



**COTTER**  
SCHOOLS

WHERE STANDARDS, VALUES, *and you* MATTER

1115 WEST BROADWAY  
WINONA, MN 55987 USA  
PHONE: 507.453.5000  
WEB: COTTERSCHOOLS.ORG

October 5, 2018

Dear 9th-12th grade Cotter families,

My name is Marisa Corcoran and I am the Campus Minister at Cotter. One of my favorite responsibilities of my job is to accompany high school students on service trips! The trips are a great opportunity for students to go out of their comfort zone, grow in their understanding of different cultures and have fun while learning and serving.

There are two different ways for high school students to participate in our service trip opportunities. Students can attend a weekend urban plunge during the school year or a week-long summer service trip (or both!).

A **weekend urban plunge** is typically Friday morning to Sunday afternoon and takes place during the school year. Students miss school on Friday, but learn in immeasurable ways outside of the classroom. On an urban plunge, we travel to Minneapolis. One can expect to volunteer at local non-profits, learn more about the injustices and poverty within Minnesota and the world, and have fun with their classmates. Volunteer sites vary each time, but typically, we package food at Feed My Starving Children or Second Harvest Heartland, serve a meal at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen, and help at area non-profits, based on the need at the time of our trip.

An urban plunge costs \$125 per person. Included in the cost is lodging, transportation, food, and a Cotter service trip t-shirt. We are housed at a retreat site or a church.

A **summer service trip** is typically a weeklong trip, from Sunday to Saturday. These trips take place during the summer, in mid-late July or early August. On a week-long summer trip, students travel to a midwest state (usually within a day's drive of Winona); They typically share the week with 1-2 other schools from around the nation so students make friends from other schools and states! One can expect to volunteer each day from 9-3pm at local non-profits; The service experiences will depend on the need, but could be working at a Boys and Girls Club, doing home repair, serving meals to the homeless, etc. On a summer service trip, students also go more in-depth about the injustices of the area we are serving in, as well as a greater emphasis on how faith is tied to service and justice. The last few summers we have served at Jerusalem Farm in Kansas City, Missouri and Benton Harbor, Michigan.

An summer service trip costs \$400-500 per person. Included in the cost is lodging, transportation, food, and a Cotter service trip t-shirt. We are housed at a retreat site or a church.

**What Cotter students say about service trips:**

We've been participating in service trips since 1995! Over 2,000 students have participated since 1995. Some past and present students share their thoughts on participating on a service trip:

["I think people should join because it will be positive and you will meet new people and see poverty in a way you haven't seen. A service trip will make you want to help so much more!" - L.N.](#)



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“My mission trip was a lot of fun, I loved doing it! I will definitely participate again next year!” - M.D.

“This trip allowed me to grow closer to God. Before this trip, I had somewhat grown apart from God, but now I feel a lot closer to God.” - M.P.

### How to register:

If you plan to register for a trip, your registration form and deposit are due on Wednesday, October 17. The registration form is attached to this informational letter. There is more information about the dates and logistics of this year's service trips on the registration form.

Various fundraisers are available to help defray the cost. Once you turn in your registration form, you will be added to an email distribution list and will receive regular updates and links for online fundraising sign ups.

I firmly believe that service trips can open doors to a new perspective and connect us with those different from us! Please take time to consider if you'd like to participate in a trip. Adults are always needed as chaperones (no charge for adults to attend!).

As always, please contact me with any questions. I can be reached by phone, by email or in person most days from 7:45am-3:45pm in room 402.

Thank you,

*Mrs. Marisa Corcoran*

507-453-5000, ext. 5094

