

Campus Ministry Application for 2017-2018 Service-Immersion Program

This application is for both our Winter Service Week (WSW) trips and our International service-immersion trips. Below are the experiences we are offering this year.



2018 Winter Service Week Trips

- Erie Benedictine Community, Erie, PA – Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
- Grow Ohio Valley, Wheeling, WV - Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
- Syracuse Northside CYO, Syracuse, NY - Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
- Rural and Migrant Ministry, Lyons, NY – Wednesday, Jan 10 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018 (*tentative*)

2018 International Service-Immersion Trips

- El Salvador Encounter – Wednesday, May 23 – Friday, June 1, 2018
- Kino Border Initiative - Saturday, May 26 – Friday, June 1, 2018
- Mustard Seed Jamaica – Saturday, June 2 – Saturday, June 9, 2018
- Summer Camp for At-Risk Children in Poland – Sunday, July 8-Tuesday, July 31, 2018 (*tentative*)

Your completed application will include:

- **Section 1-7 of this application including a typed essay** (hardcopy or email to signoris@canisius.edu)

Completed applications for our international trips will ALSO include:

- **4 photocopies of your passport picture page** stapled to the left-hand corner of this application. *If you do not have your passport, please attach a head shot of yourself.*
- **Interview Signup** (to be done AFTER submitting your application by signing up in the Campus Ministry main office, OM 211).

Completed applications are due in the Campus Ministry Main Office OM 207 on or before:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 2017

Our Service-Immersion Program

Canisius College offers our service-immersion experiences because we are a Catholic, Jesuit institution. In our program, we intentionally place participants in direct contact with the poor and marginalized for extended exposure experiences in the hopes that participants will learn the value of building relationships across socio-economic lines, increase their awareness of the injustices in the world and connect to the ways that they are being called to build up our human family—with a special concern for those most disadvantaged. Our program revolves around the four cornerstone values of simplicity, spirituality, social justice and solidarity. We take our motivation from the following voices:

Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in his talk to the members of a Jesuit University in the United States in 2000, implored that:

“Students, in the course of their formation, must let the gritty reality of this world into their lives, so they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering and engage it constructively. They should learn to perceive, think, judge, choose and act for the rights of others, especially the disadvantaged and the oppressed.”

Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., the current Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in an address to Jesuit Higher Education Institutions in Mexico City in 2010 with:

“the depth of thought and imagination in the Ignatian tradition involves a profound engagement with the real . . . the world as we encounter it; the world of the senses so vividly described in the Gospels themselves; a world of suffering and need, a broken world with many broken people in need of healing. We start there. We don’t run away from there. And then Ignatius guides us and students of Jesuit education, as he did his retreatants, to enter into the depths of that reality. Beyond what can be perceived most immediately, he leads one to see the hidden presence and action of God in what is seen, touched, smelt, felt. And that encounter with what is deepest changes the person.”

Every service-immersion experience with Campus Ministry will be on the spectrum of service to immersion—that is, direct hands-on action all the way to what is often the much harder ministry of being with, listening to and learning from the people we serve. While each one of our trips is different, the overall objective for all of them is the same. The program seeks to expose participants to people who are impoverished and marginalized in order to challenge our preconceived notions about the world and transform us into women and men who are committed to justice and to serving others.

Our Four Cornerstone Values

Simplicity – *“Putting first things, recognizably, first.”* – Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

Life can get complex. Sometimes we need to strip away some of that complexity in order to remember what is truly important. Focusing on simple living allows us to reconnect with what is essential—simple pleasures, connecting with the people around us, listening—which all lead to gratitude. Embracing simplicity allows us to value relationships over things; to hear the voices of our brothers and sisters, the voice of our own inner-self, and the voice of God.

Social Justice – *“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.”* - Dom Helder Camara

Justice is people living in right relationships that uphold the human dignity of all. From the starting point of our common human dignity, a socially just society safeguards the rights of all people to what is required for a decent life so that everyone can reach his or her full potential. Fighting for social justice is about correcting the root causes of an injustice by asking, “Why is this happening? How can we do this differently?” As long as people in this world continue to be systematically marginalized, dismissed and thrown away, we will continue to seek social justice by fighting to change systems that dehumanize.

Solidarity - *“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”* - Aboriginal activists group

Solidarity begins with the knowledge that our humanity depends on everyone else’s humanity. We are all connected and we all have a common responsibility for one another. Solidarity is not a connection based on a hierarchy of giver and receiver, but implies togetherness in every sense of the word. It means a true relationship of sacrifice for one another that is reciprocal and necessitates commitment. It means that when we serve someone, we are also served by that person. The end result of true solidarity is that everyone feels that their humanity has been restored.

Spirituality – *“If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”* Jeremiah 29:13

We ask you to engage your faith and/or values in this experience. Our Jesuit tradition calls us to become “contemplatives in action”; that is, to work actively for and with the poor and to be just as active in reflecting on God’s presence in our work and our relationships. We need to spend time engaging our experiences wholeheartedly, reflecting together, allowing silence in and listening to where God or our Truth is guiding us. The end result of knowing God is seeing the world how God sees it – a world worth falling in love with, messiness and all.

Winter Service Week Sites

Erie Benedictine Community, Erie, PA

Dates: Sunday, January 7-Saturday, January 13, 2018

Cost: \$200

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie are a group of Catholic, religious women who live together in a monastery in Erie and have committed their lives to presence and witness by working for sustainability and justice. Students on this trip will stay at the monastery and experience the sisters' daily life of prayer while participating each day in their ministries throughout the city of Erie, Pennsylvania. Volunteer opportunities include education centers for adults and children, a community center for disabled adults, after-school programs for underprivileged children, a children's art house, soup kitchens, a food bank, and endless opportunities to help the sisters at the Mount. Evenings will be spent reflecting with the sisters on the experiences of the day.

Syracuse Northside CYO, Syracuse, NY

Dates: Sunday, January 7-Saturday, January 13, 2018

Cost: \$200

Catholic Charities Northside CYO is an organization in Syracuse, NY dedicated to resettling refugees, many of whom have fled their countries because of war or oppression. They provide case managers who help resettle refugees into their new communities through accessing jobs, learning English, navigating the paperwork to access social services and medical care and offering legal support. Students will partner with the Catholic Charities CYO and work within a combination of five CYO programs: refugee resettlement, helping in pre-K classrooms, working in inclusive classrooms, assisting with an after-school program, and work with disabled teens and refugees. Participants will be working with local Jesuit Volunteers and engage the local JVC community with an evening reflection.

Grow Ohio Valley, Wheeling, West Virginia

Dates: Sunday, January 7-Saturday, January 13, 2018

Cost: \$275

Grow Ohio Valley's Food Justice Immersion provides an alternative break experience to build social awareness around food justice. With a blend of experiential learning and solutions-oriented service, students explore food justice through the prism of poverty, disability, food subsidies, social services, food deserts, nutrition, health, urban agriculture, food industry economics, and family food insecurity. Students will explore food justice issues by meeting with healthcare professionals, farmers, soup kitchens, beekeepers, community gardeners, and others working to create a just and sustainable food system. Because we are traveling in January and out of the growing season, the focus of this food justice immersion experience will be on hunger and homelessness.

Rural & Migrant Ministry in Lyons, NY

Tentative Dates: Wednesday, January 11-Saturday, January 13, 2018

Cost: \$150

Since 1981 Rural & Migrant Ministry has been standing with the rural and migrant communities throughout New York. They act to overcome the prejudices and poverty that degrade and debilitate people within rural New York by building communities that celebrate diversity, achieve true mutuality and fight for dignity and opportunity to all. This is a three-day immersion experience at Rural & Migrant Ministry Inc.'s Worker Education Center in Lyons, NY. Students will meet year-round farmworkers in the area, act as conversation partners during an ESL class, meet with youth leaders and discuss their observations with local experts. Weather permitting, we will visit farms to witness winter conditions. Evening reflections will be an important part of the experience. The focus of this immersion experience is to allow students to gain a better understanding of contemporary issues facing farmworkers.

International Service-Immersion Sites

El Salvador Encounter

Dates: Wednesday, May 23 – Friday, June 1, 2018

Cost: \$1,900

El Salvador Encounter is a faith-based delegation experience where participants learn from the Salvadoran people about their lives, histories and hopes for the future. A major focus of the encounter is to reflect on the meaning of working for justice rather than working for charity, understanding one's role as a global citizen and humanizing the different issues that are present in our societies. Our team will spend 10 days in El Salvador, learning directly from the Salvadorans about issues such as the impact of war, neo-liberal economics, U.S. foreign policy, migration, mining, the environment and a tradition of liberating faith. The focus of the El Salvador Encounter program is not only to develop a greater knowledge of El Salvador as a whole, but also to develop an understanding of the people and to build relationships. This immersion experience is based on learning and encounter and is designed to attract students with a range of interests who are looking for a holistic understanding of El Salvador today. Spanish, while helpful, is not necessary.

Kino Border Initiative

Dates: Saturday, May 26-Friday, June 1, 2018

Cost: \$1,300

Become part of a week-long immersion into the complexity of the immigration situation on the U.S. / Mexico border. We will partner with the Kino Border Initiative (KBI), which is a collaborative, binational apostolic effort that engages in Catholic education and faith formation, socio-pastoral outreach, research, and advocacy on both sides of the border in Nogales. Strengthened by a Catholic faith that welcomes strangers, KBI supports the ministry of U.S. and Mexican communities who welcome the undocumented and care for them as brothers and sisters. This immersion trip is intended to humanize the immigration issue and to recognize its complexity, while emphasizing accompaniment of people on their journey. The majority of our time will be spent in the aid center for deported migrants in Mexico, where participants serve food and have the chance to speak with recently deported migrants. You will also have time to hike in the desert, witness the criminal prosecution of immigrants in Tucson and hear the perspective of the border patrol. There is an expectation that groups who visit KBI commit to implementing follow-up activities at their schools upon their return. Spanish language ability is an asset on this trip as you will spend a lot of time engaging recent deportees. For more information, google "Kino Border Initiative"

Mustard Seed in Jamaica

Dates: Saturday, June 2–Saturday, June 9, 2018

Cost: \$1,700

Spend one week in a home for disabled children with Mustard Seed Communities (MSC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for the most vulnerable populations in society. MSC began in 1978 as a home for children with disabilities on the outskirts of Kingston, Jamaica, and has expanded to Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. The majority of programs are dedicated to the residential care of children and adults with a range of developmental and physical disabilities who have been abandoned by their families because of the level of care they require. The vision for each apostolate is to create a loving and caring environment to aid in the physical, mental, and spiritual development of more than 600 residents worldwide. Our team will be working in a home called "Blessed Assurance" on the outskirts of Montego Bay. The day will be divided between living, loving and working with the children in this home and doing minor work projects on the grounds of Blessed Assurance. The children will range from ages 3-15 and have a variety of disabilities. Mustard Seed is a faith-based organization

and so there will be a lot of time dedicated to praying and singing with the children as well. This immersion experience is designed to challenge our students to go beyond their comfort zones. Many of the children we will be working with have severe disabilities and are wheelchair bound. But don't underestimate the bonds you can build with them during this experience! For more information about Mustard Seed, see: www.mustardseed.com

Summer Camp for At-Risk Children in Poland

Tentative Dates: July 8-July 31, 2018

Cost: \$2,300

Become part of a 3 week intensive immersion with at-risk children in the hills of Southern Poland. We will be partnering with "Dzielo Pomocy Dzieciom", a privately run orphanage that hosts a huge summer camp for orphans and foster children from all over Poland. There will be over 100 children at the camp from all ages, ranging from 2-14! They are broken up into small "families" which are led by both Polish and American volunteers who become "aunties" and "uncles" to these children, caring for them from the moment they wake to past bedtime. Our team will be entering into the second half of their summer camp experience. You will be divided up into families and spend most of your time caring for the children in your group. You will be eating, sleeping, hiking, playing and living with these children 24/7 in a family that might not include another English speaker. This immersion experience is our most intense one due to the difficult language barrier, tight quarters, long hours and endless energy it requires. To succeed on this trip YOU MUST LOVE KIDS! However, this is also the trip we get the most people wanting to return on, because these children will capture your heart! Get ready to fall in love!

TRIP COSTS INCLUDE:

- Transportation (either van or airplane)
- Lodging and Meals
- All Program-related activities
- Fees for speakers/translators
- International health insurance

TRIP COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Costs to secure your Passport/Visa
- Immunizations
- Pre-trip assigned books
- Souvenirs and gifts purchased abroad

To learn more about our program visit:

<https://www.canisius.edu/faith-and-service/campus-ministry/service-immersion-experiences>

For any further questions about our service-immersion trips,
please contact Lu Firestone at firestol@canisius.edu
or Sarah Signorino at signoris@canisius.edu

Section 1: Personal Information

Name _____ Email Address _____

Cell: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Name of Parents/Guardians: _____

Home Address/Phone: _____

Major: _____ GPA: _____ (minimum 2.5) Year: 1 2 3 4 G

Age: _____ Birth Date: _____ Gender: F M Honors Student? Y N

Section 2: Select Your Trip

You can apply for both WSW and an international trip in the same academic year, although we caution against it because it will be a strain on you for time and money. We will expect you to attend all the meetings for each program and meet all the financial deadlines. Many people choose to begin with the WSW trips and then move into an international trip in a following year.

2018 Winter Service Week Trips

Please rank the WSW trips in the order of your preference, 1 being your first choice on down. If you are not interested at all in a trip, leave it blank. *Please Note: Due to scheduling conflicts, you cannot participate in WSW and also attend the November 2017 Kairos*

- ___ Erie Benedictine Community, Erie, PA – Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
- ___ Grow Ohio Valley, Wheeling, WV - Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
- ___ Syracuse Northside CYO, Syracuse, NY - Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
- ___ Rural and Migrant Ministry, Lyons, NY – Wednesday, Jan 10 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018 (*tentative*)

2018 International Service-Immersion Trips

Please rank the International trips in the order of your preference, 1 being your first choice on down. If you are not interested at all in a trip, leave it blank. Sign up to interview for your first choice ONLY. *Please Note: To be accepted onto an international trip, you need to have done a WSW trip or its equivalent. If you don't have this experience, you may fulfill it this year by also applying for a WSW trip.*

- ___ El Salvador Encounter – Wednesday, May 23 – Friday, June 1, 2018
- ___ Kino Border Initiative - Saturday, May 26 – Friday, June 1, 2018
- ___ Mustard Seed Jamaica – Saturday, June 2 – Saturday, June 9, 2018
- ___ Summer Camp for At-Risk Children in Poland – Sunday, July 8-Tuesday, July 31, 2018 (*tentative*)

Section 3: Background Information

Traveling with Campus Ministry is not a vacation. It is a unique opportunity to work alongside the marginalized and be exposed to their reality. We are looking for candidates who have a proven commitment to service and a desire to explore their spiritual or ethical side. You do not have to be Catholic, Christian or religious to participate in our program, but you do have to be willing to engage your spirituality or ethical framework in our preparation process, in the reflections we have each night while on site and in your experience as a whole.

List clubs, groups, sports or anything else you are currently involved in at Canisius:

What service opportunities have you been involved in? *Please list the length of your commitment in each.*

What is your experience traveling before? Do you have any service or mission trip experience?

Which language have you studied and what is the highest level you have achieved in those languages? (*no foreign language abilities are required for any of our trips*):

Tell us how you identify religiously / spirituality / ethically and why a trip like this is in line with your values?

Are you comfortable praying with other people or sharing personally and deeply from your heart? Have you had any practice doing this on a retreat or in a spiritually-based club or group?

Have you ever had a violation of Community Standards at Canisius? If so, for what?

Please provide us with the name and phone number of a person who would be able to talk about your commitment to service and values. (*This person cannot be a relative.*)

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Section 4: Quick Health Snapshot

Our trips will involve travel, rustic accommodations and a fair amount of physical activity. Please consider if our program is a right fit for you. ***Any information turned in to Campus Ministry will remain confidential***

1. Do you have any dietary restrictions?
2. Do you have any allergies (seasonal, bees, food, medications, etc.) or asthma?
4. What medications for physical ailments are you currently on and what are they controlling?
5. What other health concerns should we know about that might impact your ability to travel?

Section 5: Financial Responsibility

We try to keep our program expenses to a minimum and realize the cost of some of our trips is daunting. You are ultimately responsible for the cost of your trip. Below are the different financial deadlines that you need to meet to continue on with your team.

WSW Trips

- **A \$100 deposit is due the week following our Kickoff (Oct 16-20)**
- **The remainder of your trip cost is due before Thanksgiving Break**
- We do offer limited scholarship help for our WSW program, prioritizing new participants.
 - Have you received a scholarship from Campus Ministry in the past for any program? Y N

International Trips

Campus Ministry will attempt to help you fundraise in the months leading up to your international trip.

- **A \$200 out-of-pocket deposit due before Thanksgiving Break.** Failing to pay this symbolically says that you are not committed to this trip and threatens your ability to continue.
- **The cost of your plane ticket is due Friday, Feb. 16th, 2018**
- **The total cost of your trip is due Friday, April 13th, 2018**
- All money turned in to Campus Ministry is **non-refundable**. Any money that is over-fundraised will go directly to the sites we are partnering with to further their mission. In the event that a trip is cancelled for safety reasons, Campus Ministry will do everything possible to refund you the full cost. However, some expenses might be lost and are beyond Campus Ministry's control.
- **There are partial scholarships available.** People across the college support our program and generously commit to offering partial scholarships every year to qualifying participants. These scholarships are only available after you have raised your plane ticket money, however.

Section 6: Essay

In a separate 1-2 page TYPED essay, please answer the following questions:

1. How have your personal experiences and values drawn you to a program with our mission?
2. How do you see this trip as furthering your educational experience at Canisius College?
3. Why did you choose to apply to your first-choice trip instead of the others? Which other sites would you be open to and why?

Section 7: The Preparation Process

Selection into our program means committing to a preparation process as well as traveling. Everyone will have large-group and team meetings. International trip participants will be asked to read several books, watch a movie and do individual, team and program-wide fundraisers. **Failure to fulfill these requirements jeopardizes your ability to travel with your team.** Below is a schedule of the preparation process for our program.

WSW

- **Kickoff** – Sunday, Oct. 15th from 12:00-3:00 in the Undercroft
- **Bonding Event** –either a team dinner or service event during the last 2 weeks of October
- **Ted Talks** – Sunday, Nov. 12 from 12:00-2:00
- **Last Minute Details Meeting** – Sunday, Dec. 3 from 12:00-4:00 in OM 219.
- **Trips Depart!**
 - **Erie Benedictine Community, Erie, PA** – Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
 - **Grow Ohio Valley, Wheeling, WV** - Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
 - **Syracuse Northside CYO, Syracuse, NY** - Sunday, Jan 7 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018
 - **Rural and Migrant Ministry, Lyons, NY** – Wednesday, Jan 10 – Saturday, Jan 13, 2018

International Teams

- **Kickoff** – Sunday, Oct. 29th from 12:00-3:00 in Regis
- **Team Meals/Fundraising Plans**– teams individually schedule this in November before Thanksgiving
- **Trip Retreat** – Friday, Jan 19 at 4pm – Saturday, Jan 20th at 5pm at the Harvest House.
- **Team Movie Nights** – teams individually schedule this in February
- **RAISE Benefit** – A three-day fundraiser for our program from Wed, March 7th – Friday, March 9th. On the evening of the 9th, all participants need to staff the final party in Montante.
- **Explore Your Country Team Conversations** – Sunday, March 25 from 12:00-5:00pm in OM 219.
- **Plunge Into Buffalo** – Saturday, April 28th from 9:30am-4:00pm in the Undercroft.
- **Trips Depart!**
 - **El Salvador Encounter** – Wednesday, May 23 – Friday, June 1, 2018
 - **Kino Border Initiative** - Saturday, May 26 – Friday, June 1, 2018
 - **Mustard Seed Jamaica** – Saturday, June 2 – Saturday, June 9, 2018
 - **Summer Camp for At-Risk Children in Poland** – Sunday, July 8-Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Please initial the following statements to signify that you have understood them.

___ I understand the financial commitment required by this program and that I am responsible for the cost of this trip and meeting financial deadlines.

___ I understand that, if selected, I am **required** to attend the preparatory meetings for my trip and failing to do so may lead to my dismissal from the team and none of my money will be refunded.

Name (printed):

Signature:

Date: