



John Wesley summarized God's teaching into three rules, "Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God." In this time of a global pandemic, we focus on "Do no harm." What does that mean for those of us in mission? UMVIM has created and updated [Guidelines for US Project Sites and Team Leaders during COVID-19](#).

Please read through the guidelines for the full information. Updates include encouraging all in mission to be vaccinated and this may be required by the site. It recommends outside work but there are new strategies if projects can't avoid inside work. Proper mask wearing, hand washing (sanitizing), and social distancing are a must for all service.

This is an instance that we must show love of our neighbor by taking this seriously and doing all we can to protect others.

Find out more about Volunteers in Mission at [www.susmb.org](http://www.susmb.org) - click on the "Volunteers in Mission" tab. Or you may reach out to me with questions or concerns at [vim@susumc.org](mailto:vim@susumc.org) or 717-766-7441 ext. 3105

Peace to you,

Michelle Schwartzman  
Volunteers in Missions Coordinator

# God's Army is Coming to the Susquehanna Conference

United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY) is a national youth mission organization offering summer mission opportunities for youth, young adults and adults across the United States. U.M. ARMY works with VIM at both the national and local conference level to ensure quality, faith-based, mission weeks.

Last summer, U.M. ARMY had to re-imagine our mission models so we could still answer the call to serve while working within the COVID guidelines. We did this, through God's blessing, by creating LOCAL and VIRTUAL models. These models provide a balance of gathering across church groups for social interaction, showing God's love in a hurting world, creating opportunities for spiritual development and encircling safety around everything we do.

We held one of these LOCAL mission weeks in the Susquehanna Conference last summer with great success and many blessings. Due to the ongoing concerns with the pandemic, we have decided to move forward on this LOCAL model again this summer. EXCITING NEWS! We are offering two LOCAL models in the Susquehanna Conference this year. We already have some youth groups lined up to participate in both weeks; however, we have plenty of room for your group to join us in this "day camp" model.

The theme this year is: GOD @ WORK: CREATING. Each day begins with morning worship to get us focused for the day, followed by service work out in the local community. All projects will either be outside or at a local community service organization with strict COVID guidelines. Each team shares lunch together with guided devotion discussion related to the weekly and daily themes. After a day of service, we gather again for group building activities and closing worship. During the week, we will experience a prayer journey that provides a time of personal reflection and time with God.

Each person is asked to eat breakfast at home, bring their own lunch each day, and eat dinner at home. Water supplies will be provided, along with pre-packaged snacks. We are hoping to offer a closing picnic at the end of the week, if we feel we can serve and eat food safely.

We will be at the following locations/dates this summer:

- **FISHING CREEK SALEM UMC** (Goldsboro, PA) – July 18-23
- **CHRIST UMC** (Mt. Top, PA) – July 11-16

NO WORRIES if you live too far away or if these weeks won't work for your group. U.M. ARMY is also offering VIRTUAL opportunities this summer. These weeks still provide an opportunity to serve in your local communities in a day camp model; however, worship and interactive activities will be held virtually with other youth groups participating during your same week.

Won't you join us to help share God's love and experience God's creation? God is already at work creating our mission work within the Susquehanna Conference. We just need to be His hands, feet and heart by answering the call to serve.

For more information on U.M. ARMY, please feel free to access our website: [umarmy.org](http://umarmy.org)



To explore opportunities for your group, please contact Darlene Thomas, Regional Director @ [darlenethomas@umarmy.org](mailto:darlenethomas@umarmy.org) or 877-771-9484 ext. 1108

