



Tzevet Mitzvot: Adult Mitzvah Corps

July 15-19, 2008

Gurnee/Chicago, IL

**Building a house with Habitat, partnering with
Glencoe Interfaith Builders and collaborating with
Night Ministry**

\$250.00 plus hotel

A joint project of the Commission on Social Action,
the Great Lakes Council and Glencoe Interfaith Builders



URJ TZEVEV MITZVOT: ADULT MITZVAH CORPS

We welcome you and value your participation in the Union for Reform Judaism Adult Mitzvah Corps sponsored by the Great Lakes Council and the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism and Glencoe Interfaith Builders.

During the week of July 15-19, 2008, we will be building a home for a family in Waukegan with Habitat for Humanity and Glencoe Interfaith Builders, as well as working at the Habitat ReStore. On Thursday after a day of touring & study we will be in Chicago to volunteer with The Night Ministry providing Moonlight Picnics. As was the case in previous Adult Mitzva Corps we are hoping to have a diverse group of participants, including men and women, young adults, seniors, local congregants, and travelers from afar.

Come prepared to have fun, work hard and see Jewish religious values put into practice in a way that will make a real difference. We will work, play, study and pray together. Our host congregations have been working hard to make certain that we have both physical and spiritual sustenance and we thank them for all that they have done and will do to make this program a success. Throughout the week we will have a chance to meet many of the local residents who are engaged in this good and important work.

This manual outlines important information for you and answers the basic questions that you may have. Please read it carefully and feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We know we will all have a meaningful, enriching week!

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REGISTRATION & ORIENTATION – MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008

If you have not already done so, please contact the regional office at dheywood@urj.org, or call 847-239-6990 to let us know your travel plans (arrival & departure times, travel mode).

6:00 pm Meet in the hotel lobby to travel to dinner for orientation with the representatives from our cooperative organizations.
Car pools will depart from the hotel by 6:15
All participants are required to attend.

HOUSING

Hotel accommodations and transportation costs are the responsibility of the participant. Please contact the Fairfield Inn in Gurnee, IL located near Great America and Gurnee Mills Discount Mall. The address is 6090 Gurnee Mills Circle East, phone: 847-855-8868. Their rates range from \$119.00 to \$139.00 and include complimentary hot breakfast. Please make your reservations as individuals as there is no block of rooms or group rate. If no rooms are available, please call our office. Early morning and late evening meetings will take place at the hotel and car pools to the worksite will depart and return to this location.

Welcome packets with information on local points of interest, restaurants, etc. will be available upon arrival. The hotel has free parking, free wireless access throughout, safes at the front desk for valuables, access to work-out facilities, hot tub and indoor pool.

You are not required to stay at the hotel; however participation does mean a commitment for the full time and all of the aspects of the program. We are trying to build a community together. Our early morning worship and our after-hours socializing will be part of that process. Even if you do not stay at the hotel with the group, please plan on being with the group for the entire program each day.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Participants in URJ *Tzevet Mitzvot* Adult Mitzvah Corps are members of the Reform Movement. During this week, we hope to create a religious community among us. This will be a time to rediscover the spiritual roots of the mitzvah of *tikkun olam* (perfecting the world). We will have the opportunity to learn with some outstanding rabbis and community leaders. As we sing, talk and laugh together, the bonds among us will surely deepen in a unique way. Feel free to bring any ritual attire that makes you comfortable – we hope you will take this opportunity to stretch your “spiritual muscles” just as we work our physical muscles. **If you are interested in assisting or in leading worship experience (formal or informal), please let us know as soon as possible.**

TRANSPORTATION

We will help to arrange rides from O'Hare and Mitchell Airports. There is free parking available at the hotel for those with their own cars. We will arrange carpools for people without cars for transportation to and from the worksite and our evening activities. **If you will have a car and are willing to drive others, please let us know by emailing dheywood@urj.org**

MEALS

Complimentary breakfast will be served to all participants staying at the hotel each morning. Commuters will need to provide their own breakfast before they arrive. Lunches will be provided at the site by area congregations (be sure to thank our hosts). Light snacks will be available throughout the day. Dinners will be included every evening except Thursday when participants will have an opportunity to enjoy Chicago.

EXPENSES

Cost for Tzevet Mitzvot (URJ Adult Mitzvah Corps) is \$250.00 USD per person. Included will be all meals and snacks with the exception of Thursday's dinner. Also included will be a donation to Habitat & the supplies for the Night Ministry midnight picnic, T-shirt for group photo, any study materials and the experience of a lifetime! Transportation and lodging costs are at each participant's own expense.

If you have not already paid in full, please send a check, payable to the Union for Reform Judaism-Adult Mitzvah Corps and send to:

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM-ADULT MITZVAH CORPS

Great Lakes Council
555 Skokie Blvd., Suite 333
Northbrook, IL 60062

WHAT TO BRING

The following is a suggested list of personal items to bring:

Hat & Sunscreen – we will be working both indoors and out, so be prepared!

Leather work gloves (there are gloves available at the site; however you may prefer your own)

Absolutely NO SANDALS at the work site

Hard soled shoes or work boots are desired; sneakers are acceptable

Comfortable clothes to work in - shorts are OK

Casual clothes for evening

Appropriate clothes for Friday night Shabbat services (with a congregation)

Insurance Card and any prescription medications

Jacket or sweater for cool evenings

Poncho for rain

Personal toiletries, sun block and sunglasses

Insect repellent with Deet

Camera

Small bag or fanny-pack for taking small items to the work site

Swimsuit (hotel has indoor pool and Jacuzzi)

Kippah and/or *Tallit*, if desired

You do not need to bring tools with you. However, if you wish you may bring the following items and be sure to label them with your name:

Safety glasses

Tool belt or fabric nail pouch

25' tape measure

Hammer, screwdrivers, carpenter pencils

Utility knife with extra blades (not if you are traveling by plane!)

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

Below is an example of a daily schedule for all participants:

6:30 or 7 am	Breakfast (depending on the day)
7:15 am	Spiritual moment
7:45 am	Leave for work site (all days)
8:00 am	Work day begins
12 noon	Lunch Break
3:00 pm	Stop work; return to hotel
6 or 6:30 pm	Depart for Dinner and Evening Program (time depends on the day)

FREE TIME & GUESTS

Thursday dinner will be on your own. We will be in Chicago later in the evening for our Night Ministry program. If you don't have plans for dinner, we will form a group and go out together. Please let us know if you would like to join a group to go to dinner with, and if you need transportation assistance.

Please understand that we cannot accommodate guests for a workday or visitors at the work site, other than scheduled volunteers. Because there will be limited work space, there will not be room for non registered volunteers. Guests are welcome to join participants for dinner Thursday evening, and for Shabbat worship services.

WEATHER

During mid-July, temperatures in Chicago are usually in the 80-90s. Be prepared for any kind of weather by wearing layers that can be removed or added through out the work day.

You need to remember to:

- Wear a hat and light-colored clothing.
- Use sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Drink lots of water.

MEDICAL CARE

Please bring your medical insurance card and information with you and carry it at all times. In addition to the release form already completed for the Union, there will be release form for Habitat for Humanity that you will be asked to complete upon arrival.

PERSONAL VALUABLES

Tzevet Mitzvot (URJ Adult Mitzvah Corps) accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen articles. We recommend that you not bring items with high monetary or sentimental value, and that you exercise appropriate care with what you do bring.

TZEVET MITZVOT REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency phone & contact name: _____

Congregation/City, State: _____

Special building skills: _____

Special dietary requests: _____

- Yes I will join the group for dinner on Thursday _____
- Guest name for Shabbat Evening: _____

Please return completed form with check for \$250.00 made payable
to the Union for Reform Judaism – Adult Mitzvah Corps
Deadline June 30th, 2008

Mail to: Union for Reform Judaism
555 Skokie Blvd., Suite 333
Northbrook, IL 60062
Attn: Adult Mitzvah Corps