

Application for Campus Ministry's International Service-Immersion Experience

Applications are due in to the Campus Ministry Office, OM 207 by
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 2009

***Please staple 3 photocopies of your passport picture page to the front of this application.** *If you do not have your passport yet, please attach a head shot of yourself to the upper left hand corner of this application.*

Section 1: Personal Information

Name _____ Email Address _____

Cell: _____ Dorm/Local Phone: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Local Address/Dorm Room: _____

Name of Parents/Guardians: _____

Home Address/Phone: _____

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

Age: _____ Birth Date: _____ Sex: F M T-shirt Size: _____

Which language have you studied and what is the highest level you have taken: _____

**No foreign language abilities are required for any of our trips*

Please briefly list clubs, groups, sports, honors societies or anything else you are currently involved in at Canisius:

Program applying to:

_____ 24 member Team Mexico (tentative dates: May 26th-June 6th)

_____ 15 member Team Jamaica (tentative dates: May 26th-June 5th)

_____ 12 member Team El Salvador (tentative dates: May 26th – June 4th)

_____ 14 member Team Poland (tentative dates: July 8th-August 3rd)

****Applications for Team India come out in January for the following year's Winter Break trip.**

***You can apply for 2 different trips in the same year.** If you want to do this, please mark down your first and second choice. Sign up to interview for your first choice and then, if you are not accepted and your second choice still needs applicants, you can interview for that trip.

***Students will not be able to participate in both ASB (Alternative Spring Break) and an International Service-Immersion Trip in the course of one school year.** Please decide which you would prefer to do this year and apply accordingly.

Quick Facts

Every International Experience with Campus Ministry will be a blend of both service and immersion—that is, direct hands-on action combined with listening to and learning from the people we serve. While each one of our trips is different, the overall objective for them all is the same. The programs seek to expose you to people who are impoverished and oppressed in order to challenge your preconceived notions about the world and transform you into women and men who are committed to justice and to serving others. Brochures specific to each trip are available in the Campus Ministry main office.

There is at least a 7-month preparation period of all of our trips, which requires participants to actively learn about their travel destination and their teammates via workshops, trainings, readings, and events. This is also the time participants dedicate to fundraising for the cost of the trip. When we are abroad, students will live without many modern conveniences and eat a diet that will be nourishing but very simple. They will be asked to engage in daily group reflection. Students need to be ready to commit to our core values, our community standards, our fundraising efforts and our preparation process. The success of our programs depends on a high degree of personal maturity and responsibility on the part of its participants. If selected, students will be committing to:

- **Our Four Cornerstone Values:**
 1. **Social Justice:** Work for peace and justice alongside the underserved as well as commit to exploring the causes of injustice and oppression.
 2. **Simple Lifestyle:** Gain freedom by centering less on things and more on relationships.
 3. **Spirituality:** Live as a “contemplative in action,” reflecting on God’s presence in your relationships and experiences.
 4. **Community:** Deliberately build strong relationships with team members and members of the community you are serving, especially those on the margins.
- **Financially Responsibility** – Although we help you rigorously fundraise in the months leading up to your trip, in the end you are responsible for the entire cost of the trip. (Some scholarship help available.) *All fundraising money turned in to Campus Ministry is non-refundable.*
- **At least 7 months of preparation** including 5 mandatory weekend workshops for all participants traveling internationally and monthly individual team meetings.
- **Flexible, mature participation in our values and purpose once abroad**

Mexico (Monday, May 26th-Sunday, June 6th): Become a part of a two-week service trip into Mexico City, spending mornings working with the disabled at Mother Teresa’s Missions of Charity and afternoons running a day camp for disadvantaged children. This is a great introductory trip and you can expect to make a lot of friends among the children we serve! **Approximate cost: \$1,500**

Jamaica (Monday, May 26th - Saturday, June 5th): Become part of a two-week service trip into Kingston, where our focus will be building a simple house in an underserved neighborhood along with working at a variety of ministries geared towards exposure to the poor. This is a great introductory trip for people who like to labor in the hot sun! Jamaican’s speak English! **Approximate cost: \$1,500**

El Salvador (Monday, May 26th – Friday, June 4th): Become part of a two-week immersion trip into El Salvador, learning directly from the people about their struggle through a brutal civil war to peace. Great for people interested in Catholic studies, international relations and globalization! Because of the subject matter, this is an intense trip and requires a mature applicant! **Approximate cost: \$1,500**

Poland (tentatively Thursday, July 8th-Monday, August 3rd): Become part of a three-week service trip to an orphanage near Krakow—but you must LOVE kids! That is because you will be eating, sleeping and living with orphans 24/7. Because of the tight quarters, rigorous schedule and language barriers, this is an intense trip—but you’ll end up falling in love with Poland!
Approximate cost: \$2,100

Section 2: Service Background Information

Going abroad with Campus Ministry on one of our International Service-Immersion Trips is not a vacation. It is first and foremost a service experience. We are looking for candidates who have a proven commitment to service. If you feel that your experience is lacking in this area, please consider joining us in Campus Ministry this year for Winter Service Week or for an Alternative Spring Break trip to strengthen your background of service and then apply for an international trip the following year.

Have you ever participated in one of Campus Ministry's Service Trips before? Please explain.

What service have you done here at Canisius College besides trips?

What service have you done outside of Canisius?

Have you ever traveled internationally before? Please explain.

Please provide us with the name and phone number of a person who has been a leader on a service experience you participated in or who can speak about your commitment to service.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Section 3: Spiritual Background Information

You are applying for a Campus Ministry program. If you are selected for one of our International Service-Immersion Trips, you do not have to be Catholic, Christian or even practicing a religion right now, but you do have to be willing to engage your spirituality in our preparation process, in the reflections we have each night while abroad and in your experience as a whole. Every night on each of our trips, we spend an hour reflecting about our day through the eyes of our faith, values and sense of justice. If you are lacking in your spiritual life, you might try joining a Christian Life Community (CLC) at Canisius, which are small faith-sharing groups organized by Campus Ministry, or consider signing up for one of our retreats this year to strengthen your application.

What is your faith background?

Do you practice?

Are you comfortable praying with other people?

Are you comfortable talking about your faith with other people?

Have you ever been on a retreat or a part of a CLC at Canisius before? Please explain.

What else can you tell us about your history of engaging your spirituality with your life and/or your willingness to engage your spirituality on this experience?

Section 4: Covenant of Participation and Behavior for Campus Ministry's International Service-Immersion Experiences

We are not going on vacation—these kinds of trips are stressful! We will be eating new foods, sleeping in tight quarters, being at the whim of someone else's schedule, struggling with a language barrier and have limited contact with our families. However, while participating in one of Campus Ministry's Exposure Trips, we as Canisius Students need to be responsible for our conduct. We need to be culturally sensitive, careful about our safety, willing to settle for less than the comforts we experience at home, flexible about our needs, willing to live by standards of behavior that perhaps are higher than in our home culture, and at all times remain focused on our reason for being here.

Therefore, every participant must sign the agreement below and live by its dictates while abroad:

Social Justice: A commitment to justice involves challenging our acquired ways of thinking and feeling. It challenges us to allow the pain, anger and helplessness of others to have an impact on us. As privileged members of our society, we have a responsibility to seek to understand and help to change the structures that create poverty and oppression:

- I will listen to and work with those who are more disadvantaged than I and will pursue solidarity with them
- I will strive to become just in my own thoughts, language and actions
- I will seek to know the truth of situations, rather than relying on my prejudices and biases
- I will strive to explore the spiritual side of poverty and injustice

Simplicity: While traveling, you will be forced to live without a lot of the comforts you rely on here at Canisius. To get the most out of this experience, we ask that you shed your desire for material comforts and the use of technology as a crutch for communication in favor of embracing the richness of a simpler lifestyle that focuses on building face-to-face relationships with others.

- I will seek the richness of life focused on people and their needs more than on my comfort or my acquisition of things
- I will strive to remain open to differences of opinions and behaviors as they present themselves in the encounters with those of another culture
- I will not seek to bring my ways, my food, my language or my mentality to the people I encounter, but rather seek to experience the richness of what is theirs
- I will cultivate a positive outlook, realizing that cultural conditions may be more harsh and less comfortable than those I am used to at home

Community: While on-site, you will be living and learning together as a team and a community. This will demand that you be open, flexible, tolerant, and compassionate toward one another. It will also require journal reflections and frequent group meetings where we will process our experiences together.

- I will be open and honest with other community members and willing to share part of my life with them.

- I will take part in the team’s activities, including meetings before we arrive, while we are there, and when we return
- I will share my experiences, both good and bad, during regular reflection sessions
- I will not make decisions that affect the group or the program independently of the team leaders

Spirituality: This international experience is an opportunity to interface your real world experiences with your faith. You will see and hear things that will make you feel uncomfortable – startling poverty, people living without hope because they are living without access to the basic necessities of education and health, countries who have been the pawns of the foreign policies of the United States.

- I will allow the reality of my experiences to sink deeply into my heart and challenge my assumptions.
- I will commit to growing in spirituality with my team during our preparation process and during our time abroad together.
- I will use our reflection sessions each night as a time to ask what my faith has to say about the situations I am witnesses and the people I am meeting
- I am comfortable praying with my team and attending any religious services my team is asked to go to.

Personal Conduct: How we live our lives is very important in new and cross-cultural contexts. The following are very important:

- **I will never go off-site on my own** for extended periods of time. Rather, I will always be with at least one other team member, and if we are going to be gone for long I will check with the team leaders to make sure they know where we are going and for how long.
- **I will never drink alcoholic beverages.** I understand that this is a service trip not a vacation. We are here to learn and serve.
- **I will neither bring, buy, nor use illegal drugs at any time.** I understand that if I violate this policy I will be sent home at my own expense.
- **I will not engage in sexual behavior.** I realize that engaging in sexual behavior could: 1) risk alienating those that we have come to visit, 2) raise questions about my motives to participate in this exposure trip, 3) jeopardize the integrity and future of Campus Ministry trips, 4) potentially cause division among those of the group, 5) potentially have lasting legal ramifications that I am not aware of, 6) and would not be consistent with the values of our Catholic, Christian college. Therefore, I will conduct myself with integrity in regard to my sexual behavior. I will not physically “couple-up” with another member of this group or with a local. I understand that if I violate this policy I will be sent home at my own expense.

Placing your name after this statement indicates that you have read, understood, and agreed to abide by all of the above.

Name:

Date:

Section 5: Requirements for International Service-Immersion Trips

Please check off the following statements to signify that you have read and understand them

MONEY

___ I understand that the International Service-Immersion Experiences cost as follows:
Mexico - \$1,500, Jamaica - \$1,500, El Salvador - \$1,500, Poland - \$2,100

___ I understand that, although Campus Ministry will help me fundraise this cost and that there is scholarship help available, ultimately I am responsible for the full cost of this trip.

___ I understand that there is a \$200 out-of-pocket deposit due before I leave for Christmas Break. Failing to pay this symbolically says that I am not committed to this trip and threatens my ability to continue on this team.

___ I understand that if I am struggling to raise money and need scholarship help, it is my responsibility to be pro-active and approach Lu to learn about my options. My silence threatens my chances of receiving scholarship help.

___ I understand that all money turned in to Campus Ministry is **non-refundable**.

PREPARATION

___ I understand that if selected, I am **required** to attend the following Weekend Workshops:

- **Sunday, November 15th from 2:00-6:00 in Palisano Pavilion Penfold Commons – All-Team Kick-Off and Orientation**
- **Sunday, January 24th from 2:00-6:00 in the Grupp Fireside Lounge: Global Justice Workshop**
- **Sunday, February 21st from 2:00-6:00 in the Grupp Fireside Lounge: Retreat**
- **Sunday, March 14th from 2:00-6:00 in the Grupp Fireside Lounge: Explore Your Country**
- **Saturday, April 17th from 9:00-3:00 in Undercroft of Chapel: All-Team Plunge into Buffalo**
- **Sunday, May 2nd, 8:00-10:30pm in Undercroft of Chapel: All-Team Last Minutes and Commissioning Mass**

___ I understand that I am **required** to attend monthly team meetings organized by the student leaders of my trip. (you will be given the details of these meetings at your interview)

___ *I understand that if I fail to participate in the preparation process leading up to this trip, **I may be dismissed from my team** by Campus Ministry and none of my fundraising money will be refunded.

Section 6: Health

If you are accepted onto one of our teams, you will have to look into getting immunizations and being proactive about your body so that you can stay healthy on our trips. Don't worry – you'll receive more information about this later. But right now, please provide us with the following information:

1. Do you have any dietary restrictions?
2. Do you have any allergies?
3. What medications are you currently on?
4. What health conditions, if any, should we know about?

**Once they are turned in to Campus Ministry, all applications remain confidential.*

Section 7: Essay

Please answer the following questions in a one-page essay

How do you see this trip as an integral part of your educational experience here at Canisius College?
What do you hope to take from this kind of immersion experience?

Section 8: Reference

Think of one person that can speak about how you have performed in the past in a stressful situation. Perhaps you have gone on another service trip before and the leader could speak on your behalf? Perhaps you worked at a summer camp or at an intense job and your supervisor could speak on your behalf? Perhaps you organized a project or led a team before and your teammates could speak on your behalf? Please try to make this a non-academic reference. Family members do not qualify as references.

Please provide us with the name of this person: _____

How you know this person: _____

His/her contact information: _____

Application Checklist

(Please refer to this checklist before submitting your application)

_____ Completed application (submitted IN FULL on or before Friday, October 16th)

_____ 3 photocopies of your passport picture page stapled to the front of this application. *If you do not have your passport yet, please attach a head shot of yourself to the upper left hand corner of this application.*

_____ Signed Covenant and checked off Responsibilities

_____ One-page Essay

_____ Sign-up For Interview (to be done AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. Go to Lu Firestone's office (OM 211) and sign up for an interview on your trip sign-up sheet posted on her door.)

Questions? Contact Lu Firestone in Campus Ministry at firestol@canisius.edu or call x2422