MAPLERIDGE SUMMER 2027 MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

MAPLERIDGE Kitchen Volunteer FAQs

Why should I consider this mission trip opportunity?
MAPLERIDGE is an exceptional place. Every summer since 1955, this camp has had the privilege of watching the Lord do amazing things in the hearts of young people. Not only are life-long relationships formed, but for most people, some of the best times of their lives happened here on this property! You can make great memories and join us in the Lord's work!

Would I be a good fit for the MAPLERIDGE Kitchen?
We are looking for people who love the Lord, love people, and are willing to roll up their sleeves and serve! For each session, we need *1-2 team leaders to assemble a team* to work in a volunteer capacity. We recommend that each team consist of 8-10 people, with 5-6 in the kitchen and 2-3 helping with dishes and set up at a time. We can house up to 12, so feel free to assemble your team however you think would work best. We prefer you bring a larger group and function in "shifts," but that is up to each team to decide! Couples are welcome as well!

Do I need any qualifications or certifications to serve in the kitchen?
No! The only qualification needed is willing hands. That being said, we will need just **one of the team leads** to sit through a short training course required by the state of New York. This is a virtual training, and MAPLERIDGE will provide the means to do this. Please also understand that the mission of the kitchen team is to prepare, serve, and clean up after each meal, so *you will be on your feet a great deal that week*. Please keep this in mind before committing to this mission opportunity.

What will I be doing?
The kitchen volunteer team will prepare and cook meals to feed 160 campers and staff for the week. The established weekly menu is attached and, as you can see, the meals are simple, balanced, and camper/staff friendly! Dietary restrictions and food allergies will be accommodated, and the kitchen staff is responsible for ensuring that the campers with these restrictions are provided with the correct options at each meal.

In addition to preparing and serving the meals, the main responsibilities of the kitchen team will be setting and clearing tables before and after each meal, washing dishes (including prep dishes used to prepare meals), mopping floors each night, and general cleaning of the kitchen and dining room, etc.

Please see that there are a few meals for which the kitchen team will not be responsible for cooking, only prep and set up/clean up (Wednesday night + Thursday morning), and for some meals, the Camp Staff will set up the dining room due to various Camp program events.

You will also be responsible for keeping the Banas House (see below) tidy during your stay, as well as some cleanup at the end of your stay to prepare the house for the next week's kitchen team.

Can I bring my family?
Spouses are welcome to work in the kitchen with you or enjoy being around and about at camp, as long as there is extra space to house them in the Banas House! You are also welcome to bring your children, however, if they are camper age (7-17) they must be registered as campers. In addition, we ask that you do not bring younger children unless your spouse will be there to supervise them.

How long is the commitment?

You can commit to working just one entire session (Sunday-Saturday), or you can commit to working as many as ALL seven sessions and anywhere in between. We know your time is valuable, and we are so grateful for any week(s) you would be willing to serve! We will fill the sessions with teams on a first-come, first-served basis.

Where will I stay?

We will house all kitchen team volunteers in **The Banas House** on our newly acquired property. Each room is different, but most rooms have at least one queen or double bed and a twin bunk bed. There is a common living and kitchen space and one shared bathroom. It will be clean, comfortable, and a fun place to gather with each other!

*** As we expand our facilities, please note that this house is not within walking distance from the main camp. It is a very short drive, so you may want your vehicle at your disposal. However, if you are flying to MAPLERIDGE and do not have a car, we will work together to figure out a plan for getting you back and forth. Don't let that stop you!

Will I get to be a part of camp?

Absolutely! While a large portion of your week will be spent serving, when you are not in the kitchen, we want you to be involved in as much or as little of camp as you would like. There is no pressure to be involved… but you will likely enjoy participating, spectating, and socializing with campers and Staff!

Please note: If your child is a camper, we encourage you to limit contact with your camper as much as possible. This ensures they have the whole "Camp Experience" and that our Staff can provide the best care possible. As a camp policy, we do not permit volunteers or Staff to visit their child's cabin, skill areas, or team activities.

2027 SESSION DATES

- Staff Training A: June 6-8
- Staff Training B: June 11-18
- Session 1: June 20-26
- Session 2: June 27–July 3
- Session 3: July 4-10
- Session 4: July 11-17
- Session 5: July 18-24
- Session 6: July 25-31
- Session 7: August 1-7

I'm interested… now what?

Have your Team Lead fill out our MAPLERIDGE Kitchen Team Interest Form and one of our staff members will reach out to you to determine if serving will be a good fit for you this summer!

Come join us in this unique and meaningful way to serve. Your presence will bless our staff, encourage our campers, and help advance an atmosphere of servant leadership and Christ-like excellence at MAPLERIDGE Ranch.