



Stonehill College Service Immersion

August 2019

Dear Medical Provider:

Your patient has asked you to provide medical clearance prior to embarking on a service immersion trip with Stonehill College's H.O.P.E. Service Immersion Program. This letter is meant to provide additional information and context to these experiences so you can best advise your patient prior to any potential trip.

H.O.P.E.

Throughout the year, H.O.P.E. provides students with the transformational opportunity to learn with and from others in a variety of marginalized communities, encountering multiple stressors and finding themselves frequently out of their usual comfort zones through many of the experiences they may encounter. On each experience, students will serve within rural or urban poverty settings with all meals, accommodations, and transportation provided. At times, this may include travel via public transportation. Living in solidarity with those they are serving with, participants may share one room with all participants and employees while having limited access to showers due to the availability of facilities and/or clean water. While on site, students will explore complex social justice issues and may hear testimony from people who have been through trauma. Student cell phone use will be restricted and devices will be locked away for the duration of the experience, eliminating communication with typical support networks. Students will be expected to eat in community with their delegation with food provided by site.

H.O.P.E. offers three types of immersions that, in addition to the above, have their own unique characteristics:

Domestic Driving Service Immersions

Students who are selected for a domestic driving immersion can spend up to 18 hours over two days driving to and from their site.

Domestic Flying Service Immersions

Students who are selected for a domestic flying immersion will have cost efficient airfare so departures may be in the middle of the night. Approved drivers will be asked to transport students to and from sites in rented vehicles. Students may be staying in a homestay setting.

International Service Immersions

Students who are selected for an international immersion will have cost efficient airfare so departures may be in the middle of the night. Students will need to have resiliency to deal with the challenges of international travel. Accommodations can include latrines, cots and the air quality may have much dirt or dust.

When you evaluate the student for travel, please keep the above characteristics in mind as you consider their clearance. We welcome any suggestion you may provide as to which immersion you think would be best.

Sincerely,

MaryAnne Davey, MA

Assistant Director of Campus Ministry