

## INFORMATION FOR MICHIGAN TST CLASSIC, ELITE & COMMUNITY TEAMS

### OVERVIEW



TST stands for “Teen Service Team” and refers to the high school programs at SpringHill - TST Classic, TST Elite and TST Community.

TST is built on two primary elements: service and community. Teens come for 1 or 2 weeks, and will be assigned to a work crew where they will serve for 5-7 hours per day. Other times in the day will be spent doing camp activities and large group events, or having down time and small group conversations. You’ll experience personal and spiritual growth as you participate in a tight community and serve camp. Other highlights include a day at Rose Lake (2 week teams), campfires, the Avenue (group worship w/the band), incredible relationships with other teens and SpringHill staff, and a huge sense of accomplishment as you serve hundreds of children every day!

### GIVE

Expect to give. You will give time and energy to serve the camp and other campers. You will give part of yourself to your team as you become bonded and experience life together as a community. You will be challenged to give more of yourself to God, more of your time to pursue a relationship with Jesus, and more of your goals and future to Him.

### HARD WORK

The TST program includes 5-7 hours of work each day. Your work on a TST Classic or Elite work crew is instrumental to the mission of SpringHill Camps. It will be easy to see your impact on some crews like Dining Hall where you serve hundreds of campers face-to-face each week. Other crews, who may spend hours cleaning bathrooms, splitting firewood, or raking grass may not see it at first, but their work is enabling campers to have life-changing experiences by doing crucial behind-the-scenes work.

Teens from all TST teams also assist with opening day and closing day events by greeting new campers and their families, unloading luggage, directing traffic and parking. You will be the very first and last person that new campers and their families see! All of these jobs are an essential part of our whole summer camp ministry and are more fun than you would believe work could be. Our ultimate goal is to serve God by serving each camper so the love that Jesus has for them is not just words, but a real experience.

If you have done TST in the past, you may notice some changes this year to work crews. Each team will have 4-5 work crews. There will be 4-8 students per work crew, supervised by a crew chief or another SpringHill staff person. You will register for TST-Classic or TST-Elite, but you will not indicate your work crew preference until you get to camp this summer. Once your team is here, your Area Director (or team leader) will tell you what work crews there will be. Then you can indicate which work crew you would like to be a part of. We can’t guarantee that you’ll be placed on the work crew that you prefer, so we would ask that all TSTers come with a willingness to serve in whatever area they are assigned to. TST Classic and TST Elite do work in different areas of camp.

### TST BANQUET INFORMATION

Each year we will have a banquet the night before you go home to celebrate all of your hard work. There will be a theme for the banquet, and we will post it here when we have decided on the theme. No need to bring any specific costumes or outfits, simply come as you are.

**IF YOUR CHILD DRIVES HIMSELF/HERSELF TO CAMP:** Your child’s counselor will show him/her where to park and hold their keys during their TST session. SpringHill is not responsible for the camper in the time before arrival or the time after departure.

## HERE'S HOW IT LOOKS

TST PROGRAM	Possible Work Crews	Possible Assignments
TST Classic	Dining Hall	Serving some food, drink; setting up and tearing down tables; sweeping and mopping; assisting kitchen
	Kitchen	Some food prep; some food service; cleaning pots and pans; operating dishwasher
	Accommodations	Cleaning common areas of camp (i.e. bath-houses, auditorium, etc); cleaning bathrooms; trash removal
	Special Ops (as required by camp)	Any other support needs that arise on the camp-center you work on.
TST Community	Within Osceola County Community	Mowing, trimming, raking, cleaning an area, moving items, splitting wood, painting, occasional building and repairs
TST Elite	Landscape	Maintaining flower beds and landscaping; some mowing and trimming; raking
	Construction	Painting; occasional building and repairs; building retaining walls (stone and dirt)
	Ranch	Feeding and watering horses; preparing horses for trail rides; maintaining and cleaning
	Special Ops	Special assignments necessary to help camp; could be cleaning an area, moving items, splitting wood

## THE ULTIMATE GIVE AND RECEIVE

### RECEIVE

During your non-work hours of the day, your TST team will have time for a variety of camp activities such as blobbing, extreme sports skate park, mountain biking, zipline, horseback riding, climbing wall, craft house, swimming, waterskiing at Rose Lake, waterslide, etc. Most nights your team will have evening activities and a campfire. You'll make great new friends in your group of 24 high school students and 5 SpringHill staff. And TST teams often are so bonded that they keep in touch after camp is over. From start to finish, sun up to sundown, there will be something planned that you will want to make the most of. You'll be busy having too much fun to be able to have visitors, or to plan any excursions away from camp with family or friends. The only exceptions would be for family emergencies. Jason Hoffer, the TST Director, would need to be notified in this case.

### SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Each day you will be challenged with a lesson that includes small group and solo time. We'll present material that will make you think and challenge you in your personal walk with God. This year, our theme will focus on joining a cause. You will have lots of nights where your team will meet around a campfire to sing crazy songs, laugh together, and also reflect on the day's work and what God is doing in your lives. You'll also have the opportunity to worship with a Christian Band at a large group worship session we call the Avenue two times a week. Real life issues will be presented through skits and short messages. This will be where we see how relevant the Bible is to our life.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

You will be receiving a letter at the end of your TST experience stating that you have completed 20 to 60 hours of community service. Keep this for school! You will need to show it for graduation, certain scholarships and honor programs. If you know that you need to have an additional evaluation filled out for this, you must bring that form with you to camp and give it to your area director. We cannot fill out these forms after your camp session ends.