



Purdue Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge 2010

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.

Where, What, and 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. 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.

*"Habitat for Humanity is building much more than houses. By building hope it is building relationships, strengthening communities, and nurturing families."
-Paul Newman*

"There is no way I could have ever bought with money any of the things that I have learned or felt by working on this house."

-Nancy Boyd, Volunteer

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

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 fortyeight 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 everyone should have an excellent experience.



Fort Lauderdale, FL (8 people)

Habitat Broward has built more than 270 homes for low-income families. Come spend your spring break with them and help eliminate poverty housing. The air conditioned cabins you will stay in are one block from Fort Lauderdale Beach!! Lunch will be provided daily on site.

Birmingham, AL (8 people)

Habitat Birmingham is recognized as at top 10 affiliate in the US, out of more than 1500, annually building more than 40 new homes for partner families. The city's estimated local population is 1 million with a median income of \$56K. Birmingham is located at the end of the Appalachians, and is referred to as the "Magic City." Birmingham has several points of interests saluting its link to the iron industry-Sloss Furnaces and Vulcan Park (home of the world's largest cast iron statue). Birmingham played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement and is home to the Civil Rights Institute.

Americus, GA (8 people)

New Horizons Humanity is located in Americus, Georgia where Habitat started. Your group will be able to visit the place where Habitat began. New Horizons has over 330 families in houses and are striving to build and rehab seven more this year.

Pickens, SC (8 people)

Pickens Country Habitat for Humanity is 28 years old; located in a beautiful rural/suburban setting. Breakfast foods, snack foods, and three to four dinners are provided for each group; lodging is in a recently built Family Life Center of a large church; showers and cooking facilities are available, along with a gym and bonus room for recreation. Pickens County recreational opportunities include nearby Table Rock State Park with great hiking; several nearby waterfalls and caves; Clemson University with "university atmosphere" in Clemson; restaurants; theatres; shopping; access to University facilities.

Cleveland, OH (8 people)

In the last 20 years, they have partnered with families, volunteers, and sponsors to build over 160 homes in the Greater Cleveland area. Projects include both new construction and rehab homes. They also operate a restore, recycling, reusing, and reselling donated building materials at a discounted rate. Cleveland has been at the top of the U.S. Census Bureau's Poorest Big Cities list for many years. Participants can join the flight to eliminate substandard housing here in Cleveland. Local attractions include the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, professional sport teams, restaurants, and concerts.



St. Tammany West, LA (8 people)

Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West is the 10th affiliate in the U.S. and first in Louisiana. They have currently built 175 new homes and done many renovations. They are located an hour north of New Orleans and were impacted greatly by Hurricane Katrina. Their affiliate is located in one of the wealthiest parishes in Louisiana which makes affordable land difficult to come by. A survey taken a few years ago showed that there were 1900+ people in worst case need in their portion of this parish. During your stay they will provide you with plenty of southern hospitality!!!

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 anyway.

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 vehicle 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 trip fees. The owners of the cars are required to keep a log of gas receipts to be reimbursed after the trip. 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 affiliate will purchase food with money collected as 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 \$140 per participant. Also one added incentive for those to provide a vehicle is a \$70 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 the affiliate you are visiting as well as the cost for food for the week and the gas to get there. However, extra costs are usually associated with the trip if your group decides to visit local attractions close to the build site. You will be reimbursed for the cost of gasoline after the trip. Therefore, it is very important that the driver of the car keep gas receipts for the entire trip.

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 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 website.

Finally, the fee for the trip is due in two installments. First, \$70 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 out the application.

Section I: General Information

This section is 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, you may either rank the sites in 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 the list. 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 Interests

This section will be used to ensure that a Collegiate Challenge trip is right for you, and in the event of competition for a spot 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 17th and are due by February 1st. The initial payment of \$70, 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 (Mailbox location: First floor of Stewart center across from itap lab Box # 706).

We are truly excited that you would like to join us on Collegiate Challenge 2010. If you have any question, please email me at amatushe@purdue.edu or call 219-798-6646. 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

