

toronto



## INFORMATION for PARENTS

Your teen has the opportunity to spend 11-days on a discerning adventure in mission with The GO Project, which was born out of deep prayer. It is a response to years of discernment from various young peoples experiences of mission and outreach programs. While there are fantastic programs available, there are few that respond to the unique ministry and mission of the United Church of Canada and their partners.

### Who is The GO Project?

We believe that youth ministry is unique and that unique youth require unique programs. The vision of the GO project stems from experiences of youth and their leaders being challenged by mission programming that did not include their understanding of Christ, inclusion of all, acceptance of difference and a questioning atmosphere.

### Why Islington as a GO Site?

Islington is a neighbourhood in Toronto, Ontario, located in the west end of the city. It borders Mississauga to the West, Lake Ontario to the South and more city to the North. Islington received its name in 1858, when the original village of Mimico petitioned for a new post office and is was renamed after the English town of Islington.

Methodist circuit riders began coming to Islington for worship as early as 1815 from the Toronto Circuit ministering on horse back covering over 30 preaching points. Around 1823, Islington received its first clergyperson and built their first building in 1843.

Times sure have changed from horseback circuit riders, slowly making their way through the forested terrain between Toronto centre and the village of Islington. Today Islington United Church ministers through its building, built in 1949 and 1965, and is nestled just off the historic Islington main street. Home to many long-term residents, a new influx of condominiums and apartments attracting young families, newcomers and refugees to Canada and retirees, the face of this community has changed once again. 167 years of faith and service has shaped this community and the new faces of the community will shape the future of this church.

The GO Project has an opportunity to be a part of this change!

### Safety and communication are top priorities.

The GO Project sets up safe sites in which youth can do real mission ministry and encounter the Holy. A well-trained, organized staff runs the site. The staff lives in the community all summer long, creating relationships and becoming very familiar with the area. Additionally, The GO Project requires that each group provide adult leaders to offer mentorship, love and support for youth.



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We are so excited that your son or daughter will be attending the Toronto GO Project site this summer. We pray that they will have the opportunity to discern for themselves how they may better serve the community they are coming from. It is our hope that their participation in this leadership and faith-oriented experience, will engage their desire to serve and spark further growth of their personal sense of the Holy. We know that it can be a difficult experience to entrust your teenager to this kind of experience. As you send them off to this life changing experience, here is some information that may make it easier for you. Your teen's leader has received further information should you have any questions.

## Housing Location

Islington United Church  
Toronto, Ontario

Showers are located off site.  
Facility is not air-conditioned  
Sleeping arrangements: Carpet floor, bring air mattress and sleeping bag.

## Emergency Procedure

The GO Project is committed to safety at all times during the program. Our "rule of three" is set up to assure that your teenager will never be anywhere alone or without a supervising adult. Our site staff will explain additional rules and boundaries to help us work safely while on site.

In the event of an emergency, contact your group leader on their personal cell phone. If they cannot be reached, call **Islington United Church at 416.239.1131 x 25 or 31** and staff will return your call as soon as possible.

## Ministry Opportunities

Your son or daughter may serve in a variety of ways at the following mission sites: community-based children's programs, local food programs and regional food banks, youth and homeless outreach programs, clothing share programs, environmental protection programs and community gardens.

## Workshops

Mission Sites operate roughly Monday to Thursday each week. Your son or daughter will also participate in a workshop designed for youth to engage them in the unique grassroots approach to mission adopted by the United Church of Canada. A dynamic program engaging the practice of inclusion of all, will broaden your teen's horizons and encourage them to vision for their future and the future of their home community.

## Weekend

Youth will have a chance to explore the city of Toronto more fully. The weekend is considered Sabbath time; space for rest, play and mingling with the community through safe and dynamic programming.

### A Typical Day

8:00am	Showers
8:30	Breakfast
9:00	Worship and Gathering
9:30	Mission Sites
12:30pm	Lunch at Sites
3:30	Community Time
6:00	Dinner
7:30	Evening Activity
9:00	Worship and Gathering
10:00	Journaling and Reflection
	*This is a time for participants to review the day and connect with their church group.
11:00	Sleep Time