

Network of Sacred Heart Schools

Summer Service Projects – 2012

Re-Member: Pine Ridge Indian Reservation / Pine Ridge, South Dakota

Ray O'Connor Coordinator / Schools of the Sacred Heart – San Francisco, CA

June 9 – June 17, 2012

\$590.00 per student plus cost of transportation

7 students (male and female) Grade entering AFTER project 9-12 / Minimum age 14

Participants will room and board at the Re-Member facility on Pine Ridge Reservation. After the program participants will lodge in a local hotel for visits to Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park and The Wind Cave.

Description of project:

The constituency served is Native American Indians from the Lakota Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Mr. O'Connor has established a relationship with the Re-Member Project staff through his participation in their summer 2011 program as well as through student involvement in previous summers. Participants will do such service as building decks and outhouses and doing minor repair work. They will learn about Native American culture and costumes directly from the Indians and the Re-Member Staff. They will tour of the important historical parts of the reservation.

ISEA / Sprout Creek Farm, Poughkeepsie, NY

Georgie Blaeser, RSCJ / Sprout Creek Farm – Poughkeepsie, NY

June 10 – June 20, 2012

\$530 per student plus cost of transportation ****Subject to change**

20 students (male and female) Grade entering AFTER project 11-12 / Minimum age 16

Participants will be staying at The Sprout Creek Farm, Poughkeepsie, NY

Description of Project:

The students will be schooled by all the cows and calves, sheep and lambs, goats and kids, bugs and plants, the land, the trees, the creek and pond, and, of course, one another. Summer in beautiful Hudson Valley offers one a chance to step back from complicated, fast-paced lives and take time to develop a better understanding of oneself and others, and of the local and global community. Days will be filled with diverse experiences that will give students new tools to critically examine one's rapidly changing world. A seminar each day provides both the focus and the framework for deeper understanding of the complexities and interconnectedness of land-based resources here in the U.S. and in the world. A day at Sprout Creek is like no other. Working in a community that includes so many different kinds of animals in a setting with rolling pastures, lush gardens, creeks and ponds, and barns full of hay fosters deep spiritual reflection. Sharing the responsibilities for the animals with other students, tending the garden, working with calves, lambs and kids, and cooking meals together from the fruits of one's labors build a strong sense of community. Conversations that range from global hunger to the tiniest bug in our soil will offer intellectual challenges to last a lifetime in a supportive and inspiring setting. Participants will be actively involved in animal husbandry, gardening, cooking and using produce from our gardens

Alligators to Zydeco / New Orleans, LA

Libby Adams / Academy of the Sacred Heart-The Rosary, New Orleans, LA

June 23 – June 29, 2012

\$140 per student plus cost of transportation

12 students (female only) Grade entering AFTER project 8-9 / Minimum age 13

Participants will be staying at the Academy of the Sacred Heart-The Rosary, New Orleans, LA

Description of project:

In keeping with Goal III, Criterion 5, we seek to prepare participants to be stewards of the earth's resources. Through a hands-on approach, participants will understand the ecological challenges in Southeast Louisiana and the cultural and socio-economic impact of wetland loss on this region. The ultimate goal of the project is facilitating authentic, meaningful participation in the restoration of the rich coastal wetland ecology of South Louisiana. Program activities will emphasize the fragile nature of our environment; the intimate connections between the degradation of natural resources and the social, cultural, and economic impact on the regional community, both rural and urban; and the ultimate effect of wetlands loss on areas throughout the U.S. The schedule provides ample time for discussion and reflection, giving students the opportunity to prepare for each educational setting and part of the program, to determine personal goals and exchange ideas, and to draw inspiration from each other.

Participants will travel to Cocodrie, LA, approximately two hours from New Orleans, to visit LUMCON. The education staff, along with science faculty members from Sacred Heart, will lead the girls on a canoe trip of local wetlands. While canoeing, participants will observe wetland ecology, gather water samples, and see first-hand the loss of our coastal wetlands. Upon return to the LUMCON facility, students will analyze collected plankton specimens in the educational laboratory. We will also visit Jean Lafitte National Park Barataria Preserve, located approximately 20 miles from New Orleans, for a hike through bottomland hardwood forests, swamp, and marsh environments. We will observe the lasting effects of Hurricane Katrina on the area ecosystem. In addition, we will participate in a wetlands restoration project. Through either BTNEP or Bayou Rebirth, students will prepare marsh grasses for planting in the wetlands in the fall. We also plan to work with the Edible Schoolyard New Orleans at Samuel Green Charter School, located within walking distance of the Sacred Heart campus, in the garden and to interact with the local community. On Sunday, prior to the start of the educational program, we will attend Mass at St. Louis Cathedral and visit the famous French Quarter, and the exhibition "Katrina and Beyond" at The Presbytere Louisiana State Museum on Jackson Square.

Agape Summer Service Project / Seattle & Bellingham, WA

Tanya Lange / Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Seattle, WA

June 23 – June 30, 2012

\$160 per student plus cost of transportation

18 students (female only) Grade entering AFTER project 8-9 / Minimum age 13

Participants will be staying at: Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart and at Sacred Heart Church in Bellingham, WA (1110 14th St. Bellingham, WA 98225)

Description of Project:

The Agape Project serves the migrant farm worker community in Whatcom County, WA. The girls will arrive a full-day before the actual work begins in order to discuss the project and build community. During the week of service, the girls will participate in a variety of activities. These include a food drive, a migrant immersion day, service at the local migrant camps, and work at a food bank that the students prepare and run. Time will be spent educating the student about issues affecting migrant workers, including immigration. Prayer and reflection will be an essential part of the experience.

Hearts Fighting Hunger/ Greenwich, CT and New York City, NY

Michael Maida/Jennifer Thayer, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, CT

June 23 – June 27, 2012

\$100 per student plus cost of transportation

10 students (male and female) Grade entering AFTER project 7-8 / Minimum age 12

Participants will be staying at Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, CT

Description of Project:

Help change the world for the better! Too easily we focus solely on our own lives, letting the needs of others fall away. Join Hearts Fighting Hunger to help serve the needs of the hungry in New York City. Convent of the Sacred Heart, in Greenwich, Connecticut is just a short distance away from Manhattan and the Bronx. We will travel into *Tompkins Square Park* to deliver bagged breakfasts to homeless and others in need. The majority of our time will be spent at *Part of the Solution* in the Bronx. POTS serves the neediest residents in Bronx County, offering a soup kitchen, a food pantry, and a clothing pantry. We will get a chance to work in all three areas. Students will reflect and discuss topics such as poverty and homelessness in the United States. Hearts Fighting Hunger will focus on hunger and poverty in the United States. We will serve those in need at *Tompkins Square Park* and *Part of the Solution* (POTS), both located in New York City. Each morning will begin with yoga and meditation. We will return in the evening to make dinner and eat as a community. After dinner, participants will pray/reflect on the day's events both quietly and as a group. Creative activities will be incorporated into our reflections. Students will also communicate the day's events to their parents via a Wiki.

Students will arrive on Saturday. After an orientation and ice-breaker activities, we will watch videos and participate in discussions on the causes and consequences of poverty in the United States. We will then prepare bagged breakfasts to distribute Sunday morning on a Breakfast Run.

Sunday morning we will travel into New York City by school van to deliver breakfast and offer conversation to the homeless. We will attend mass at St. Veronica Church where students will participate in the mass and visit the site of the original Convent of the Sacred Heart - Greenwich. We will stop at POTS on our way back to CSH to serve lunch to the guests. Monday and Tuesday we commute to the Bronx and spend our days volunteering at POTS. Students will be able to assist in the community dining room, the food pantry, and the clothing distribution area. After yoga and a hearty breakfast, Wednesday morning will consist of our final reflection and last Wiki entry. We will then clean up our sleeping quarters, pack our bags, and head to the airport.

St. Madeleine Sophie Center / El Cajon & San Diego, CA

Christy Crandall / Sacred Heart Schools, Chicago, IL; Caitlyn Myler / Stone Ridge School, Bethesda, MD

July 8 – July 14, 2012

\$140 per person plus cost of transportation

13 students (female only) Grade entering AFTER project 9-11 / Minimum age 15

Participants will be staying at St. Madeleine Sophie Center, El Cajon, CA

Description of Project:

The volunteers assist the consumers (developmentally disabled adults) in various work capacities that include computers, janitorial, arts and crafts, supported employment, and gardening. The consumers look forward to the volunteers' companionship during the day. The coming of the Sacred Heart girls is a big highlight of their year. The consumers at St. Madeleine's Sophie Center are developmentally disabled adults who either need to learn skills to be placed in the workforce or to develop social skills so they can live comfortably in their communities. "St. Mad's" has been in existence for a number of years: first serving developmentally disabled children, and then after the California mainstreaming education program was instituted, serving adults who can no longer receive support in the traditional school setting. During our week at the Center, both students and chaperones are assigned a schedule that includes working with the consumers in different capacities. The volunteers may help the consumers in the garden or hone their word processing skills. Some may go out in the community with the supported employment team or just help the consumers learn the social skills of shopping at a department store. Students also have the opportunity of visiting the Sophie Gallery where beautiful artwork and crafts are produced by the consumers.

Juvenile Justice / Sacred Heart Schools Chicago, IL

Jane Steinfels / Sacred Heart Schools, Chicago, IL

July 14 – July 22, 2012

\$180 per student plus cost of transportation

10-18 students (male and female) Grade Entering AFTER project 10-12 / Minimum age 16

Participants will be staying at: Loyola University, Chicago, IL

Description of Project:

The Juvenile Justice Summer Project will provide high school students from various states a perspective of the experience of a teenager in our nation's criminal justice system. In an urban setting and an ethnically diverse population, the students will consider the context in which many of our nation's teen-agers live. Students will look at different support structures that work to help young people who are at risk for a variety of reasons (prevention programs, alternative high schools, etc.) Students will learn about how the State of Illinois makes decisions about the prosecution of juvenile offenders as well as particular case-studies. Students will visit Cook County Jail, adult and juvenile court, Northwestern University's Children and Family Justice Center (Street Law, Girl Talk, etc.), a peer jury program in the Chicago Public School system. Students will meet with advocates for juvenile justice, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, juvenile probation officers, social workers, educators, teenagers who have been in the justice system, college students researching juvenile justice, and others who have a role in the judicial system, in the communities, and in the lives of the young people. Unlike a direct service opportunity, there is not a constituency being served. The students who participate in this project will learn about the systems that exist and will bring that knowledge back home and take some sort of action from their heightened awareness of the related issues.

The relationship with the agencies/groups primarily exists because of previous years of this project. However, we typically connect with Rosie Dowd, rscj in her work at Cook County Jail- and often have participated in some direct service with agencies that Sacred Heart serves during the school year.

Planet Earth, Dig It / Sprout Creek Farm, Poughkeepsie, NY

Sr. Georgie Blaeser, RSCJ / Sprout Creek Farm – Poughkeepsie, NY

July 22 – July 27, 2012

\$360.00 per student plus cost of transportation**Subject to change

20 students (male and female) Grade entering AFTER project 10-12 / Minimum age 15

Participants will be staying at: Sprout Creek Farm, Poughkeepsie, NY

Description of Project:

DIG IT is a week-long service program. The context is food. The issue is hunger. The effects of both abundance and scarcity impact all species and affect our spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental, balance, and ultimately the very health of the planet itself.

Participants will do animal chores, work in Sprout Creek Farm gardens, cook with the fruits of the harvest, develop traditional farm skills, work at the Lunch Box, a soup kitchen for the hungry and homeless of the area. Significant time will be spent in activities, reflection and hands on seminars that explore and analyze the significance of sustainable farms, and sustainable practices, and the impact of food choice for us and for the world. While building community with one another, participants will engage in activities that make the connection between actions and the earth's resources. There will be time as well to cook, swim in the creek, and enjoy all the life at Sprout Creek Farm.

Clown Academy I / Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, Princeton, NJ

Thomas von Oehsen / Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart – Princeton, NJ

July 28 – August 4, 2012

\$160 per student plus cost of transportation

16 students (male and female) Grade entering AFTER the project 8-12 / Minimum age 12

Participants will be staying at: Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, Princeton, NJ

Description of Project:

Clown Academy is a project designed for students entering grades 8th through 12th. Students will learn such circus skills as juggling, unicycle riding, stilt walking, tight rope walking, globe walking and swinging on a trapeze. Each student will also create a clown character complete with make-up, costume and wig. After two days of intensive training, students will share their skills by traveling into Trenton, NJ and teaching children from Martin House and Homefront, two community centers serving the poorest families in Trenton. The project will culminate in a circus performance.

Project Harvest I AND II / Sprout Creek Farm, Poughkeepsie, NY

Sr. Georgie Blaeser, RSCJ / Sprout Creek Farm

Project Harvest I July 29 – August 3, 2012

Project Harvest II .August 5 – August 10, 2012

\$360.00 per student plus cost of transportation ****Subject to change**

20 students per session (female only) Grade entering AFTER project 7-9 / Minimum age 13

Participants will be staying at: Sprout Creek Farm, Poughkeepsie, NY

Description of Project: (Project Harvest I & II)

Project Harvest is a week-long service-based educational program focused on the issues of food security, sustainable agriculture, and responsible food choices. Through service at a local soup kitchen and a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm, the participants will gain a first-hand understanding of these issues. At the Lunch Box, the students will not only prepare and serve food to local community members, but they will also eat lunch with those receiving service. This interaction will foster empathetic connections between the two groups. At the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, the students will assist with a variety of gardening chores that need to be completed that day (including weeding, harvesting, planting, etc.). PFP members will also educate the students about CSA's and what role they serve in local community. To highlight the interconnectedness of the two community-based organizations, the students will harvest produce from the CSA and later donate it to the soup kitchen. During their time at Sprout Creek Farm, the students will participate in a variety of farm chores relating to food production (cow and goat milking, gardening, harvesting, cooking, food preservation, feeding animals, etc.) in order to foster an understanding of the hard work required for sustainable agriculture. Participation in chores will also encourage an understanding of the interconnectedness of all aspects of a diverse agricultural setting. Evenings at the farm will conclude with a discussion each night on a variety of topics relating to food (local and seasonal eating, slow foods, global food insecurity/security, youth agriculture movement, urban agriculture, etc.) Other activities will include a natural art project using wild as well as garden products, and a night-time hike along Sprout Creek. The week will conclude with a Hunger Banquet to highlight the global disparity in food distribution, a campfire with a focus on traditional harvest celebrations from around the world, and a salsa-making competition using only produce from the garden at Sprout Creek Farm. Through exposure to multiple community-based organizations addressing food insecurity, encourage the participants to consider the differences between programs that reach the root of the problem and those that provide "Band-Aid" solutions