

# AWOL BRIEF to churches



## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to equip the local churches of Empangeni, Richards Bay and surrounding areas with information about AWOL so that they can promote AWOL and encourage their people to become passionately involved.

## About AWOL & its History

AWOL first began in 2009 when churches partnered together and hosted the first event with 130 teenagers who shared God's love in the community of Empangeni and surrounding areas for a whole week. A volunteer team of 165 adults from local churches got involved and almost 4000 hours of community work were achieved. To date, AWOL has invested 21 503 hours of community service through the willing hands of 945 teen campers! AWOL now draws on a team close to 200 staff and volunteers from churches in Empangeni, Richards Bay and surrounding areas each year – more than the number of campers! As the hours invested into the community have accumulated over the years, AWOL's focus has shifted towards the teens and making an impact in their lives with each successive event.




## Teen Camp Experience

Teens will camp in tents at **Heuwelland Primary School** from **Tuesday 25 to Friday 28 June**. AWOL aims to provide opportunities for teens to make a Godly difference in their community. On certain days, teens leave the event site and participate in various projects in surrounding areas that have been organised by a number of local churches mainly from Empangeni and Richards Bay and surrounding areas. These projects also contribute towards community engagement hours that teens are required to accumulate for their Life Orientation Portfolio by their matric year. The teens also have ample opportunity to make new friends and have fun at the event site. Each evening there is awesome praise and worship as well as spiritual input. There are also structured activities and sessions that develop the teens. The camp is limited to 200 teens. All teens are welcome however they must be in high school and no more than 19 years of age. The cost for the entire event is R600,00. Separate documents titled **AWOL Camper Info** and **AWOL Registration Form** have more detail and can be found on our website.

## The Local Church Experience

AWOL encourages members of local churches to get involved and exercise the gifting that God has placed in them. There are many areas to serve on AWOL either in the build up to the event or on the event itself. Help is needed during the day as well as after hours. It is a good way to connect with people from other churches who share a common vision to impact teenagers and the surrounding community with God's love. AWOL desires to be a catalyst to encourage churches to make an ongoing difference – far beyond the week of the AWOL event. A separate document titled **Where can I serve on AWOL?** has more detail.

## Spreading the good news

Teens and churches can find AWOL on the web [www.aworkoflove.co.za](http://www.aworkoflove.co.za) , Facebook  **AWOL (A Work Of Love)**, Twitter  **@aworkoflove** and Instagram  **@aworkoflove**. There is also an **AWOL Volunteer Form for Local Churches** that can be used at your church to receive names of people willing to volunteer. Once filled in, it can be forwarded to us and we can make contact with them.

## Who is AWOL

AWOL is a project of City Youth. City Youth is a voluntary association that aims to mobilise local churches to plan and execute multicultural Christian events or outreaches involving young people. The AWOL coordinator is Karl Rottcher and he can be contacted on 083 638 2544.

# ABOUT AWOL



## About AWOL

**AWOL (A Work Of Love)** is an annual event where approximately 200 school going teenagers camp in Empangeni. The teens come together and build relationships as well as receive practical and spiritual input that equips them for life. They also share God's love in the community of Empangeni, Richards Bay and surrounding areas by tackling various projects or outreaches that are organised and run by the local churches – **a work of love**.

## Mission

**AWOL** desires to impact the following:

### Teenagers

The mission of **AWOL** is...

- to enable them to share God's love in practical ways so that the community will know that Christian teenagers are not just a voice but are also God's hands and feet.
- to provide an event where teenagers from all walks of life can come together, worship God, make friends and have fun whilst learning valuable life lessons with others of their own age.

### Churches of Empangeni and Richards Bay and surrounding areas

The mission of **AWOL** is...

- to share the gifting and resources of local churches so that teenagers are given the opportunity to receive and make a difference.
- to mobilise church members to make a difference in their own town and surrounding areas and to use the opportunity of **AWOL** to spur others on, to do the same.
- to encourage churches to partner with each other in projects or outreaches and in doing so, celebrate their unity in Christ.

### Community.

The mission of **AWOL** is...

- to interact with the community in relevant ways, so that they too can experience the love that God has for people and their community.

## Who is AWOL

**AWOL** is a project of City Youth. City Youth is a voluntary association that aims to mobilise local churches to plan and execute multicultural Christian events or outreaches involving young people.

## Finance

**AWOL** generates its funds through the generous donations and sponsorships received from various individuals, churches, companies, organisations and the municipality.

Banking Details: First National Bank, Branch: Empangeni 220130  
Acc Name: A work of love, Acc Number: 62 260 616 027

Karl Rottcher  
Event Coordinator  
083 638 2544

Belinda Blakeman  
Event Secretary  
082 8812101