SBO Sites

Environmental and Energy Issues

West Virginia

Hosted by the Appalachian Institute at Wheeling Jesuit University, SBO West Virginia gives participants the opportunity to think critically about energy issues by hearing the stories of people directly affected by the industry. Group members will meet stakeholders on all sides of the issue, challenging assumptions and engaging participants in deep discussions about the big questions behind energy extraction and its impact on human life. After touring a mountaintop removal site, visiting local residents, and listening to corporate representatives, group members will have a deeper grasp of the personal and immediate effects that energy decisions have on the local communities in our energy-producing regions.

Prison Reform

Baltimore

SBO Baltimore provides a dynamic opportunity to learn about the human implications of the U.S. prison system in our home city of Baltimore. Group members will learn about the many challenges faced by people who have been incarcerated in their effort to reenter society, such as difficulty finding housing, employment, and support after being released from prison. Participants will engage in service opportunities in a number of agencies, meet with local activists, listen to people who were formerly incarcerated and hopefully enter a prison to interact with people currently incarcerated. If you are curious about mass incarceration, this site will expose you to challenging information and many real-life stories.
Urban Poverty and Race

Washington D.C.

Group members will learn about urban poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity in our nation’s capital—especially in relation to race and class. The team will stay at the Steinbruck Center, a ministry of Luther Place Memorial Church, a program that offers education, service, research and training opportunities to address the root causes of homelessness and urban poverty. Participants will learn about the affordable housing crisis and the state of Washington DC’s poverty through walking tours, immersion, and lectures. Group members will also serve at various meal programs across the District and engage in thought-provoking interactive activities, learning the stories of people firsthand and seeing the city through a new lens.

Civil Rights

Selma, Alabama

The new SBO Civil Rights site in Alabama will explore key landmarks and settings central to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's. Our host and home base will be the Center for Non-Violence in Selma. Incredibly, our team will be present for the 52nd Jubilee anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the day of the march over the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, featured in the movie “Selma.” The group will also visit museums, attend a non-violence workshop and do service in local communities. The trip will include ongoing conversations about race in the U.S., both in the preparation meetings, throughout the trip and afterwards.