

Beyond Portlandia: Economic & Environmental Justice Trips

Thanks for your interest in Student Leadership and Service's Beyond Portlandia New Student Trips! Your fellow students plan these trips to introduce you to your new hometown in fun and meaningful ways. This sheet does not cover all aspects of the trip, but it will give you a few quick details.

Where will I stay during the trip?

All Beyond Portlandia (Environmental Justice & Economic Justice) participants will be housed in a church in Southeast Portland. The church will provide for an "indoor camping" experience. Yep, that means sleeping on pads on the floor! There will be kitchen facilities on site, where we will prepare our meals together. The church we use is centrally located and has proven a very hospitable site for these annual trips. Depending on the trip schedule, we should have access to showers 1-2 times during the trip.

What will I do during the trip?

Economic Justice participants will focus service and learning efforts on various anti-poverty initiatives in the Portland area. Each day we will engage in 2-4 service and/or learning activities. Potential projects include: visiting with low wealth and houseless guests in Operation Nightwatch's hospitality center; tending to community gardens that provide fresh vegetables to low income families; and meeting with local housing justice activists. We hope this trip challenge our ways of thinking about socio-economic class while making new friends.

Environmental Justice participants will focus service and learning efforts on Portland's environmental sustainability movement. Each day we will engage in 2-4 service and/or learning activities. Potential projects include: touring the wind farm that supplies Lewis & Clark with electricity; cooking and sharing food at a Food Not Bombs potluck; and, tending to community gardens that provide fresh vegetables to low income families. This trip will be a great opportunity to expand your awareness of sustainable practices while getting your hands dirty and connecting with like-minded classmates.

Potential Hazards:

Common injuries which could occur on these trips include: accidental cuts from kitchen knives, burns on hands from handling pots on a stove without hot pads or gloves, and sunburn from not applying enough sunscreen while working outdoors. These are all preventable with a little caution and common sense. Tools that you may use at a worksite need to be respected. Shovels, hammers, screwdrivers, and other items should be used carefully. Proper tool use will be explained before each service project. Climbing any ladder should be done properly. Beware of electrical wires. Wear eye protection when using tools. Work gloves will be provided. Footwear should be sturdy enough to protect participant's feet from injury.

The temperatures in Portland typically range from the low 60s to the high 80s (Fahrenheit) at this time of year. August is usually the driest month, but it has been known to rain, so bring appropriate clothing. Bring clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

How will I make sense out of the experiences I have during the trip?

Each trip will be lead by two current students. They will serve as your guides for the week, showing you their city and answering your questions about life at Lewis & Clark. We will spend time together as a group reflecting on and discussing our service-learning activities as well as having fun and making new friends. In the past, students have returned from this trip excited, energized, and more familiar with their new home!

Have a great summer, and we'll see you in August!