

PURDUE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE 2009

What is Collegiate Challenge?

Collegiate Challenge is an exciting program that allows thousands of college students to use their spring breaks to travel to exciting destinations across the country to build homes with Habitat for Humanity. Participation in Collegiate Challenge enables students to put their faith in action, to build partnerships with people sharing a common goal, to gain greater awareness of the need for decent and affordable housing, and to deepen their commitment to social action. Through hands on construction, students work toward eliminating poverty housing from the world.

“Habitat for Humanity is building much more than houses. By building hope it is building relationships, strengthening communities and nurturing families.”

Paul Newman

Where, What, Why?

Student groups build with participating Habitat for Humanity affiliates around the country. From the beaches of Florida to the Badlands of South Dakota, every site provides a unique experience of local culture and quality, hands-on construction.

“There is no way I could have ever bought with money any of the things I have learned or felt by working on this house.”
Nancy Boyd, Volunteer

During Collegiate Challenge, construction on a work site may range from framing and roofing new houses to doing landscaping and renovations on older homes. On-site construction supervision is provided and building experience is **NOT** necessary.

Students often are amazed by the closeness of the group at the end of the trip. After a week of learning new skills and working hard alongside other students, you'll find a closeness between yourself and the other participants that can only be forged in the process of working together to help others.

If this sounds exciting to you, please turn the page to see how you can join in the experience! →

WHERE WE'RE GOING

We at the Purdue University chapter of Habitat are extremely excited about the Collegiate Challenge opportunities for us this year. We're planning on sending forty-eight students, combined, to the six different sites we have chosen. These sites were chosen through a combination of past experience, location, and information we have about the sites. They are places, which we feel, are the best options offered by Habitat International this year, and every one should be an excellent experience.

St. Petersburg, Florida (8 people)

Pinellas County is located on the west coast of Florida (Tampa Bay area), with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. We are a major tourist area with many cultural, natural, and entertainment attractions.

Oak Ridge, TN (8 people)

In the Shadow of the Great Smoky Mountains, Anderson County is a place of extremes. With incredible poverty and the highest PhD per capita in the US, our affiliate builds 8-10 houses a year, currently in green, Energy Star subdivisions trying to meet the need of over 4000 families with whom we could build. Our area has lots of recreational opportunities and sights to see and the weather is mostly temperate.

Americus, GA (8 people)

New Horizons, a Christian housing ministry, works to help eliminate substandard housing in the Greater Sumter County Area. Americus is where Habitat for Humanity started and where Habitat International is located.

Charlotte, NC (8 people)

Students will be working with our Critical Home Repair program and in two weeks the life of a low-income family will be transformed. The majority of the families are elderly and/or disabled and have serious structural issues in their home - such as leaking roofs and rotting floors - that prevent them from living in a safe decent home. Charlotte is vibrant city with lots of opportunities for recreation and cultural activities - don't miss the National Whitewater Center.

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi (8 people)

Habitat for Humanity Bay-Waveland Area continues to build in the Katrina ravaged Hancock County. We are located 50 minutes east of New Orleans on the Gulf of Mexico. To date, we have built 75 homes for families affected by the storm. It is our goal to build 40 homes per year. We are 30 minutes from the Gulfport/Biloxi airport and an hour from the New Orleans Airport.

Beaufort, SC (8 people)

Our service area is northern Beaufort County. Beaufort is a beautiful coastal community steeped in early American history. There are many outdoor activities and historical tours available. Hunting Island State Park and Hilton Head Island are minutes away. Despite our close proximity to Hilton Head, a top tourist and retirement spot, there are many struggling to make ends meet and there is a great need for affordable housing.

WHAT'S INVOLVED

Participation in a Habitat for Humanity Spring Break trip is open to everyone who would like to dedicate their spring break to helping build housing with those in need, while having a great time doing it. The purpose of these trips is to help others, and while you'll have more fun on these trips than any other type, drinking alcohol IS NOT a part of these trips in any way.

Using these applications, groups of eight people will be assigned to each site. Each trip will have two **site leaders** who will be in charge of corresponding with the affiliate, organizing the trip, and ensuring that everyone is having a great experience while on the trip.

The trips will take most of the full nine days that we have off for break, allowing for driving time and five days at the site. This year transportation will be done through the use of two of your own personal vehicles per trip. This will enable participants to be able to do a number of different things, then just being confined to what the entire group would want to do in the past. This also is the cheapest alternative and is the best way to defray costs for the participants. All the travel costs will be paid for through the trip fees. At the site, housing will be provided by the affiliate that you are working with, which will generally mean the use of a room at a church, access to shower facilities, and a kitchen. The group will purchase food with money collected as a part of your fee. Work will generally take up six to eight hours of four or five of the days you are at the site. The evenings, and possibly an extra day, are free to see the sites of the area and have fun with your group.

EXPENSES

We're sure that these trips are a better bargain than any other spring break opportunity. Still, you must provide a majority of the cost of the trip. To be as equitable as possible, we have one price for participation. The cost of each trip will be \$120 per participant. Also one added incentive for those to provide vehicles is an \$60 reduction in the trip to cover wear and tear of the vehicle (granted other means of transportation is not provided). These fees cover the entire cost of the trip, which means payments to Habitat International and the affiliate you are visiting as well as the gas to get there.

WHAT'S REQUIRED

The most important requirement to participate is the desire to use your spring break to help those in need of decent housing through the mission of Habitat for Humanity. We also require that you are an active member of Purdue's Habitat chapter, which means two things. It means you must have turned in a membership form and paid the \$20/year dues and it means that you have participated with our chapter's activities in some way other than the general meetings. If you have not done this, the easiest thing to do is to sign up for a work trip on any Saturday before spring break. The reason for this requirement is so that you are aware of the means by which Habitat for Humanity operates and pursues its mission.

To plan for the trip, you are required to attend two meetings. At these meetings, we'll talk more about what to expect on the trips, and you will meet with the other students going to your site. **These meeting times and locations will be announced at a later date on our web site.**

Finally, the fee for the trip is due in two installments. **First, \$60 is due with your application when you turn it in. This fee is non-refundable, upon placement on a trip, after**

February 1st. Therefore, if you see any conflicts that may arise please contact a Habitat board member so that a solution can be worked out before the deposit is paid. **The remainder of the cost will be due at the first spring break meeting.**

THE APPLICATION

This application will be used to organize all participants into the groups going to each site. We are currently registered for forty-eight spots. Please fill out this application legibly, though it will be judged on content only. Here are specific instructions you should follow while filling it out.

Section I - General Information

This section is pretty self-explanatory. Just fill out each part especially clearly.

Section II - Preferences

A) This part will help to determine where you go. Each site should be excellent, so don't be afraid to check the box for us to choose a site. If you do have some idea of where you may want to go, however, you may either rank the sites in your order of preference (1 is your 1st choice), or if there are certain sites you know you would rather not go to feel free to cross them off. You may also use a combination of these three options as long as you keep options relatively open.

B) If you know that you would like to travel on a Collegiate Challenge trip with friends, feel free to write their names here. At times, however, signing up as a group may restrict the site placement if certain sites are close to full.

Section III - Involvement and Interest

This section will be used to ensure that a Collegiate Challenge trip is right for you, and in the event of competition for spots on certain trips, to place people in the most beneficial way for everyone involved. Please answer these questions briefly in the space provided.

Applications will be accepted as of November 6th and are due by February 1st. The initial payment of \$60, which is non-refundable after February 1st, is due with your application. Checks are preferred (made out to Purdue Habitat for Humanity), though cash is also acceptable. Please submit your application (you may keep these descriptive pages) with your first payment by campus or US mail. It must arrive in our mailbox by the deadline.

We are truly excited that you would like to join us on Collegiate Challenge 2009. If you have any questions, please email **PurdueCC@gmail.com**. Thanks!

By signing below, I hereby state that I have read and understand all policies regarding the Collegiate Challenge program and agree to comply with all rules set forth.

Name

Date

PURDUE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE 2009

Application due by February 1st, 2009 with a \$60 deposit

Section I - General Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Class: FR SO JR SR Grad

Section II - Preferences

A) Please either rank the sites you would like to visit, cross out those that you do NOT want to visit, or check here (Y) if you would like us to place you on the site where you are needed most.

___ St. Petersburg, FL

___ Oak Ridge, TN

___ Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

___ Americus, GA

___ Charlotte, NC

___ Beaufort, SC

B) You may list up to three other people with whom you would like to travel to the same site.

C) Transportation

___ I would like to provide my vehicle for transportation which will cut my trip cost by \$60

Section III - Involvement and Interest

A) Have you participated in a Collegiate Challenge trip or a similar work trip before?
If so, please briefly describe the experience.

B) Please briefly describe your experience with Habitat for Humanity at Purdue or elsewhere.

C) Why did you join Purdue Habitat for Humanity?

D) What do you hope to gain from this Collegiate Challenge experience?