



Purdue Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge 2011

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, and Why?

Student groups building with participating Habitat for Humanity affiliates around the country. From the beaches of Florida to the founding city of Habitat for Humanity, 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.

"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 forty students, combined, to five 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.



St. Petersburg, FL

It's Florida! Habitat Pinellas is located on the Gulf Coast just south of Tampa. You'll find some of the best beaches in the county. Being a tourist area, there are many nearby attractions including the Dali Museum, the FL Aquarium, Busch Gardens and dolphins. This year we are hosting a college build, which will be built through the efforts of Collegiate Challenge participants. Last year our affiliate built 29 homes.

Pickens County, SC

Pickens County, SC is nestled at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The population of Pickens County is 112,000, with more than 15% of residents having a housing need. Activities include hiking at nearby Table Rock State Park, which features waterfalls. The campus of Clemson University is within walking distance of your lodging. Our affiliate is 29 years old, and has been hosting Collegiate Challenge groups for more than 10 years. Collegiate Challenge groups will work on new construction, with a work schedule of Monday through Friday, with a half-day off on Thursday.

Bay Saint Louis, MI

Come build on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi! Our wonderful beach community is still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, 5 years later. We were ground zero for the storm, which destroyed 70% of all housing. Since 2006, Habitat Bay-Waveland has been working diligently to rebuild this wonderful beach community. 150 homes in the past 4 years and still going strong! We are proud to have incorporated many Green building aspects into our homes. This culture is rich with beautiful scenery, great cuisine and wonderful people. After leaving Bay St. Louis, you'll be hooked on Habitat!

Americus, GA

New Horizons Habitat for Humanity is located in Americus, Georgia - the city where Habitat for Humanity International headquarters was founded and resides still today. New Horizons HFH is located about 15 minutes away from Plains, Georgia, home to former President Jimmy Carter.

Port Huron, MI

The City of Port Huron, stretching for seven miles along the shore of the St. Clair River and the base of Lake Huron, is an international border crossing marked by the spectacular Blue Water Bridge. Port Huron's stunning waterways and diverse annual events make it a year-round tourist destination. With its abundant attractions, high standard of living, and convenient location, Port Huron is a great place to live and work...or just visit! Don't forget your passport! Port Huron is directly across the river from Sarnia, Ontario Canada!



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 vehicles per trip/group. This will enable participants to do a number of different things rather than just being confined to what the entire group would want to do. This also is the cheapest alternative and is the best way to defray costs for the participants. All the travels costs will be paid for through trip fees. The owners of the cars are required to keep all 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. 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

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 \$160 per participant. Also one added incentive for those to provide vehicle is a \$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, the affiliate you are visiting, as well as 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 keeps 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, \$80 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. While we are currently registered for forty spots, we will fill them on a first come first serve basis. 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. Please write legibly.

Section II: Preferences

- A) This part will help to determine where you go. If you do have some idea of where you may want to go, you may rank the sites in order of preference (1 being your 1st choice, 5 being your last). All the sites will be fun, be open to any location!
- 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 spot on certain trip, to place people in the most beneficial way for everyone involved. Please answer these questions briefly in the space provided.

Application will be accepted as of November 17th and are due by February 1st. The initial payment of \$80, which is non-refundable after February, 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 2011. If you have any questions, please email me at jiafigli@purdue.edu or call 440-941-1415. Thanks!!!

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

Name

Date

Purdue Habitat for Humanity



Collegiate Challenge 2011

Application due by February 1, 2011 with \$80 deposit

Section I: General Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Class: FR SO JR SR Grad

Section II: Preferences

A) Please rank the site you would like to visit. (1-5)

_____ St. Petersburg, FL _____ Bay St Louis, MS _____ Americus, GA
_____ Pickens, SC _____ Port Huron, MI

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

C) Transportation

Circle One: (**YES/NO**) 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 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?