

*Florida Service Immersion to Give Kids the World*  
*Service Immersion Handbook*  
**May 7-May 14<sup>th</sup> 2027** (dates subjective to change)



**SALVE REGINA**  
**UNIVERSITY**

# Student Learning Outcomes

Students who participate with the Center for Community Engagement and Service immersion 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
- Use reflection as a means for learning and personal growth

## Staff

*Kelly Powers*

Director

Center for Community Engagement and Service

401-341-2641

[kellyj.powers@Salve.edu](mailto:kellyj.powers@Salve.edu)

*Kathleen Rendos*

Assistant Director

Center for Community Engagement and Service

401-341-3298

[kathleen.rendos@Salve.edu](mailto:kathleen.rendos@Salve.edu)

*Jenna Ribeiro, MSN, RN*

Faculty Liaison – Nursing Department

401-341-2823

[Jenna.Ribeiro@Salve.edu](mailto:Jenna.Ribeiro@Salve.edu)

## **Center for Community Engagement and Service**

Location: Mercy Commons

Phone: 401-341-2440

Email: [Community.Services@Salve.edu](mailto:Community.Services@Salve.edu)

Instagram: @SalveService

Facebook.com/SalveCommunityService

# **Give Kids the World Service Immersion**

*May 7-May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2027*

## *Service Immersion Description*

### **Give Kids the World:**

Give Kids The World Village is a 89-acre, nonprofit resort that provides weeklong, cost-free vacations to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. The Village is a unique resort where it provides children and their families' with accommodations in fully-furnished villas, transportation, tickets to theme parks, meals, daily entertainment and much more.

Each year 27,000 children in the United States are diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. The goal of Give Kids The World Village is to provide everything these families need to make their trip the vacation of a lifetime. Since 1986, more than 193,000 children and families, from all 50 states and 77 countries, have had their dreams come true at the Village.

The Village depends on volunteers, known as Angels, to fulfill hundreds of volunteer shifts every day. Volunteering at Give Kids The World Village means being part of an organization that is truly unique and helping kids and their families create priceless memories in a time when they need it most. Make a difference and volunteer at Give Kids The World Village.

### **Full Website on Give Kids The World Village:**

<http://www.gktw.org/>

### **Participants might also volunteer at:**

#### The Sunshine Foundation:

Sunshine Foundation's sole purpose is to answer the dreams of chronically ill, seriously ill, physically challenged and abused children ages three to eighteen, whose families cannot fulfill their requests due to financial strain that the child's illness may cause.

Full Website on The Sunshine Foundation: <https://www.sunshinefoundation.org/>

#### American Red Cross – Orlando, FL

Volunteers would be helping with disaster relief efforts in areas of need.

## **Give Kids the World Service Immersion 2027** **Timeline & Check List**

- ✓ **Applications open:** May 2026
- ✓ **Applications Due:** September 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon
- ✓ **Applicant Reviews/Selection:** Week of September 28
- ✓ **Applicants Notified:** By September 30
- ✓ **Notification of Acceptance Offer to Center for Community Engagement and Service:** October 5
- ✓ **One-on-one meetings with Director of Center for Community Engagement and Service:** October 9
- ✓ **Week of November 9:** First Group Meeting, Mercy Commons; time TBA
- ✓ **(Estimated \$550-600) Airfare Down-Payment:** Due to the SRU Business Office by December 2
- ✓ **Week of January 25:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Group Meeting, Mercy Commons; Time TBA
- ✓ **Week of February 22:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Group Meeting. Mercy Commons; Time TBA
- ✓ **March 4: estimated \$750** accommodations and dining fee due to the SRU business office.
- ✓ **Week of April 19:** Final Group Meeting. All participants must attend. Mercy Commons; Time TBA

**Service Immersion:** Friday, May 7-Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2027

# 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 an estimated \$550-800 airfare fee by December 2**

**\*All students will also pay an \$750 accommodations and dining fee by March 4 to the SRU Business Office which includes:**

- Round trip van transportation from Salve campus to airport
- 6 nights lodging double occupancy (Students and faculty will be staying at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Orlando, FL.)
- Includes daily Continental Breakfast through the Comfort Inn & Suites which usually consists of cereal, bagels, oatmeal, and fruit.
- Includes Lunch & Dinner (not including travel days in airport and recreational day in FL). Lunches and Dinners will be based upon the volunteering schedule received for GKTW.
- Any leftover program funds will be donated to Give Kids the World, Sunshine Foundation, or disaster relief efforts based upon what group of participants select.

***Students outside anticipated cost:***

- All recreation, cultural, and tourist activities (Please note, this group does not go to Disney World).
- Airport food on travel days (May 7 and May 14)
- You may want 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. If you receive Financial Assistance and you decide not to go on this immersion, you will need to pay back this fee.

**How to pay for my flight:** The airfare down payment is due by December 2 through the Business Office at Salve Regina University. Each student will receive a link to pay through.

**Refund policy:** The flight deposit is not refundable under any circumstance. The \$750 accommodations is also non-refundable.

*\*To be an eligible participant on the Florida 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 immersion.*

# Packing List

**WHAT TO PACK:** A backpack or duffel bag as you will not be checking your bag and it will be a carry on size bag. Please check the specific airline to view dimensions for carry on bag size. You will not be able to check any bags as there will not be room for large bags in the van rentals.

**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 at GKTW. No tank tops while volunteering at GKTW.)

- 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**

- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher)
- Mosquito Repellent
- 2 Personal Water Bottles
- Sunglasses/hat
- Small \$\$\$ bills (Ex: \$1/\$5/\$10) for touring day

## **OPTIONAL**

- Cell phone (USE OF CELL PHONES WILL BE **VERY LIMITED**)

## **What to Wear & Arrival (GKTW):**

► ***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 at GKTW).

# Pre-Immersion Meetings

*\*All participants are required to attend the pre-immersion meetings, course homework, and service projects before going on the Florida Service Immersion to Give Kids the World.  
No exceptions will be granted.*

- ✓ **November 2026:** First Group Meeting, Mercy Commons; Time TBA
- ✓ **January 2027:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Group meeting, Mercy Commons; Time TBA
- ✓ **February 2027:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Group meeting, Mercy Commons; Time TBA
- ✓ **March 2027:** 4th Group meeting, Mercy Commons; Time TBA
- ✓ **April 2027:** 4th Group meeting, Mercy Commons; Time TBA

**Service Immersion:** Friday, May 7- Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2027

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Will this service immersion count towards my Feinstein Community Service Hours?**

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

## **What is Give Kids The World Village?**

Give Kids The World Village is a 89-acre, nonprofit resort in Central Florida that provides weeklong, cost-free vacations to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

Check out the website: <http://www.gktw.org/>

## **Is Give Kids The World Village a national charity?**

Give Kids The World Village welcomes families from all 50 states and 77 countries. It is our mission to never turn away a child in need, and we will partner with a wish-granting organization or children's hospital to help fulfill their wish trip to Central Florida, no matter where they call home.

## **Is Give Kids The World Village affiliated with or part of any other organization?**

Give Kids The World Village is an independent nonprofit organization. We partner with over 250 referring wish-organizations to fulfill a child's wish to Central Florida. However, we operate independently from these organizations and our corporate partners. All Give Kids The World personnel are based at the Village in Kissimmee, Florida. There is only one Give Kids The World Village in the world. Give Kids The World is a registered nonprofit in all states where required.

## **How are children selected to visit Give Kids The World Village?**

Give Kids The World Village is for children between the ages of 3 and 18, who have been diagnosed by a licensed doctor with a critical illness. Children are sponsored in their local communities by one of over 250 wish-granting organizations and children's hospitals that partner with Give Kids The World to grant these children their special wish vacation to Central Florida. If the child expresses the wish to visit Central Florida, then Give Kids The World Village is contacted and arranges a joyful, weeklong vacation, at no cost to the family.

## **What is the Sunshine Foundation?**

Sunshine Foundation's sole purpose is to answer the dreams of chronically ill, seriously ill, physically challenged and abused children ages three to eighteen, whose families cannot fulfill their requests due to financial strain that the child's illness may cause. In the 1960's, Philadelphia police officer Bill Sample was assigned to a local children's hospital. He encountered critically ill, and often terminally ill, children and saw first-hand how these children's families were burdened not only by mounting medical bills, but also by the frustration of not being able to provide their children's special dream. In 1976, Bill took out a personal loan and, with the help of others, started Sunshine Foundation and began making dreams come true for these truly deserving children.

*"Not all children are able to run and play and enjoy life. Many are innocent victims of birth defects, accidents and deadly diseases. Shouldn't each child know that somebody cares enough to see his or her dream come true?" -Bill Sample*

***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 a 10 student capacity for the Florida Service Immersion.

***How does the waitlist work?***

The waitlist will be activated after any original participants have not paid their airfare down payment or if participants have decided to drop out. Waitlist participants are always emailed regarding their change in status if anything happens.

***What do I eat during the Florida 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 Comfort Inn & Suites 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! Participants must also pack & bring their own personal snacks they would like for the week (example: granola bars, fruit snacks, pop tarts, protein bars, etc.).

***What size can my luggage be?***

Please view the airlines specific carry on bag dimensions before packing your bags. You will not be checking your luggage and MUST bring it as a carry on item. This means that ALL liquids (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, sunscreen etc.) must be 3oz or less!! If you are unsure what items are allowed through security please visit the specific airlines website and look through the detailed list available on website.

***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.

***What car will be driving around in Florida?***

Group will be traveling in 15 passenger rental vans.

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

No, due to this being a Salve Regina University sponsored service immersion 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 months 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 that you would prefer for the week!

***If I do not like my volunteer shift given at Give Kids the World, am I allowed to switch?***

Since all organizations rely solely on volunteers, we are not able to switch the shift you are assigned. 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.

## ***Created by:***

**Center for Community Engagement and Service  
Feinstein “Enriching America” Program**

Location: Mercy Commons

Phone: 401-341-2440

Email: [Community.Services@Salve.edu](mailto:Community.Services@Salve.edu)

Instagram: @SalveService

Facebook.com/SalveCommunityService