

DANVILLE, VA

20
25

SON SERVANTS

"Whoever serves Me will follow Me, and where I am my servant will be. The Father will honor the one who serves Me."

- John 12:26





HEY GROUP LEADER!

Thank you for registering for a Son Servants trip for the summer of 2025. I thank you for your confidence in us and for giving me the privilege of serving you through missions. I am committed to providing your group with a quality mission trip, and my goal is to provide you with the very best experience possible so that you, your youth and your church will be strengthened and challenged as we work and serve together. It is also my hope and prayer that this mission experience will bring your students closer to Jesus.

I will communicate with you periodically in the months leading up to the trip. I am also available to answer your questions or concerns, or just to chat about the trip and how I can make it a meaningful and challenging experience for your group. Please feel free to contact me at any time during the preparation process if you have questions.

DANNY

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Danny Dotson

(423) 400-8197

danny@sonservants.com



Dates - July 14-19, 2025

Location - First Presbyterian Church

Ministry Partners - The Salvation Army,
God's Pit Crew and Danville Community Garden

FOR:

Son Servants Trip Info

Son Servants Downloads

Son Servants Medical/Permission Forms

GO TO [SONSERVANTS.COM](https://sonservants.com)

Danville, Virginia



ABOUT THE CITY:

County: None (Independent city)

Nickname: City of Churches

Area - 43.9 sq mi (113.8 km²)

Elevation - 531 ft (162 m)

Population - 42,590 (2020)

Time zone - EDT

Website - www.danville-va.gov

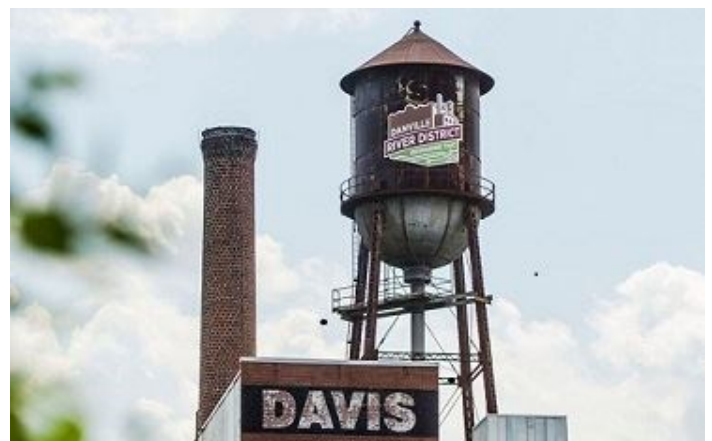


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Danville Basics	6
Adult Leader Policy & Expectations	7
Important Leader Information	8
Behavior Contract	9
Daily Schedule	10
Daily Transportation	11
Dress Code/Sexual Misconduct Policy	12
Group List Form & Instructions	13
Housing Information	14
Medical Form Information	15
Parent Section	16
What & What Not To Bring	17
Summer's Greatest Outreach ('SGO)	18
Danville Attractions	19



Danville Basics

Location	Danville, Virginia
Dates	July 14 –19, 2025 (Monday - Saturday)
Cost	\$425 per person (both leader and student)

Accommodations

We will be staying at the First Presbyterian Church in Danville, VA. Guys and girls will be in separate rooms, and everyone will need to bring a twin-size air mattress or cot and bedding. The church is air conditioned. We will eat our meals together in the Fellowship Hall and have our evening meetings there as well. You will **not** need to bring your own meal utensils, as all of that will be provided by the church. There are limited shower facilities at the church. Depending on the number of participants we have, we will either shower at the church or at a YMCA about a mile away.

Ministry Partnership

- The Salvation Army (primary ministry partner)
- Community Garden of Grace & Main Ministry
- God's Pit Crew
- 'SGO (Vacation Bible School) will be held at the Salvation Army. Please see supply list on page 18.

Possible Work Projects

- With the Salvation Army, we will be working with them in their thrift store and their summer meal program where they provide 1,200 plus meals for school age kids each week.
- The projects with the Community Garden will be determined in the spring.
- Various projects with God's Pit Crew.
- Working at a local homeless shelter.

Evening Program

Each evening of the trip, everyone gathers together to fellowship, sing, worship, pray, and to receive a message brought from God's Word by the evening speaker.

Transportation

You are required to bring your own vehicles that will then be used for daily transportation to and from the work sites. Please follow these guidelines:

- Church groups of 1-10 people will need a vehicle that can seat at least 10 people (we suggest using a 12 passenger van).
- Groups with 10 plus people will need a vehicle for every 10 people you have.
- Groups who fly are asked to rent vehicles for transportations to and from the airport and for daily transportation.
- Please figure the cost of gas for transportation into your budget.
- We will need to know who your van drivers are so we can make sure we have a van driver for each work group (see Group Composition Form).
- **If for some reason you have to use vehicles other than 12 passenger vans, PLEASE let the Son Servants office know in advance so they can plan work groups/drivers accordingly.**

Work Groups

All participants will be assigned work groups. Work groups are normally made up of people from all of the church groups at the camp.

ADULT LEADER POLICIES / EXPECTATIONS

Adult to Student Ratio

For reasons of safety, supervision and support, each group attending a Son Servants trip should be prepared to meet the Son Servants requirement of one adult leader for every six students in your group in relation to gender. If you are unable to meet this ratio, please contact our office to discuss possible solutions.

Expectations for Adult Leaders

- ➔ Son Servants classifies all adults accompanying their church youth group (including both paid church staff and volunteers) as adult leaders and has certain expectations for them. It is our strong belief that adult leaders play an important role on Son Servant mission trips.
- ➔ Adult leaders are asked to set an example that is pleasing and glorifying to Christ before all participants, not just those from their own churches.
- ➔ It is our hope and expectation that in all areas (including dress code compliance, meeting attendance, work site conduct, bedtime and wake-up, as well as any unexpected situations) adult leaders would set an example of love, service and cooperation and would encourage their students by word and deed to do the same.
- ➔ Please be aware that Son Servants Staff will be leading the worksites. Adult leaders are asked to be encouragers and teachers on the worksites and to lead the worksite if a Staff member is not available (or if an adult has construction experience that he or she is willing to share).
- ➔ Adult leaders are also asked to:
 - ➔ Attend counselor meetings
 - ➔ Enforce the rules and discipline when necessary
 - ➔ Help with wake-up and bedtime
 - ➔ Be alert to student behavior during Quiet Time, always setting the example and encouraging students to use that time well.

Questions? Let us know!

Danny@sonservants.com or (423) 400-8197

IMPORTANT LEADER INFORMATION

► Registration/Payment information:

- ★ Cost covers **housing, meals, construction and program**. It does *not* include transportation and travel to Virginia or the costs of meals while traveling.
- ★ Deposit of \$100 per person required to reserve space. You can either register by phone with a credit card and a 2% admin fee or pay with a check with no admin fee. **You are not officially registered until we receive your deposit.**

- ★ Checks can be mailed to:

Son Servants Mission Ministry
P.O. Box 755
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

- ★ Son Servants policy is that all deposits are non-refundable and non-transferrable. However, for spaces dropped prior to **May 10**, the deposit may be transferred to the balance of the trip. For any spaces cancelled after this date, the deposit is lost. You will be responsible for the entire cost of the trip for any cancellations made after **June 10**.
 - ★ Make first payment (50% of balance) by **May 10**, and make final payment by **June 10**.
- Begin arranging travel. We ask you to arrive in Danville on **Monday, July 8**, between **2 PM and 5 PM** and depart on **Saturday, July 13**, after breakfast (no later than 9:00 AM)
 - Please go to our website at SonServants.com to download the trip specific medical form. Distribute **TWO** forms to each participant, one to be turned into the Son Servant staff upon arrival at camp and one for you as you travel. *For those under 18, the forms need to be notarized*; however, **all** participants must complete the form. **Do not send** the forms to the Son Servants office but bring them with you to camp.
 - Complete and submit your **Group List** by **April 15**. The **Group List** form is on our website as a PDF **OR** an excel sheet for you to fill out. Under the **Summer Trips** drop-down on our website (sonservants.com) select **Downloads for Summer Trips**. The excel sheet option is located at the top of the page. Under the drop-down menu for Danville click on **Group Info Sheet Danville Specific** for the PDF.

BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

Although this city is in the United States, and many of the cultural expectations are the same as you are used to, you are still a visitor in someone else's home, a representative of your church and an Ambassador for Christ. Therefore, there are some general rules to follow while on this trip.

- Use or possession of alcohol, drugs and tobacco products is strictly prohibited.
- You may not go anywhere by yourself. When walking up the road, to the store or around the neighborhood, you should go in a group with an adult.
- You should always follow the Son Servants staff or your counselor's instructions, even if you don't understand them.
- We ask that you limit the use of your cell phone for taking pictures and an alarm only. This is one week that you have to focus on serving God and others, so we ask that you can sacrifice for that period of time.
- You should dress modestly whether at the work site, the camp, or in town. This means AT LEAST finger-length shorts, knee-length skirts and modest swim wear. Girls may wear one-piece OR full coverage tankini swimsuits ONLY.
- Do not make fun of local people's manner of speaking, accent or way of doing things. Remember, you are visitors!
- Respect people's dignity and privacy by not taking pictures of houses and property. You can take pictures of the families, but only after you know them and ask them...then your pictures are of your friends, not some "poor people." Please do not post any pictures on social media without permission.
- Do not give away things to people and respond to requests for money without first checking with your leader or Son Servants staff. We prefer that be done through the local churches in order to avoid hard feelings or embarrassment.
- When you get frustrated with things like the pace of life, new kinds of food, heat, transportation problems, clothing regulations, etc., just remember that it is not necessarily right or wrong -- just different! Flexibility is the name of the game.

Signature of Participant

Date

Danville Daily Schedule

Here are a few descriptions of the daily activities of a Son Servants trip. Remember, the daily schedule is an example only; it will be adjusted to fit our needs once we are together. We try to be flexible with the schedule and may make adjustments throughout the week to accommodate our plans and program.

The camp will be divided into **WORK GROUPS** of 8-12 people.

The work group will remain together all week. Usually there is a project coordinator from our host agency or Son Servants staff with each work group. Adults with construction experience may be asked to help lead a work project.

COUNSELOR MEETINGS provide times for leaders to worship, fellowship and pray together. It is also a time to receive information and announcements and to express any concerns you have. We ask all groups to send at least one representative to each counselor meeting.

Evening Program consists of singing, skits, testimonies, speakers and other activities. It is designed to build group unity and encourage spiritual growth. Although the Son Servants staff will plan the meetings, input and involvement by groups and their leaders is desired and encouraged!

Rise and Shine

Quiet Time

Breakfast

Gather/Leave

with Work Groups

**Work Day with
Lunch**

Shower / Free Time

Dinner

Counselor Meetings

Evening Program

Family Time

Head for Bed

Lights Out

Son Servants provides a **QUIET TIME** guide for each participant. In the morning, right before or right after breakfast depending on your specific camp, the entire group will be still and individually spend time with the Lord. Please prepare your students before the trip for this time.

FAMILY TIME is time for your youth group to spend together playing, talking and growing closer through the shared experience. We provide some ideas and suggestions and really encourage you to use this time for processing the trip with your students, however, this time is yours to use as you wish!

"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him my Father will honor". John 12:26

DAILY TRANSPORTATION

You are required to bring your own vehicles that will then be used for daily transportation to and from the work sites. Please follow these guidelines:

- Church groups of 1-10 people will need a vehicle that can seat at least 10 people (we suggest using a 12 passenger van).
- Groups with 10 plus people will need a vehicle for every 10 people you have.
- Groups who fly are asked to rent vehicles for transportations to and from the airport and for daily transportation.
- Please figure the cost of gas for transportation into your budget.
- We will need to know who your van drivers are so we can make sure we have a van driver for each work group (see Group Composition Form).
- If for some reason you have to use vehicles other than 12 passenger vans, PLEASE let the Son Servants office know in advance so they can plan work groups/drivers accordingly.

(All lunch and water coolers will be provided for this trip**)**

NOTE: Once the work projects are confirmed, we will let you know what items are needed for each vehicle. We will post them here in an updated version so check back soon!



DRESS CODE POLICY

As we serve the Lord in the Danville locations, we must remember that we are an example to both the believers and non-believers with whom we come into contact. In addition, we want to remove some of the things that distract us back home so that we can better focus on the purpose of the trip – serving others and listening for what God might want to teach us.

For this reason, we have tried to keep modesty in mind and have developed a dress code which stands for ALL participants, both student and adult, on ALL of our trips. Additionally, some of the organizations we will be working with have specific dress requirements for safety reasons.

General Dress Code for all Son Servant Camps

No tank tops - in an effort to eliminate past confusion about what tank tops were and were not appropriate. We ask that everyone wear shirts with sleeves at all times.

Swimsuits: Both male and females should wear modest swimsuits. Females should wear a one-piece or full coverage tankinis. There will be no swimming facilities where we're staying; however, some may choose to wear swimsuits in the shower. Also, there may be swimming opportunities on your free half day.

All shorts must be finger-tip length. When you hold your arms at your side, the bottom of your shorts must meet your fingertips. If your shorts aren't long enough, you will be asked to change.

Son Servants Sexual Misconduct Policy

We live with an increased awareness of human rights. It is in that spirit that certain guidelines have been established in order to assure that everyone's rights are protected, as well as the reputation of Son Servants.

- At no time will counselors be in compromising situations with kids.
- There should be absolutely NO physical contact that can be interpreted as sexual advances made toward any camper or any conference participant.
- Adult counselors should not walk unaccompanied at night with campers in secluded areas.
- Adult counselors should not involve themselves in in-depth counseling with campers in secluded areas.
- These guidelines state clearly that there should be no inappropriate sexual conduct between counselor and campers, counselors and counselors, and campers and campers.
- When adult counselors are notified of inappropriate conduct by anyone, they must immediately report it to Danny Dotson, Director of Son Servants. Since the person in question may be a minor, state laws will be followed.

GROUP LIST FORM & INSTRUCTIONS

The GROUP LIST form is available on our website.

All forms need to be completed and submitted **by April 15** WITH **T-shirt sizes included**.

Once you complete the form, please email to Danny at danny@sonservants.com.

Please note the descriptions below so you will know what information you need before going to fill out the forms.

If you have any trouble with a form, please contact Danny at danny@sonservants.com or (423) 400-8197.

Group List

Under the **Summer Trips** dropdown on our website (sonservants.com) select **Downloads for Summer Trips**. Under the dropdown for Panther click on **Group Info Sheet Panther Specific**.

- EVERYONE in your group- students AND adults - should be included on the sheet.
- List each participant's first and last name, gender, category (student or adult) and **grade**
- Please list all allergy information (if applicable).
- **Emergency contact** during travel- this should be someone NOT attending the trip
- **T-SHIRT SIZES** for EVERYONE in your group (t-shirt is included in the cost of your trip).

*****Failure to complete this form by April 15 will result in your group getting whatever t-shirt sizes are left over after other orders have been filled.*****

*We understand that it can be difficult to get your Group List finalized by **April 15**; however, it is imperative that we have this as close to this date as possible so we can organize each camp's work groups. If you are unable to make this deadline, **please** contact us to let us know when we can expect your completed Group List. **T-shirt Order Form** due date is non-negotiable, as we have to order these in time to get them mailed out to you before the summer. Thank you!*

HOUSING INFORMATION

- ▶ We will be staying at the First Presbyterian Church in Danville, VA. Guys and girls will be in separate rooms, and everyone will need to bring a twin-size air mattress or cot and bedding. The church is air conditioned.
- ▶ We will eat our meals together in the Fellowship Hall and have our evening meetings there as well. You will **not** need to bring your own meal utensils, as all of that will be provided by the church.
- ▶ There are limited shower facilities at the church. Depending on the number of participants we have, we will either shower at the church or at a YMCA about a mile away.



First Presbyterian Church 937 Main Street Danville, VA 24541-1809

MEDICAL FORM INFORMATION

MEDICAL FORM DETAILS

Please download medical forms from our website and distribute two (2) medical forms to each person, both student and adult, along with the instructions for completing. These forms will need to be brought with you to camp.

- Both copies of the medical form must be completed; a notarized copy with original signatures by both parents or legal guardians is required for everyone under the age of 18. Adult forms must be completed but do not have to be notarized.
- One copy is to be turned in to the Son Servants staff upon arrival at camp, and the other copy is for you as you travel to and from your trip location.

SECTION BY SECTION BREAKDOWN

Side A: Medical Insurance and Emergency Contact Information

- The reason for this is fairly obvious. We hope we won't have to use it, but everyone needs to fill this out.
- General Medical Information: This is the information our doctors and nurses have told us they need to have in front of them in order to treat anything. Everyone needs to fill this out.

Behavior Contract

- All participants, both students and adults, must sign the contract.

General Information

- Participant, church and leader information

Medical Evaluation Form

- This form helps to insure that the students are, as best as a doctor can tell, physically able to participate. This is required for minors and recommended for adults.

Side B: Permission Form & Release of Liability

All participants must complete this. This is particularly important because it grants permission for you as the youth leader to be taking a student to a trip location, either domestic and/or international.

Parent section

What about Safety

Son Servants is committed to providing a good, safe mission experience for all who participate. However, in any such experience there are some risks. These include, but are not limited to, transportation related accidents, work site accidents, and sickness. We do our best to prevent hazardous situations and train the participants, as well as our staff, to be safety conscious. It is also the responsibility of the participants to act responsibly in all situations.

Emergency Contact

The emergency number for the contact at First Presbyterian Church is (434) 792-7822 and your contact there is Jackson Weller. **This number is for emergency use ONLY.** If you cannot reach anyone at this number, you can call Danny Dotson at (423) 400-8197. Please do not expect or require your child to call home, as this may not be possible. Son Servants suggests that you arrange a phone hotline so your leader can make one call to let parents know your group arrived safely.

Letters From Home

If you want your student to receive a handwritten note while in Virginia we suggest sending that note with the leader to deliver during the week.

Medical Facilities

We have a well-equipped medical chest for use in case of injury or illness. For emergencies, the participant will be taken to a nearby hospital.

Prayer Requests

- ◆ For the host city - its leaders, government, and people as a whole
- ◆ For the churches - members, leadership, missionaries
- ◆ For the work of Son Servants:
 - safety
 - able to accomplish what we set out to do
 - growth in the lives of participants

For families and churches at home—that they will be prepared to welcome back changed people.

Questions? Let us know!

Danny@sonservants.com

WHAT TO BRING:

When you are packing, please remember that you are representing the Christian Community, your church and your family. Space to put your things will be very limited; please bring only what you *absolutely* need.

- Tennis shoes
- Work boots or sturdy shoes / work socks
- Flip flops or sandals
- Lightweight work pants or modest shorts (no short-shorts, shorts should be fingertip length)
- Work shirts (no tank tops)
- Swim wear (modest swimwear for both males and females; girls should be one piece or full coverage tankinis) and beach towel
- Work gloves (suggest at least 2 pairs)
- Sleep wear (modest)
- Towels and washcloths
- Single bed sheets, blanket & pillow (or lightweight sleeping bag) and mattress cover*
- Hat or bandanas (to protect from sun)
- Poncho or rain jacket
- Sweatshirt, long-sleeve t-shirt, windbreaker or other light jacket
- Bible (a must-have)
- Notebook/Journal, and pen/pencil
- Travel chair (like a Crazy Creek) - great for meetings and quiet times
- Personal toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
- Flashlight and batteries
- Water bottle (a must-have)
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher – the sun is intense) / Sunglasses
- Bug spray or lotion
- Plastic bags (for dirty shoes and/or wet clothes)
- 1 jar peanut butter and 1 jar jelly (we will collect and use for lunches on work site)
- 2 rolls of toilet paper (we collect these for bathrooms)
- SEE 'SGO SPECIFIC ITEMS ON NEXT PAGE



PLEASE NOTE: All personal items should be marked for identification – baggage, clothing, linens, everything! We have experienced real problems with look-alike clothing and other items. Please use a permanent marker to put your name on all of your belongings.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Weapons of any kind
- Electric razors and razors
- Tobacco, alcohol any form of mind-altering substances
- Clothing that advertises alcohol, tobacco products, drugs or displays obscene images



Cell Phones: We understand that the majority of students now use their cell phones for a camera, alarm, flashlight, etc. We ask that **ALL** students and leaders limit their cell phone use as much as possible (no cell phones on the work site, during Quiet Time and program). It is up to individual church leaders to enforce this however they see fit. We ask that you take advantage of the gift it is to be "unplugged" for the time you are on the mission trip and focus on **WHY** you are here!

summer's Greatest Outreach ('SGO)

WHAT IS 'SGO?

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus says, "Let's go (or 'SGO for short) into all the world and make disciples of the nations." Well, really it says, "Go ye into all the world." By participating in a Son Servants trip, you are responding to the call of Christ to share His message with the world. Part of how we do that is through the **Summer's Greatest Outreach ('SGO)**.

We will be partnering with the Salvation Army to do a Vacation Bible School with anywhere from 50 to 100 inner-city kids.

'SGO Specific Packing Items

We ask each PARTICIPANT to bring one box of crayons, glue, pack of stickers and a pair of scissors.

We ask each GROUP to bring the following:

- ★ 1 package multi-color construction paper
- ★ 1 set of markers
- ★ 1 box pint-size Ziploc bags
- ★ 1 box gallon-size Ziploc bags
- ★ Decorating stuff, such as glitter, sequins, beads, ribbon, felt scraps, etc.
(This is a great opportunity to clean out that Christian Education closet!)



Questions, Comments, Concerns?

Please feel free to call Danny Dotson at (423) 400-8197.

You can also email Danny at danny@sonservants.com.

Danville Attractions

FREE DAY

We will have a free half day one day during the week when we will work for only half the day. At lunchtime, you will return to camp and then your church group will be on your own to take in one or more of the Danville area attractions or just hang out. Your camp leadership will contact you for further details.

Visit Danville Official Site - www.visitsosi.com

Zipline and Adventure Course

Zipline - Danville Parks and Recreation's 400-foot zip line features both single and tandem rides and is available for group reservations and birthday parties not to mention year-round programs.

The zip line is open to participants ages 8 and up. The weight limit for the zip line is 300 pounds per line; participants must sign a waiver before entering. Children under the age of 18 must have a form signed by a parent or guardian.

Programs - The outdoor staff host an array of zip line programs throughout the year including night zips and water fun zips. Most zip line programs are \$12/person. For a full schedule, call Outdoor Recreation at (434) 799-5150.

Reservations - The zip line is available for group reservations; perfect for corporations, civic organizations, church groups, families, and friends. Reservations require a minimum of eight individuals. Call (434) 799-5150 for pricing and availability.

High Ropes Course - The Danville High Ropes Course is made up of four elements including:

- **Heeby Jeeby/Multi Vine** - Our high ropes course has a combined element with a heeby jeeby - which uses hand lines to keep you stable as you balance on a rope. This connects to a multi-vine element which traverses a cable stretched from one platform to the center of the element using the suspended ropes hanging down.
- **Island Hop** - The island hop element connects platforms with a walking bridge that is missing wooden planks to walk across.
- **Rope Swing** - The rope swing element consists of multiple foot swings spaced two to three feet apart. It really gets challenging as you move from swing to swing.
- **Dual Zip Line** - Danville's Zip Line is the final element of the Danville High Ropes Course and the perfect way to end the high ropes experience. The zip line extends for a 400-foot thrill.

The Danville High Ropes Challenge Course was built in compliance with standards of the Association for Challenge Course Technology and is operated by trained staff members.

Adventure programs are for ages 8 and up. The weight limit for the zip line is 300 pounds per line; participants must sign a waiver before event. Children under 18 must have form signed by parent or guardian. Call (434) 799-5150 for more information.

The course is open for various programs and is also available for group rentals, birthday parties and reservations.

Ballou Park Disc Golf - Open Dawn to Dusk - 760 West Main Street

Cut through historic Ballou Park, the disc golf course includes a recreational 9-hole course as well as a competitive 18-hole course. Both courses include a wide variety of hole layouts and challenges for both beginner and experienced players.

Danville Science Center - 677 Craghead Street - <http://www.dsc.smv.org/>

The Danville Science Center delights all ages with its hands-on exhibits and special programs that make science fun for everyone. Danville Science Center hosts the Digital Dome Theater featuring giant screen films and breath-taking presentations on its gigantic 40-foot screen.