

What is U.M. ARMY?

U.M. ARMY is an acronym which stands for **United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth**. It is an opportunity for youth and adults to experience Christian growth through mission, worship, and fellowship.

Participants combine their strengths to provide free home repairs for low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners who are physically or financially unable to make needed repairs.

About Work Camp

The work at a U.M. ARMY work camp provides an opportunity to practice Christian faith and love through action. The worship and devotional materials provide opportunities for spiritual development, learning, and discussion.

Participants witness their faith and obedience when they reach out to those in need through home repair. This loving action touches clients deeply. Work teams are encouraged to make a personal connection with the client and many clients share their own faith-building stories with the work team. This personal connection will be remembered long after the paint begins to fade and the grass grows back. Often there are tears of joy and sadness when it is time to say good-bye.

United Methodist churches host the work camps and serve as a base for operations. Participants eat, sleep, and worship in the church. Sleeping quarters are usually in Sunday School classrooms with 10-15 youth and at least two adults in each room, with separate quarters for males and females. Breakfast and supper are served daily, and participants pack a sack lunch for the noon meal at the work site. Shower facilities are off-site (usually a local high school) and available in the afternoon when the work teams leave the work site.

Participants are divided into work teams of four to six youth with one adult for the week's work. U.M. ARMY youth and adults work together to provide repairs and construction of porches, windows, handrails, roofs, floors, ceilings, steps, and other areas of need. They also paint and do yard work. At each site U.M. ARMY addresses the greatest needs that are within our capability. Clients may provide any materials they wish so they will feel part of the work being done. U.M. ARMY will supply all other materials within the camp budget.

By caring about people, U.M. ARMY volunteers demonstrate an unspoken gospel that is stronger than words.