

END OF SUMMER

We say at YouthWorks that the days go slow, and the weeks go fast. The final weeks of the summer likely have come faster than anticipated! Community Hosts have led hundreds of teenagers through meaningful service experiences so far this summer, and it's not over yet! There are still more teenagers to lead in listening, learning, and serving; more Gatherings to lead, Community Activities to attend, meals to prepare... not to mention packing up the whole site and saying goodbye to new friends.

Some Community Hosts are ready to close this chapter and turn to the next. Some Community Hosts would love 8 more weeks of mission trips! No matter what the final weeks of programming bring to your summer staff, there are a few ways you can support them during this time.

LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH.

— HEBREWS 12:1-3 (NIV)



WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR SUMMER STAFF AS THEY END THEIR SUMMER:

- **Pray for them.** Pray for holy endings - that they will end their summer with integrity, grace, and perseverance. Pray that they will continue to see the movements of God in their final days in the community they have likely come to love.
- **Know that just because they are sad to leave, doesn't mean they are sad to come back home.** For most Community Hosts, this time is the definition of bittersweet. They are sad to say goodbye to many new friends, places, and practices. And, of course, they are excited to get back to familiar friends, places, and practices! (Or maybe onto more new things!)
- **Manage your expectations for their return.** When a Community Host gets back home, they will likely need some time to decompress and rest. They've worked really hard this summer and will likely be unpacking their experience for months, if not years, to come. Expect to give them the time and space they need, while being available for verbal processing, encouragement, and prayer.
- **Plan to celebrate!** How this looks depends on the person - their personality, preferences, and what they've missed most this summer. They would likely welcome their favorite meal and a "real" bed with open arms after a summer of YouthWorks meals and air mattresses. They likely also have a lot of stories to share with you! Listen gratefully to what God has done in and through them this summer.



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