

Hofstra University  
Student Leadership and Activities  
Alternative Spring Break Trip: Light up a life in New Orleans!  
Saturday, April 4 to Saturday, April 11, 2008  
Student Volunteer Application

Overview:

Our fourth annual Spring Break Alternative Trip is an opportunity for students to practice humility and compassion through service to others. The preparations and experience of this trip is a chance for Hofstra Students to encounter impoverished cultures within the United States. This trip is an emotional, mental and financial commitment as well as a sacrifice of a spring break of leisure and the comforts of home. Therefore, we ask only those willing to make that commitment apply.

Requirements:

Any Hofstra undergraduate is welcome to apply for the trip. Any person interested must fill out an application (attached) completely and honestly and participate in an interview process to be considered. It is necessary that all applicants be in good judicial and academic standing to apply. This means applicants will not be chosen for the trip if they are on academic or judicial probation. This trip will not be a vacation. It will involve some physical labor and possibly less than comfortable living conditions. We ask that everyone applying be prepared for these conditions and in good physical health.

Travel:

We will fly to New Orleans and rent vans for the week. We will leave NY on Saturday, April 4, 2009 and leave New Orleans on Saturday, April 11, 2009.

Volunteer Opportunities:

We will be joining forces with the following organization:

<http://www.greenlightneworleans.org>

Other projects will include restoring a home and volunteering in local elementary schools and soup kitchens.

Volunteer Lodging:

Camp Hope is a former middle school being used as a basic housing facility for volunteers. Camp Hope provides a place to sleep, recreational space, wireless internet, meeting spaces, and 2 hot meals and a bag lunch for your workday. Camp Hope welcomes volunteers from most organizations working in the greater New Orleans Area.

[http://www.habitat-nola.org/camp\\_hope](http://www.habitat-nola.org/camp_hope)

Meals:

Camp Hope will provide breakfast and lunch. Our group will be exploring the flavors of New Orleans by dining at local restaurants for dinner. On Saturday and Sunday, New Orleans residents will prepare dinner for us.

ASBT Coordinators who will be facilitating the trip:

Kimberly Rhyan, Assistant Director of Student Leadership and Activities

Pamela Phayme, Assistant Director, Multicultural and International Student Programs

Tineka Brown, Student Coordinator

Expenses & Fundraising (Friend-raising):

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required with application.

Total cost for the trip is \$725 and students will be expected to fundraise \$675.

A fundraising packet will be given out to assist all students in reaching this goal.

Over the past 2 years, students have raised over \$15,000 through special projects and support letters!

Application:

All applications are due with a \$50 deposit on Friday, November 7, 2008 by 5:00 PM to Kimberly Rhyan in 260 Mack Student Center.

Training:

Once applicants are chosen, there will be 3-4 mandatory training sessions throughout the months of February and March.

Training will consist of 3 sessions to build teamwork and unity; to discuss poverty and compassion.

## Facts about New Orleans

### New Orleans' Recovery as of February 2006

- Population. The mayor's office estimates the population to be increasing. More than 200,000 people now reside in Orleans Parish overnight, with a total for the entire metropolitan area standing at 929,554, as of January 17, 2006. Prior to Katrina, New Orleans had 484,000 residents, and the metro population was 1.3 million.

### History

- New Orleans was founded in 1718 by Jean Baptiste La Moyne, Sieur de Bienville. At first, it was nothing more than a trading camp on a curve in the east bank of the Mississippi River. Later, the city was organized into a rectangular, fortified community, which still exists today as the French Quarter. The resulting streets were named for French royalty and nobility.
- As the community grew to the west, north, and east, it followed the curve in the river, and became known as "the Crescent City," because of its shape. Because the city was surrounded by swamps and marshes (with a sea level of approximately six feet at its highest point), the spring rise in the Mississippi River level, and tidal surges from hurricanes resulted in the building of levees around the city and the river. This also explains the ground level "basements" for most of the old structures in the New Orleans area.
- Even to this day, the city's massive pumps and canals drain the city (annual rain fall can be between 60" and 100"). The total miles of canals (above and below ground) in New Orleans exceed that of Venice in Italy.  
<http://www.atneworleans.com/body/main.htm>

### Poverty & Homelessness

#### Facts about The Homeless

"There are homeless men, women and children struggling to survive in New Orleans--a group that has swelled from roughly 6,000 people before Hurricane Katrina to an estimated 12,000 today (a conservative figure, according to some homeless-services providers). Homeless in New Orleans. By [Lizzy Ratner](#) [This article appeared in the February 25, 2008 edition of \*The Nation\*.](#)

In New Orleans Approximately: <http://www.cityofno.com>

- § 33% are families; most being women with children
- § 30% have jobs: part time; seasonal; minimum wage
- § 23% have a chronic mental illness
- § 50% have substance abuse problems
- § 85% are natives of Louisiana, 15% are non-natives
- § Less than 10% of the homeless population is homeless by choice or "hard core" homeless.

#### Rights Of The Homeless

- § to be treated with respect
- § to receive adequate health care
- § to have basic needs met such as: food, clothing and shelter
- § to receive supportive care during the transition out of homelessness

#### CFU Facts:

- If every household in the U.S. replaced one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), it would prevent enough pollution to equal removing 800,000 cars from the road.\*
- If every American family switched 1 light bulb to CFL's, we could save 600 million dollars in annual energy costs - enough to light about 3 million homes for an entire year!\* \*[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) \*\*\*[www.ornl.gov](http://www.ornl.gov)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, November 7, 2008

Hofstra University  
Student Leadership and Activities  
Spring Break Alternative Trip  
April 4, 11, 2008  
General Information

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Academic Year\_\_\_\_\_

Major(s)/minor(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Student ID (700)\_\_\_\_\_

Social Security\_\_\_\_\_

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Local Address\_\_\_\_\_ Local Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

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Emergency contact\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship\_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Medical problems or allergies that we should be aware of:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, November 7, 2008

Hofstra University  
Student Leadership and Activities  
Spring Break Alternative Trip: New Orleans  
Light up a Life!  
April 4-11, 2008  
Personal information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach your answers to the following questions.

1. Please list any of your previous volunteer experiences
2. List three strengths that you bring to the team.
3. How do you hope to grow from this opportunity
4. Do you consider yourself culturally sensitive?
5. Do you have trouble trying new things?
6. Can you pack light? (One duffle bag and sleeping bag-no suitcases allowed)?
7. Are you flexible to change?
8. Have you ever fundraised before?
  - a. Are you willing to fundraise?
  - b. Please list any fundraising ideas.
9. What are you most excited about in going on this trip?
10. What day(s) of the week and time(s) are you available for training:
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_

For more Information or questions, please contact:  
Kimberly Rhyan  
Assistant Director, Student Leadership and Activities  
Community Service and Leadership Development  
Hofstra University  
200 Hofstra University/260 Mack Student Center/ Hempstead, NY 11549  
(516) 463-3489  
Kimberly.c.rhyan@hofstra.edu

"YOU MUST BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD." -Gandhi