

Fort Myers Hurricane Relief Immersion

Volunteer Handbook

Monday, January 9 – Friday, January 13, 2023



Student Learning Outcomes

Students who participate in Center for Community Engagement and Service program will:

- Develop leadership and communication skills and strengthen self-confidence
- Develop critical thinking about social issues
- Develop a life-long sense of civic responsibility
- Work and communicate effectively across differences
- Plan and implement community-based service activities or programs
- Integrate the values of service and social justice into career and life goals
- Use reflection as a means for learning and personal growth

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Service Immersion

January 9-13, 2023

Service Immersion Description

Catholic Charities:

Mission

In devotion and adherence to the teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Church, we seek to serve and empower all in need regardless of race, nationality, or religion.

Vision

Inspired by the presence of God in our midst, we will become the provider of solace, support, and sustenance to all who seek our help.

Values

- Compassion, integrity, and empathy in the service and treatment of clients and employees.
- Effectiveness and efficiency in the fight against social injustices and oppression in all its forms.
- Recognition of the dignity and worth of each individual.

Full website on Catholic Charities Fort Myers:

<https://catholiccharitiesdov.org/who-we-are/>

Immersion 2023 Timeline & Check List

- ✓ Applications live on Webpage: December 2
- ✓ Applications Due: December 8 at Noon
- ✓ Applicant Reviews/Selection: December 9
- ✓ Notification of Acceptance Offer to Center for Community Engagement and Service: December 12
- ✓ One-on-one meetings with Director of Center for Community Engagement and Service: December 13
- ✓ December 14 or December 15: First Group Meeting, via Zoom from 12-1PM
- ✓ (Estimated TBD \$300-500) Airfare Down-Payment: Due to the SRU Business Office by December 16
- ✓ December 20: \$800 food, accommodations, and travel fee due to the SRU business office.
- ✓ Wednesday January 4th via Zoom at Noon: final group meeting
- ✓ Sunday, January 8th: all participants arrive back to campus

Service Immersion: Monday, January 9th – Friday, January 13, 2023

Money Matters

Financial Information: *Please note that the following figures are estimates only. We believe them to be reasonable estimates but reserve the right to change the fees should the flight rate change.*

****All students will pay airfare (TBD estimated \$300-500) by December 16 and \$800 accommodations by December 20th to the SRU Business Office.***

The Estimated Program fee of \$1,100-\$1,300 includes:

- Round-trip air fare Providence to Fort Myers TBD by flight costs
- Round trip van transportation from Salve campus to airport
- 4 nights lodging double occupancy (Students and faculty will be staying at the Home2 Suites by Hilton Fort Myers.)
- Includes all meals Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner (not including travel days in airport and recreational day in FL).

Students outside anticipated cost:

- All recreation, cultural, and tourist activities

- Airport food on travel days
- Also suggested to bring additional money of personal spending for any purchase outside the listed ones above

Financial Assistance: Students can send a letter of request and may be required to meet with the Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Service. Financial assistance will only be given to cover partial cost of the flight cost. Financial Assistance will be given on a case by case basis.

How to pay for my flight: The airfare down payment is due by December 16th through the Business Office at Salve Regina University. Students can pay the business office by VISA, MasterCard or by electronic check through their portal. If by check write in the memo line “Fort Myers Hurricane Relief Service Immersion” and the student’s full name.

Refund policy: The flight deposit is not refundable under any circumstance. The \$800 accommodations is also non-refundable.

**To be an eligible participant on the service immersion all students must adhere to the timeline application process, and have all required documents submitted on time. You will receive an electronic notification of all completed requirements to confirm your place on the trip.*

Packing list for Service Immersion

WHAT TO PACK: A backpack or duffel bag as you will not be checking your bag and it will be a carry on item. **Please DO NOT over-pack.** You may also want a separate (drawstring bag) to hold an extra shirt, water bottle, camera, etc. All liquids **MUST** be 3.oz or smaller.

CLOTHES: Shorts, jeans, lightweight shirts, and a jacket or sweatshirt for layering are best. You will need clothes and shoes (closed toed shoes at all times when volunteering on site and no tank tops while volunteering.)

- ___ 2-3 outfits
- ___ 1-2 t-shirts
- ___ 1 long-sleeved shirt or sweatshirt
- ___ 1-2 pairs of shorts
- ___ 1 pair of closed-toe shoes
- ___ 1 pair of shower sandals
- ___ Swimsuit & Beach Towel (pool at hotel)
- ___ 1 Rain Jacket or Poncho

TOILETRIES (Airplane size)

- ___ Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- ___ Deodorant
- ___ Soap
- ___ Shampoo/conditioner
- ___ Medications

- ___ Contacts/case/solutions
- ___ 1 Roll of Toilet Paper

GEAR: ESSENTIAL

- ___ 2 Personal Water Bottles
- ___ Sunglasses/hat
- ___ Small \$\$\$ bills (Ex: \$1/\$5/\$10) for touring day

OPTIONAL

- ___ Camera
- ___ Cell phone (USE OF CELL PHONES WILL BE **VERY LIMITED**)
- ___ 1 Flashlight
- ___ Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher)

What to leave at home:

- Laptops, iPods, etc.

What to Wear & Arrival:

- ▶ ***Closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times during your Volunteer shift.***
- ▶ All clothing must be family-friendly. Please do not wear clothes that are too short, tight, or revealing. Inappropriate messages printed on clothing will not be permitted. Shorts are also permitted as long as they are an appropriate length.
- ▶ If you are serving food on your shift, please consider bringing a hat from home. If not, a hairnet will be provided. Volunteers are also asked to wear shirts with sleeves. Tank tops will not be permitted in food venues.

Pre-Immersion Meetings

**All participants are required to attend the pre-Immersion meetings.
No exceptions will be granted.*

- ✓ **December 14 or December 15:** First Group Meeting, Via Zoom, Time TBD.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will this service trip count towards my Feinsein Community Service Hours?

No - Due to the fact that your Feinsein hours of community service have to be completed in Rhode Island, this trip will not count towards your hours.

What are my options on getting to the airport?

Participants have the option of taking a Salve shuttle from campus to and from the TFGreen Providence Airport. Alternatively, participants also have the option of being dropped off at TFGreen airport on the morning of departure and being picked up on the day the group returns.

How many students are selected for the immersion?

There is an 8 student capacity for the service immersion.

How does the waitlist work?

The waitlist will be activated in late December/early January after any original participants have not paid their \$(TBD) airfare down payment or if people have decided to drop out. Waitlist participants are always emailed regarding their change in status if anything happens.

What do I eat during the service immersion?

All food menus are planned in advance according to specific dietary restrictions and allergies. There is always plenty of food and water. Breakfast is through the Home2 Suites by Hilton Fort Myers and usually consists of cereal, bagels, oatmeal, fruit, etc. Lunch & Dinner will be provided as a group. All participants must bring their own water bottle, to keep consistent with being Ecofriendly!

Can I bring my own snacks on the service immersion?

Absolutely! Participants are encourage pack & bring their own personal snacks they would like for the week (example: granola bars, fruit snacks, pop tarts, chocolate, chips, pretzel, etc.).

What size can my luggage be?

We will follow the specific airlines regulations of travel size luggage.

Will I know the detailed Schedule ahead of time?

Yes, each participate is given a detailed scheduled that outlines the events for the week. This will be given closer to the date of immersion. Please note, that due to the planning of this immersion, things can change at any moment.

What car will be driving around in Florida?

We will have one 15 passenger rental van.

If we have free time, are we able to explore FL on our own?

No, due to this being a University sponsored service trip you will not be allowed to go off on your own without the group present.

Am I allowed to switch flights when down in FL if I would like to stay longer?

No, airline tickets are purchased in advance and are at a group rate making you unable to switch flights.

If I don't like the food served during the week, am I allowed to eat on my own?

No, you cannot go out on your own to buy food. However, we highly suggest bringing your own snacks for the week!

If I do not like my volunteer shift given am I allowed to switch?

Since most of the organizations are relying solely on volunteers, we are not able to switch the shift you. Every volunteer role is equally important.

I am allowed to choose my roommate for the week?

No since this is a group service immersion we would like everyone to get to know each other and step out of their comfort zones!

Do I have to participate in the daily group reflection questions?

Yes, group reflections help each individual learn more about themselves and help connect the group after a long day of various volunteer shifts.

Can I count these hours towards my Feinstein Hours?

No, Feinstein hours must be completed in Rhode Island.

Created by:

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Feinstein “Enriching America” Program**

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