



# **Spring Break Outreach 2014**

#### **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The Spring Break Outreach immersion program is designed for students with all levels of community service experience. All those interested are encouraged to apply.

In selecting participants, we look for applicants who are undeniably committed to and invested in the mission and goals of SBO, and who are poised to learn and grow from the experience. Think carefully about why you are interested in this program, and convey those reasons clearly in your application or interview. Prior community service experience is always helpful, but not a pre-requisite for the program. We want people who are committed to learning through service—whether you have done community service before or not.

I was forced to break from my routine and throw myself into a new and somewhat uncomfortable situation. I think we often overlook the importance of gaining direct exposure to the problems in our world. It's one thing to learn about issues like racism and poverty in the classroom, but it's another thing to actually open yourself up and to have these first-hand experiences that allow you to learn new things and challenge your interpretation of the world you live in.

Meghan Kearney, SBO New Orleans Participant '13

## MISSION AND VALUES

SBO is an educational service immersion program in which students learn about issues facing local communities across the country through first-hand experience. The program includes indepth preparation and education on campus, direct service opportunities with a community-based organization, education about community and justice issues, time for group reflection before, during, and after the trip, and the opportunity to advocate back on campus for the issues and communities encountered during the trip.

Each site group is led by a trained student Site Leader who is responsible for logistics, group dynamics, reflection and education. A university employee is included as a fully-participating member in most site groups to provide a multi-generational perspective on community issues and service, as well as to provide support for the Site Leader.



#### **SBO Program Values**

- 1. **Social Justice** . . . . . . which can be learned and understood through involvement in . . .
- 2. **Community Service** . . . which has the potential to transform participants when accompanied by . . .
- 3. **Guided Reflection** . . . . and . . .
- 4. **Education about social justice issues** . . . *experienced within a framework of* . . .
- 5. **Community** . . . and an understanding that everyone benefits when we choose to live in . . .
- 6. Simplicity

#### WHO CAN APPLY

Students who are intrigued about immersion in a new community, who want to grow through service and learn more about justice, who want to challenge and broaden their understanding of the world, who are excited about personal, spiritual and intellectual growth, and who are willing to put in the effort to help make the trip a success.

Applicants must be in good academic standing at Loyola University, with a GPA of at least 2.0.

NOTE: Students studying abroad in the fall semester are eligible to apply.

I learned a lot about myself this trip, which I didn't expect. I expected to learn more about my site. Instead, through learning about the site, I learned about myself, what type of person I am, and what role I'm supposed to play in my future.

Olivia Earenfight, SBO West Virginia Participant '13

#### **DIRECTIONS FOR APPLYING**

Applications are available online and are due by Friday, October 11 at 3:00 pm.

#### No late applications will be accepted.

By completing an application, you are agreeing to all program requirements presented in this packet.

Participants will be accepted based upon the <u>quality of their essays or personal interview</u>. We strive to create well-balanced teams with people from a variety of backgrounds, levels of service experience, and class years.



To maximize your chances of being accepted, give careful attention to your essays or interview.

There are two ways to apply:

1. Essay application: Complete Parts I and II online

OR

2. Interview application: Complete Part 1 online and then a personal interview.

Interviews will be held **Saturday, Oct. 19 through Friday, Oct. 25**Once you submit your application, you will receive a reply e-mail with instructions for signing up for an interview time.

Decision letters will be emailed to applicants on Friday, Nov. 1 at 3:00 pm.

#### **Questions?** Contact:

Christina Harrison, Associate Director x2771, <u>csharrison@loyola.edu</u> Malaka Castle, SBO Graduate Assistant, x5632, <u>sbo@loyola.edu</u>.

### **FEES AND FORMS**

The cost of our current program includes transportation and host site fees for lodging and food totals more than \$40,000.00.

SBO receives some funding from the University, but these funds cover only a small portion of the total program expenses. The rest of the budget is covered by registration fees.

Participant Fee: NONREFUNDABLE for all sites \$275.00

Airfare Fee: Immokalee \$275.00

Payment and form deadlines:

**Friday, Nov. 15 (by 3:00 pm)** Participant fee (\$275.00)

Completed Health, Risk and Liability and Behavioral Agreement forms

Participants can pay by cash, credit card, Evergreen or check in the CCSJ office, or online at the link on the SBO website.

**Friday, Dec. 6 (by 3:00 pm)** Airfare fee (\$275.00)



If you anticipate difficulty paying the participant fee or airfare fee by the scheduled dates, please talk directly to Christina Harrison about these options:

- a. Arrange a payment plan, scheduling payments at regular intervals/dates,
- b. Fundraise extra money to cover your *nonrefundable* Participant Fee, or
- c. Apply for an SBO grant if the above options are not successful.

## **Participant Timeline**

Participant applications available: Monday, September 23

Applications due: Friday, October 11, by 3:00 p.m

Interviews: Sat. Oct. 19 – Friday, Oct. 25

Applicants notified about acceptance: Friday, November 1

Participant Orientation (MANDATORY) Sunday, Nov. 10, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Participant Fees and Forms due: Friday, Nov. 15 by 3:00 p.m.

Participant site decision letters available\*: Monday, Nov. 18

\*For those who have submitted all forms and fee payments

First Site Group Meeting: The week of Nov. 25 or Dec. 2

Airfare fee due (for selected sites) Friday, Dec. 6 by 3:00 p.m.

Site Group Meetings (4-6)

January and February

Pre-departure Meeting (MANDATORY) Sunday, Feb 23, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Send-Off Mass (OPTIONAL) Sunday, Feb 23, 6:00 p.m.

Spring Break March 1-9, 2014

Days and times of departure/return will vary by site

Re-Entry Gathering (MANDATORY) Sun., March 23, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Advocacy Day (on the Quad) Wed., April 16, 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

\*Please put these dates in your calendar!

- This list includes only the basic meetings. Your site or the program may have additional meetings not listed above.
- Committee work and other preparations will require additional time commitments outside of the schedule presented above.

