



Sacred Heart International

Summer Service Project

July 4 – 26, 2008

The Society of the Sacred Heart is a group of nearly 3500 women religious serving in over 500 communities in 45 countries. Our mission is to discover, live and announce God's love through the service of education, in diverse works, particularly addressing the needs of children, young adults, women and those in society who are marginalized. The Society of the Sacred Heart has been connecting people internationally for over 200 years.

The *Sacred Heart International Service Project* seeks to bring together an international group of young people who are committed to social change through action. Over the last three years past participants have come from Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain, Dominican Republic, Peru and the United States to engage in service, reflection and cultural exchange through work with children and young people in **San Luis Potosí, Mexico.**



In both Mexico and the US volunteers staff a recreational and educational summer camp for children. Volunteers work and live in community, participate in workshops, and reflect together on their experiences. Both service sites are staffed by Religious of the Sacred Heart as well as former volunteers who serve as youth coordinators.

In Mexico, volunteers live with host families and in Grand Coteau volunteers live in the dormitory of the Academy of the Sacred Heart.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applicants should submit one copy of the materials listed below to Sr. Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ. All materials are contained in this packet.

For more detailed information regarding costs, housing, etc. please contact Sr. De Stefanis directly at idestefanis@rscj.org or call 914-323-5135 (day).

- Application form
- 2 Reference forms (in sealed envelopes)
- Emergency form
- Check for **\$300.00*** made payable to Sacred Heart Service Project)
- Mail all in one envelope to: Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ
Manhattanville College
2900 Purchase Street
Purchase, NY 10577

** The \$300.00 participation fee DOES NOT include airfare to and from the service site or personal spending.*

**Application DUE:
April 20, 2008**

San Luis Potosí, Mexico

San Luis Potosí is a large city located in the north-central part of Mexico, about 260 miles north of Mexico City.

Volunteers work with children ages 4-12 in the RSCJ-sponsored *Programa de Educación Popular/ Iyolosiwa*. Sacred Heart volunteers make a summer camp experience possible for more than 200 children.

In addition, volunteers work with teens serving as friends and mentors.

Volunteers live in pairs with host families in the neighborhood where they work.

Conversational Spanish is required.

Grand Coteau, Louisiana, USA

Grand Coteau is a rural town of just over 1,000 people, located about 3 hours from New Orleans.

Volunteers work with children and teens ages 6 and up at the *Thensted Center's* Summer Enrichment Program. This program provides children with educational, cultural and recreational activities. Still recovering from the aftermath of Katrina this serves as the only camp available to the children in this area.

Volunteers will also spend time in New Orleans serving and learning about the continued environmental, social and economic impact of Katrina.

Volunteers live in the dormitory of the

SACRED HEART INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT



APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Female** **Male**

E-mail: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Mailing address: _____

Service Site Preference (Check one only):

- I am only interested in San Luis Potosí, SLP, Mexico
- I am only interested in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, USA
- I am willing to go wherever more volunteers are needed

Language proficiency: (Please complete both language sections)

Spanish

I studied _____ years of high school Spanish

I studied _____ semesters of university Spanish

I am from a Spanish-speaking country: _____

I have spent time in a Spanish-speaking country: _____ (years) _____ (months)

In Spanish I can get by I am proficient I am fluent

English

I studied _____ years of high school English

I studied _____ semesters of university English

I am from an English-speaking country: _____

I have spent time in an English-speaking country: _____ (years) _____ (months)

In English I can get by I am proficient I am fluent

Travel abroad: (check all that apply)

_____ I studied abroad in (country) _____ in (year) _____

_____ I have participated in another service project abroad (indicate where, for how long & what you did)

_____ I have traveled extensively on my own and/or with family (please specify)

_____ I have lived in another country (specify place & years)

References: List the names of your references below

1. From a service context: _____ (REQUIRED)
2. Instructor, advisor, employer: _____ (REQUIRED)
3. A Religious of the Sacred Heart _____ (OPTIONAL)

1. List all your volunteer service activities in the last 2-3 years beginning with the *most recent*:

Project Name	Institution/Organization	Activity/Service	Dates (from –to)

SACRED HEART INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT



REFERENCE FORM

(From a SERVICE CONTEXT)

Name of applicant: _____

Desired service site: _____

Name of reference: _____

E-mail: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

TO THE REFERENCE: We would appreciate your opinion of the applicant's capacity to live and work as part of an international group engaged in a two-week service project in his/her desired service site. Using the chart below please provide as much information as possible about the applicant in comparison to his/her peers.

Please check the appropriate box for each of the personal characteristics.

	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	Lack of information
Motivation						
Leadership ability						
Level of maturity						
Openness to ideas or ways of doing things different from his/her own						
Self-awareness						
Dependability						
Ability to work with different types of people (e.g., race, age, class, culture)						
Initiative						
Sensitivity to others						
Maintains composure in stressful situations						
Reflective						
Commitment to social change through service						
Proficiency in conversational Spanish						

Please include a letter that would help us to better know this applicant & how well she/he would work in a total immersion service project as part of an international group of young people.

SACRED HEART INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT



REFERENCE FORM
(Instructor, advisor, employer, or RSCJ)

Name of applicant: _____
 Name of reference: _____
 Desired service site: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Relationship to applicant: _____
 How long have you known the applicant? _____

TO THE REFERENCE: We would appreciate your opinion of the applicant's capacity to live and work as part of an international group engaged in a two-week service project in his/her desired service site. Using the chart below please provide as much information as possible about the applicant in comparison to his/her peers.

Please check the appropriate box for each of the personal characteristics.

	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	Lack of information
Motivation						
Leadership ability						
Level of maturity						
Openness to ideas or ways of doing things different from his/her own						
Self-awareness						
Dependability						
Ability to work with different types of people (e.g., race, age, class, culture)						
Initiative						
Sensitivity to others						
Maintains composure in stressful situations						
Reflective						
Commitment to social change through service						
Proficiency in conversational Spanish						

Please include a letter that would help us to better know this applicant & how well she/he would work in a total immersion service project as part of an international group of young people.

SACRED HEART INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT



July 4 – 26, 2008

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Name: _____

Passport Information:

Country: _____ Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Contact Information:

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name (#1): _____ Relationship: _____

Daytime tel.: _____ Evening tel.: _____

Cell: _____

Name (#2): _____ Relationship: _____

Daytime tel.: _____ Evening tel.: _____

Cell: _____

Medical Information:

Blood type: _____

I am allergic to the following medications:

I am taking the following medications:

I am allergic to the following foods:

Is there any additional medical information that the staff should know about?

My insurance carrier has certified to me that the following policy that is currently in force will cover me while I am abroad:

Name of company: _____

Address: _____

Policy No. _____

Valid through (date): _____

I further understand that I am responsible for providing my coverage for health, accident, medical and hospital in the event that I should need any services while participating in this service project.

Name: _____

Program: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE INSURED. IF YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE INSURANCE THAT WILL COVER MEDICAL-RELATED EXPENSES IN MEXICO OR THE U.S. YOU MUST PURCHASE A COVERAGE PLAN. THIS IS FOR YOUR PROTECTION!!!

International Student Exchange (ISE) ID cards are one option. The *ISE* ID card is an internationally recognized identification & discount card available to students, youth between the ages of 12 & 26 years & faculty. Cards cost approximately \$25.00 (U.S.). Please call 800.368.7878 (North America) or visit their website at <http://www.isecard.com/isecard/about.html> for more information or to order your card.