Roanoke, VA

Merge Conference is a Monday through Friday gathering of 500-1,000 teenagers with a unique blend of student leadership training for youth, separate training for leaders, powerful worship, and service opportunities that involve home repair and community service.

What's Unique About Merge Conference?

- Students will receive a leadership certificate in partnership with Kenny & Elle Campbell, co-founders of GROW Curriculum
- Students will also receive a community service certificate after 25 hours of service
- Leaders will learn key strategies to strengthen their youth ministry in partnership with Ministry Architects
- Your choice of lodging and dining (not included in registration fee); Lunches are provided Tuesday - Friday

The Area

Roanoke has impressive schools, colleges, parks, entertainment, restaurants, and more. But just like any major city, the cool parts are often only a few blocks away from surprisingly poor conditions.

You can drive through entire sections of the city that need help. Neighborhoods look like they haven't been improved or maintained for 20 years or more. Families are in situations where no amount of hours at an inadequate wage will cover all their bills and needs.

Projects

Projects might include providing meals for the homeless, helping lead a day camp, sorting food and clothing at a distribution center, working with children in low income neighborhoods, or light home repairs.

Lodging Information

You will choose and book your own accommodations. Here are some suggestionsð call local churches within your denomination to see if you can use their facility or look at the specific Merge location youôre interested in and search for hotels within close proximity. You could also look into camping options in the area and create a fun experience with your youth. We arenôt affiliated with any hotels but are always available to answer questions.

Once you register, a trip advisor will provide you with specific details on the conference location so you can book your accommodations accordingly.

Area Activities

You and your group may want to visit the iconic Roanoke Star, which sits atop Mill Mountain and overlooks the entire region. The star can be easily reached via the Blue Ridge Parkway, the scenic roadway that winds through the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge.

Roanoke offers many free, interesting things to do, such as hiking, exploring art downtown, geocaching, and frisbee golf.

MERGE