



PET NAMES SEARCH NOW!

CLASSIFIED SPOTLIGHT HOMES.SAVANNAHNOW.COM

\$139,000 BEDS: 2 BATHS: 2

\$219,000 BEDS: 3 BATHS: 2

Exchange

printer friendly version | 221 reads | Blog This | Post to Forums | SHARE

400 high schoolers from around the country unite to improve Savannah dwellings

MICHAEL ATKINS | Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 12:30 am



From left, Josh Girdaukas, 16, of Chicago; Ed Spring, 17, of Chicago; Nick Niehoff, of Monument, Colo.; Elaina Dittrich, 15, of Houston; and Molly Stevens, 15, of Kearney, Neb., fix a roof Wednesday on a single-story Augusta Avenue house.

For the typical teenager, an ideal summer getaway probably doesn't involve scaling ladders and replacing shingles atop a rundown house under the sweltering sun.

Then it's safe to say 400 high schoolers - in Savannah from across the country this week to fix up 63 different homes in disrepair - are atypical.

"It can be brutal, but the experience is totally worth it," said Arlie Berger, 15, of Libertyville, Ill. By Wednesday morning, she and a dozen others were starting to see the fruits of their labor at a single-story Augusta Avenue house.

"When we first got on the roof, there was nothing there, and now we're halfway done. It's so good to see progress."

The campers, part of the Christian-based Group Workcamps Foundation, are spending all week painting, roofing and landscaping at the rundown homes, with worship services and devotions each day.

Some of the youngsters, like 16-year-old Miriam Mooney, paid upward of \$700 for the chance to help the homeowners, most of whom are elderly or infirm.

Arrangements were made by the Economic Opportunity Authority for Savannah-Chatham County. Savannah State University is providing accommodations.

"It's a double meaning," said fourth-year participant Mooney of Houston. "We're here for them, but we're also here for a retreat and our spiritual growth."

Make no mistake: The youngsters' work is as tough as the nails they hammer.

"I commend them," said camp director Luther Ward of Mobile, Ala. "Some of these kids raised money for a year just to come here and do this, and they ask for nothing in return."

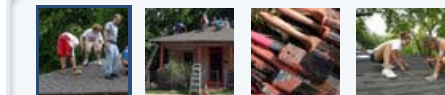
On Tuesday, a few blocks down on Augusta Avenue, a group of 12 campers went through 16 gallons of water despite constant duty rotations.

"It's hard to get them to stop" working, said group leader Brenda Scott of Nashville, Tenn., "because they like it so much."

The teens do get a few reprieves: An ice cream party and Wednesday afternoon out and about in Savannah.

Many, however, were giddy to spend the half-day amid Miley Cyrus mania on Tybee Island.

Kelsey Scott, 17, wasn't among them.



PUT YOUR HOME FOR SALE IN OUR SPOTLIGHT AND GET THE LEADS YOU NEED FIND OUT HOW

Find things to DO today

Calendar grid showing dates from 24 WED to 1 WED.

View All Events

HOTFACTS by YAHOO! hotjobs 7 in 10 workers say innovation goes unrewarded. Source: Yahoo! HotJobs site poll, May 2008

- Top Jobs: LPNs/CNAS You'll See, OCEANSIDE & SAVANNAH BEACH NURSING & REHAB CENTERS, Medical Billing Coordinator, Dillon Transport Is, HELP WANTED: Omni

Related Topics

Places - Atlanta, GA, Savannah, GA, Chatham County, GA

Contextual linking provided by Topix

"I'm from Nashville," he said. "And when (Cyrus) goes to the mall, it's full and it's not that much fun."

When the week and the work are finished, campers will head back to their respective hometowns.

By Ward's estimate, the young volunteers will have put in 10,000 work hours.

"The city is receiving \$200,000 worth of labor right now," he said.

Plus, "we get to meet new people and make friends," said Ashley Royal, a camper from Atlanta.

Added Ayla Johnson, 15, of Ocala, Fla.: "And we're learning not to nail our thumbs."

Your Rating

Score: 0.0, votes: 0

If you'd like to rate or comment on the story above, please log-in or register now.

Historic Savannah, GA Hotel www.ichotelsgroup.com

Go Ahead, Use Us. Providi Savannah.Citysearch.com

Ads by Yahoo!

printer friendly version | 221 reads | Blog This | Post to Forums | SHARE

View All Ads

Augusta Top Jobs No Ads Found

Athens Top Jobs No Ads Found

Top Autos

\$500! Police Impounds! Cars and trucks from \$500! for...

Honda 2001 Prelude 5 speed, silver, loaded, clean, 54k miles,...

Volvo Wagon 2003 V70 2.4T, 1 owner, 128k miles, exc. cond...

VESPA LX 150 '07 2,000 miles, windshield and cover. New \$5200,...

2004 Grande Marquis Ultimate in excellent condition. 46K original...

View All Ads

Top Homes

Ardsley Park 1 Bedroom, 1 full Bath, partially furnished, garage...

Georgetown Townhouse For Rent 2 bed 1.5 bath with fireplace...

ARDSLEY PARK 49 East 54th, 3BR, 2ba, hdwd floors, LR w/FP,...

502 W. 37th St. nicely furn. TV, phone, internet, cable, W/D,...

Great Location! Professionally designed Broughton St. loft...

View All Ads

SavannahNow Source Guide

» View All Source Items



Text Messages: Sign up now to receive breaking news, weather and sports messages on your phone.



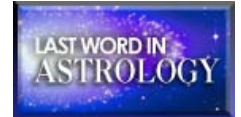
Food Inspections: Does your favorite restaurant make the grade? Check to find out.



Green Living: Your guide to living a green life in the Savannah-area.



Food & Dining: Click here for food, restaurant, drink information.



Horoscopes: What's your sign? Check out this page for your daily astrology reading.

