



## Network of Sacred Heart Schools

Dear Prospective Staff Member,

We would like to express our gratitude for your willingness to consider participation in this important mission in Sacred Heart education and commend you for your passion concerning social issues.

These service projects, now in their 27<sup>th</sup> year, offer a unique opportunity to live out Goal Three. Together with students who represent numerous Network schools, you will have an opportunity to give service and learn firsthand about societal injustices with which you may already be familiar, but in a setting that is new to you. Several concepts are stressed with the students, and as a staff member you will be expected to serve as a role model for the participants. The first criterion is to live simply. For example, participants frequently are expected to sleep on the floor, eat low cost meals that they have prepared, shower in primitive facilities and survive without air conditioning. In solidarity with the poor, activities such as shopping or sightseeing are replaced by reflections, group exercises and simple entertaining “at home.” These simple challenges pale in comparison to the deprivations experienced by millions of our impoverished sisters and brothers in the US and around the world – that is the whole point! **You will be reimbursed for your plane, car, or train travel to/from (up to \$400.00) the project along with a stipend of \$60.50/day.** Please note that the *staff needs to arrive by the morning of the day prior to the scheduled starting date of the project and remain until ALL students have departed.*

The second criterion is to foster inclusiveness. Some groups seem to do this with ease. In other instances, staff members must encourage the participants to step outside their “comfort zone” and learn to interact with students from varied locations, socio-economic situations, and ethnic backgrounds, while they simultaneously learn to reach out to the marginalized members of society that they are serving in their projects. Although you are together with the students on a 24-hour basis for several days, it is important to remember that you are in the role of a “mentor” rather than that of a “buddy,” and reflect this is the professional rapport you establish with the students.

If you have any ideas for, or experiences with, reflective activities, or reading materials that are applicable to the social justice issues being addressed, or can suggest materials centering on social justice topic pertinent to the project you are applying to, please mention these things on your application. It is often helpful to site the coordinator and confirm your desire to be invested in the project.

**All adult staff and coordinators of the projects attend a meeting in Washington, DC from February 23 through February 25, 2017.** The purpose of the meeting is to support the adults who are involved in the Summer Service Projects, to share with them “best practices” regarding things like: dealing with airport pickups, student safety, adult training, homesickness, cell phones, evening reflections, preparation of meals, budgets, chores, etc.

Again, we wholeheartedly thank you for your desire to enrich our students’ lives, and for your commitment “to educate to a social awareness that impels to action.” If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Nadia Sadeghian Gonzalez at [NSHSadmin@sofie.org](mailto:NSHSadmin@sofie.org)

Sincerely,  
The Network Office

## 2016-2017 Summer Service Timeline

### November

- November 7th: Notification of Accepted Proposals
- November 8th: Posting of Adult and Student Applications

### January

- **January 20<sup>th</sup>: Adult and Student Applications Due**
- January 27: Adult Acceptances Sent Out

### February

- February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Cut-off date for Network Office acceptance of Student Applications
- February 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>: Network Summer Project Coordinators Seminar
- February 27<sup>th</sup>: Network Office notifies Head of School & Assistant to Head of the student selections

### March

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Network Office Notifies Students & Families of Acceptance and Sends Out Required Paperwork
- March 10<sup>th</sup>: Coordinators send their own welcome letters to the students and parents (the Network should be copied on all and any emails)

### April

- April 7<sup>th</sup>: All student forms are due back to the Network Office
- April 14<sup>th</sup>: Network Office invoices the schools for the students
- April 28<sup>th</sup>: Payment for student due to Network Office

### May

- May 5<sup>th</sup>: Student forms uploaded to the google drive for the project coordinators and staff

## **2017 Summer Service Projects**

*Visit [www.sofie.org](http://www.sofie.org) for updates*

### **How Organic School Farms & Gardens Can Help Feed the Planet**

**Dates:** June 5-12, 2017

**Location:** Sacred Heart Schools – Atherton, CA

**Cost:** \$350/student

**Coordinator:** Stewart Slafter

#### **Description:**

The farm and garden program at Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton will immerse students into our commercial/community agriculture curriculum for one week. During that time participants will plant seed for germination in our greenhouse, transplant seedlings into the garden, tend growing plans, and harvest summer vegetables, fruits and herbs. They will also feed and tend to the daily needs of our chickens, rabbits, ducks, turkeys and goats. Collecting eggs, taking goats out for rotational grazing, milking and performing other farm chores will punctuate our daily schedule.

Although students will be quite busy tending to our farm, we will also all spend large chunks of time preparing harvested produce for our customers. This crucial aspect of the program will involve students in delivering food for our CSA program, our campus farm & garden markets, our school summer camps, the cafeteria for the RSCJ Oakwood Community and a local chapter of the community justice organization, Food Not Bombs. We sell some of the products from our agriculture program and we give others away. Both distribution models are important as a good farm must earn money while building relationships. At our school farm it's 50-50.

In addition to developing outdoor agricultural skills participants in our program will have extensive discussions about the big questions: How will we solve the practical and ethical dilemmas involved in feeding 9 billion people by 2050 and 11 billion people by 2100? Brief articles and short documentaries showcasing journalists, ecologists and food activists will inform our discussion and we will maintain an experiential focus by cooking and eating together. We will prepare most of our meals together using ingredients raised and grown on our campus. Our network program concentrates most directly on the Sacred Heart injunction to teach respect for creation and prepare students to be stewards of the earth's resources. As teachers in an activist-driven experiential program we will also appeal to latent forms of critical consciousness, encourage participants to reflect on Society's values and inspire students to be active, informed, and responsible citizens locally, nationally, and globally.

The majority of our program activities will take place on campus and will not require transportation. We will take four local trips to serve food to homeless residents of San Francisco, stroll through a local farmer's market and visit two university farm and garden programs. On both occasions requiring transportation program coordinators will drive participants to our destination in school vans.

The success of our program depends on collegiality, an eager willingness to work and a desire to investigate complicated questions. Students from the middle- and high-school level are encouraged to apply and will need to be prepared for a program that absorbs most of their attention from the morning until the evening. Our program runs from June 5 through June 12. Teaching staff includes men and women and is made up of experienced Sacred Heart educators who have been managing our farm for years. We will provide lots of good food, cozy comforts and laughs. However, our primary goal is to offer students an opportunity to think about how food is currently produced around the globe and how it will need to be produced in the future if we want to live in a peaceful, humane, life-affirming world.

### **St. Madeleine Sophie's Center**

**Dates:** June 11-18, 2017

**Location:** St. Madeleine Sophie's Center - El Cajon, CA (San Diego Area)

**Cost:** \$400/student

**Coordinator:** Christine Crandall

**Description:** The volunteers at St. Madeleine Sophie Center, assist the consumers (developmentally disabled adults) in various work capacities that include computers, janitorial, arts and crafts, supported employment, exercising, music, yoga, and gardening. The consumers look forward to the volunteers' companionship during the day. The coming of the Sacred Heart kids 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. During our week at the Center, students will be working with the consumers in different capacities. They may help in the garden or computer lab. Some may go into 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. A big part of spending time with the consumers is just sitting and listening, being a friend, sharing a meal. The consumers love the attention!

### **Healthy Waters & Coastal Restoration**

**Dates:** June 18-23, 2017

**Location:** The Duchesne House - New Orleans, LA

**Cost:** \$250/student

**Coordinator:** Maureen Little, RSCJ

**Description:** Rooted in Goal 1, 3 and 4 of the "Goals and Criteria," the purpose of the Healthy Waters Network Summer Service project is to provide students opportunities to become stewards of the earth's waters and natural environment. Coastal Louisiana provides the perfect landscape for students to learn the effects of large scale natural disasters and manmade ecosystems for all life, and how with the help, it can restore itself. Most importantly, students will work together to clean waterways, create solutions for current problems (e.g., Rebuilding reefs) and help educate local communities about how they can become stewards of our natural resources.

### **Food Deserts in the Land of Plenty**

**Dates:** June 18-24, 2017

**Location:** Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart - Chicago, IL

**Cost:** \$300/student

**Coordinator:** Susan M. Cruz

**Description:** Almost 400,000 people in the city of Chicago currently lack access to fresh and healthy food, they reside in what is known as a "food desert." Students will explore the reality, causes and methods of combating urban food deserts. Students will begin the trip by volunteering at the Greater Chicago Food Depository and a local food pantry, in order to evaluate the quality of food available to those in need. Students will shop in neighborhoods designated as food deserts to experience the challenge that so many face. With the guidance of experts from Food Desert Action and City Farm, students will examine the negative health effects of food deserts and the unjust policy issues that affect our food systems. In the final days of our trip, we will explore and support innovative solutions to food deserts through: volunteering at urban farms, touring The Plant (a vertical farm and food business incubator), and spending time on Fresh Moves - a Chicago transit bus which has been converted to a traveling fresh food market! Each day will include reflections on the equity of the food system and how it can be challenged.

### **#ProjectNAO**

**Dates:** June 21-29, 2017

**Location:** Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart – Miami, FL

**Cost:** \$350/student

**Coordinator:** Matt Jansen

**Description:** In support of Goals 3 & 5, Network students will begin their initial experience by learning the features and limits of the NAO Humanoid robots and the ease with which the system can be used to introduce and integrate technology for marginalized, inner-city children. Network students will be introduced to programming processes and they will apply their skills and practice with NAO software. After mastering the introductory sessions, the Network students will combine sound, music and their creative abilities to develop an entertaining performance to share with visiting children from Coconut Grove Cares / The Barnyard, Breakthrough Miami, Honey Shine Mentoring Program, and Centro Mater Child Care Services. This will, in turn, empower the children to create their own presentations under the guidance of the Network students. Network students will also visit the University of Miami and they will experience a taste of Miami's multiculturalism at evening meals.

### **Juvenile Justice**

**Dates:** June 24 – July 1, 2017

**Location:** Sacred Heart Schools, Sheridan Rd – Chicago, IL

**Cost:** \$350/student

**Coordinator:** Jane Steinfels

**Description:** 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 juvenile court, Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliations, Kolbe House, and 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, attorneys, 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.

### **Helping Hungry Hearts**

**Dates:** June 25-29, 2017

**Location:** Academy of the Sacred Heart - Bloomfield Hills, MI

**Cost:** \$200/student

**Coordinator:** Lynette Nixon

**Description:** Helping Hungry Hearts will focus on learning about hunger in the Detroit Metro area, and volunteering at organizations to help alleviate the hunger. We will spend time touring and volunteering at organizations such as Gleaner's Food Bank in Detroit. We will serve dinner at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit or Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac, and visit Crossroads of Michigan in Detroit where we will prepare and distribute lunch to children. One morning will be spent harvesting food from a community garden which donates its crops to local food banks. On their final night, students will celebrate their hard work with an excursion to the Adventure Park of West Bloomfield, a local adventure park with a ropes and obstacle course. Evenings will include time for hunger education, journaling, prayer services, and reflection sharing among group members which will incorporate all five Goals. All transportation will be by bus booked through accredited companies ASH utilizes year-round.

### **Clown Academy**

**Dates:** July 2-15, 2017

**Location:** Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart – Princeton, NJ

**Cost:** \$700/student

**Coordinator:** Thomas von Oehsen

#### **Description:**

Clown Academy is a two-week Network Summer Service Project for students entering grades 9 through 12. Clown Academy will take place in Trenton, New Jersey and include 10 students from Trenton. The first two days students will form a troupe and practice their circus skills and rehearse their clown routines. The Clown Academy troupe will visit hospitals, nursing homes, and other community centers in downtown Trenton and perform their circus skills and clown skits. The Clown Academy students will also have the opportunity to teach their skills by giving workshops to children from the Boys and Girls Club and Catholic Youth Organization. An outgoing to NYC and Philadelphia will be included.

### **Turned Out: Modern Day Slavery – Humans Not For Sale**

**Dates:** July 9-14, 2017

**Location:** Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart – Houston, TX

**Cost:** \$300/student

**Coordinators:** Sara Molina & Stephanie Gomez

#### **Description:**

This project is a learning experience that will focus on human trafficking; with an emphasis on sex trafficking. The students will meet with various members of law enforcement, universities, and non-profit organizations to learn what human trafficking is, how it happens, how to prevent it, and how to assist survivors once rescued. The students will create and present a power point or video presentation at the conclusion of the project to share with their school communities to show what they learned.

### **Rebuild NOLA**

**Dates:** July 29-August 4, 2017

**Location:** Duchesne House – New Orleans, LA

**Cost:** \$300/student

**Coordinator:** Christina Angelle

#### **Description:**

The Rosary will once again partner with Duchesne House for Volunteers, run by RSCJ and work to educate participants on the importance of coastal restoration and hurricane recovery. Students will work with St. Bernard Project (SBP) whose aim is to rebuild homes damages from Hurricane Katrina. Again, the focus includes the importance of vanishing wetlands. Students will work on damaged homes, often painting and doing sheetrock work. Students will work for four full work days and participate in wetlands tour/planting. Duchesne House provides morning and evening reflection and prayer. All five goals are highlighted in this service project.

## *Statement of Understanding*

I understand that students are not allowed to smoke on these projects. Therefore, due to the nature of the projects and the constant interaction with students, opportunities for adults to smoke are very limited. If you are a smoker, please take this into consideration when applying. Alcohol is not allowed for the duration of a Network program. Respect for the program cell phone policy for students should be respected by the adults.

I agree to uphold the standards of behavior set forth by my Network school and accept the position of role model, as a Sacred Heart educator, in this 24-hour per day supervisory role.

These signatures are required with your Network Summer Service application and part of the submission process.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

## *Faculty Application Form*

**Name:**

**School:**

**Job Title:**

**School Level:**

**Do you plan on returning to a Network School next year?**

**Home Address:**

**Phone (Day, Night & Mobile):**

**Email (School & Personal):**

**Social Security Number (need for payment of stipend):**

**Have you completed the “Protecting God’s Children” program? If yes, please submit the program sponsor, dates of completion and short description of the program. If no, Please note that it is a requirement to complete this course before the Coordinators Seminar in February 2017.**

**Some projects require staff to drive vans or mini buses. Are you willing to do this? If yes, please attach a copy of your current insurance card and drivers’ license (front and back) to your application.**

**Some projects require staff to sleep on the floor, are you willing and able to do this?**

*Please note that the staff needs to arrive by the morning of the day prior to the scheduled starting date of the project and stay until all students have departed. Among the projects offered this summer, please list in order of preference your first two choices:*

1.

2.

Please pick two different choices, if you only pick one, a second choice will be chosen for you.

**Please explain why you are interested in participating in a Network Service Project.**

**Briefly describe what gifts and experiences you would bring to the project?**

## *Adult Recommendation*

*This form should be submitted to the Division Head/ Director for completion. After completion, this form should be sent from the Division Head/ Director to the Network Office at [NSHSadmin@sofie.org](mailto:NSHSadmin@sofie.org) no later than January 20, 2017. Note, please save this document as "2017AdultReference-Applicant'sLastName" before emailing it to the Network Office. Thank you!*

**Name and position of person completing this form:**

**School Email:**

**Name of Applicant:**

**What gifts and experiences would this applicant bring to a Network Summer Service Project?**

**Are you aware of any circumstances that might prevent this applicant from being fully present to the students? If yes, please explain.**

**Please attach a copy of the applicant's background check from the state; completed as an employee of the school. Or provide the phone number for your human resource contact at the school.**

**If you wish to speak privately with the Network Office about this applicant, please call Nadia Sadeghian Gonzalez at 202-636-9300.**

**Signature & Date:**