



# Roanoke, VA

## The Area

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First known as the town of Big Lick because of the salt flows that attracted wildlife to the area near the river, Roanoke quickly became a crossroads for travel, commerce and culture. Named by the native Algonquin people Roanoke means Shell Money. This naming may be connected to the very island of the same name where the Roanoke River eventually pours into the ocean. Rail and coal also made Roanoke famous and pivotal in the growth of the region. The famous Pocahontas coal was transported via the Norfolk and Western Railroad right through town and the N&W locomotives were produced in the city until 1953. Today the city's location make it a prominent transportation hub for western Virginia. Cultural events, larger city amenities with a southern city charm mix with history to make Roanoke a great place to serve. Many pockets of neighborhoods are in need of home repairs and a fresh outlook.

Paint, minor insulation, weatherization, and general upkeep of aging homes are all needed. Accessibility for disabled folks with the repair or replacement of decaying ramps is also possible. Interior repairs along with painting interior rooms will help residents appreciate and remain proud of the homes they own.

## Our Partner

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A long time Workcamps participating church and a local community action program got together to help the community. The result has been several Workcamps but the weekend idea seems to be really catching on here. As a church in the heart to the city, our partner knows the needs of the community that pulses all around them. As a community development agency, the co-partner knows how to reach folks in need of housing assistance. Together, these amazing folks make a Workcamp happen.

## The Lodging

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Our public school facility is just a short drive to all the work we do. Plenty of space inside, lots of room outside to stretch out with small groups, and an adjacent city park all await you in Roanoke. Oh, and there is AC!

## The Work

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At the Roanoke, VA Weekend Workcamp, your group will demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion in tangible ways, serving real people in need while working on projects like...

- Building wheelchair ramps and handrails
- Weatherizing homes and trailers
- Reconstructing sagging porches
- Significant painting projects
- Interior and exterior carpentry
- Other home repair projects that the homeowner cannot otherwise complete

## Area Activities

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Mill Mountain featuring the Roanoke Star, Zoo, discovery center. Carvin's Cove – the second largest municipal park in America. Smith Mountain Lake. Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Splash Valley Water park.

