

Building Zion Youth Camp

Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum

Fillmore–Utah’s First Capitol

Spend 3 days and 2 nights, with your youth group, at fun filled **Building Zion Youth Camp** held at Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum. Gain insight into the challenges early settlers faced as they accepted the call to not just come to Zion, but to **build it**.



This camp provides activities that help youth understand Brigham Young’s attempt to build Zion in the desert.

Old Time Dance—This pioneer style dance will be a highlight of the camp. Dance cards, games and mixers, reduce the pressure of “asking,” allowing the youth to just have fun. They’ll learn reels, marches, schottisches, polkas and even waltzes-although Brigham Young thought waltzing was risqué. Pioneers danced for entertainment and exercise, so wear sturdy shoes. We’ll provide lots of water and refreshments.

Cabin Building Challenge—Youth carry logs, cut them with a 2 man saw and race to build a cabin, reminiscent of settlers arriving late in the year, racing the weather, to build shelters for their families.

Water Challenge—In this desert state, water is always a challenge. In fact ,the lack of water in southern Utah and Nevada was a major factor in abandoning Fillmore as the Capitol. We will carry water and build “ditches” to channel it, which may just end up in a “friendly” water fight.

Building Zion Challenge—Each youth will be given a backpack and the freedom to explore pioneer life, with a scavenger hunt style list of facts to find and activities to do. They make and collect candles, wood shavings, wool, rock chips and a toy. When they have completed the pioneer chores they will be paid in “tithing script” redeemable in the gift shop.

Quilt Service Project—Pioneer women took care of their families and others. We will do the same with a quilt service project. If your group has quilts it would like to bring, we can tie yours, or we’ll provide quilts that’ll be donated to charity.

Rounders Tournament—Youth learn a bit about historical sports in a pioneer rounders tournament. This precursor to baseball uses handmade bats and balls and rules that are just enough different from baseball, that skilled and unskilled, youth and leaders have a blast playing.

Museum Tour & History Discussions—Learn why Brigham Young chose Fillmore as the Capitol and then moved it to Salt Lake City. Learn a little about the political battles Utah fought as a Territory and why they weren’t readily granted statehood.

The Statehouse has ample lawn for tents and access to bathrooms. The county swimming pool is next to the park, facilitating a swim during the hottest part of the day and a shower in the morning for those who must have a shower while camping. The museum has open grass for soccer, football & ultimate, a volleyball net, basketball court and roller skating for free time. Although we have no hook ups, leaders are welcome to park RV’s in the parking lot.

The staff takes care of most the activities, but welcomes groups to hold additional meetings in the Statehouse or on the grounds.

Groups are responsible for all their meals. The park has a small kitchen, but recommends propane stoves and dutch ovens. There are two refrigerators and plenty of tables inside and out.

This program is at its best with about 80-100 youth per session. If your group is smaller than that, we can schedule you with another group. If it’s larger than that, we can do Tuesday-Thursday and Thursday-Saturday sessions. We are willing to work with you.

Fillmore is easy to get to, just off I-15 in the center of the state. The Statehouse is just off main street in the center of quiet, friendly Fillmore.

