning curve in these first couple of weeks.

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

– ROMANS 15:13 (NIV)



WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR SUMMER STAFF WHEN THEY ARE JUST STARTING OUT:

- **Be understanding when they aren't able to respond** to texts right away, hop on phone calls anytime, etc. especially in the first weeks of June. Once groups arrive, they'll be able to get into a rhythm and have some free time for connecting with people back home.
- When you do connect with them (through a text, email, or handwritten card), **remind your summer staff of their purpose.** Most people don't sign up for YouthWorks because they love the practical work of getting a site ready for groups. Remind them that prep time will not last forever, and that soon enough they'll be immersed in the ministry.
- **Pray for them.** Pray that while they are encountering plenty of the "new" they will know that God is a firm foundation who never changes. Pray for energy and endurance. This is one of the toughest times for Community Hosts, who may be running on little breaks. Pray that they will see joy and experience calm in the midst of busy-ness.



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