

Awesome, Life-Changing Experiences at Mt Cross Ministries!



Youth Group posing for picture at a campsite they cleaned & cleared at Mt. Cross. Pictured, starting from bottom, going clockwise: Syrena Chowanski, Nikki Jones, Lindsay Chowanski, Taylor (our Mt. Cross counselor!), Hailey Jones, Thomas Townsend, Justin Stevens, Cody Lopez, & Mya Wilson.

During the week of **July 22 – 27**, eight high school-aged youth, youth group leader Traci Angel, and Pastor Chad Adamik participated in ‘Adventure Coast’, a service-oriented camp experience through Mt. Cross Ministries, near Santa Cruz, CA.

The youth who participated in ‘Adventure Coast’ stayed in the cabins at Mt. Cross with other campers (other camp programs occur simultaneously on any given week at Mt. Cross). They participated in the many, fun offerings at summer camp: swimming, ‘high ropes’, climbing a rock wall, a challenge course, and other community-building activities. In addition to the usual fun, summer camp activities, the ‘Adventure Coast’ program engaged the youth group with volunteer opportunities in the community surrounding Mt. Cross. The youth spent an afternoon working in a community garden that works with people who are transitioning out of homelessness. They also volunteered at a food pantry / thrift store called ‘California Gray Bears’ (a nonprofit staffed with senior citizen volunteers), helped with beach clean-up, and assisted with projects at Mt. Cross itself. They also had the chance to visit the Santa Cruz Boardwalk and had a cook-out coordinated by mt. cross and had evening worship on a beach.

On **Sunday, August 12**, at both the 8:00 am & 10:30 am worship services, those who participated in ‘Adventure Coast’ will share their experiences and personal reflections, as well as campfire songs they learned.

Pastor Chad and the Youth Group hopes that Mt. Cross Ministries will continue to be a partner with St. Paul’s Lutheran Family in children’s and teen ministry. Pastor Chad hopes that the congregation will soon start up a fund that can help the parents of school-aged children, confirmation-aged children, and the youth group to participate in the many summer programs that Mt. Cross has to offer. While camp is a life-changing experience for those who participate, it can often be out of reach financially for families who struggle to make ends meet—especially if the family has more than one camp-aged child!

Please start a conversation with one of the teens in St. Paul’s youth group and learn more about how ‘Adventure Coast’ changed their perspectives and enhanced their faith in Christ. And please consider how *you* might help assist / mentor our children and young people.



Volunteering at the Santa Cruz Community Garden.