

# 2024 Missions Trip

Hope Force Appalachia  
McDowell County, West Virginia

When: June 23-29<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$650 per person

- \$250 goes towards the materials for making the repairs on people's homes.
- \$400 covers travel, lodging, and food.

Who: Primarily youth, but we will also need adult participants. Families are welcome!

- Min of 20 participants
- Max of 55 participants

Where: We will be driving 6.5 hours to join Hope Force Appalachia in McDowell County, West Virginia. Housing is provided at 253 Main Caretta Road, Caretta, WV.

About: (From <https://www.hopeforce.org/what-we-do/serve-chronic-need/appalachia/>)

*Hope Force Appalachia exists to alleviate the effects of systemic and generational poverty in McDowell County, WV. It is a place that is filled with beauty, not only in the landscape but more so in the people who call it home. In January 2020 Hope Force International reintroduced their vision and mission for this part of America by bringing Brian Wagner back on staff to oversee the work, relationships, and partnerships in McDowell. As an organization we seek to build strong, lasting relationships with the people of the county, coming alongside our neighbors to help from a grassroots level in addressing the many challenges of McDowell. It has been cited as one of the poorest places in America, suffering from extreme food insecurity, lack of infrastructure, and high unemployment because of the lack of jobs. It is estimated that 75% of households do not have a gainfully employed individual, and 45% of kids do not live with either biological parent because of drug addiction, incarceration, or death. All these statistics and realities pale in comparison to the grit and resiliency of the people who call McDowell home. Carved within these mountains are hollows filled with beautiful people doing the best they can to make ends meet. Their struggle is real, but their hope is greater.*

*Hope Force Appalachia places relationships ahead of projects, emphasizing and empowering ongoing partnerships between those in the county with those who serve alongside them from outside the county. We understand that God is already at work in the lives of the people here, and it is our intention to come alongside them to accomplish what God has planned in this wonderful part of southern West Virginia.*

*We invite you to join us in the hollows of southern West Virginia. From roofing to painting, debris removal to landscaping, our hope is to introduce people to the county, believing they will fall in love with the people and place we call home.*

**How to Sign Up:** There is a sign up in the Church Center App. A \$50 deposit is required with each sign up.

**Fundraising:** We will do 2 fundraisers as a youth group before the trip. We also encourage your youth to reach out to friends and family and ask them to help support their trip!

**Payment:** Payment will need to be received in full by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Application & Release Form:** Hope Force requires each participant to fill out an application & release form.

**Trainings:** There will be one Gate Church provided training, dates to be determined. We also encourage everyone to attend The Send and participate in their outreach training.

**Trip Coordinator:** This trip will be led by Todd Bruinsma!

**Additional Info:** There are links to more information about the work Hope Force is doing in McDowell County in the Church Center App under the Missions Trip Registration.