H.O.P.E. 2018-2019 Information Guidebook

H - Honoring our Neighbor
O - Organizing for Justice
P - Practicing Peace
E - Encountering God
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Mission Statement

What is HOPE?

H.O.P.E. is a service immersion experience dedicated to understanding the root causes of social injustice by becoming global citizens. Participants learn how to promote peace and equity by living in solidarity and serving with underserved communities. Students are empowered to create a more just and compassionate world by: educating the mind and spirit, promoting advocacy work, and taking action in the spirit of the Holy Cross.

The Four Tenants

Honoring our Neighbor

We seek to walk alongside people in the communities to which we travel, showing our love and concern for them mostly by our presence and by any service we are asked to provide.

Organizing for Justice

By encountering situations of injustice domestically and internationally, we seek to name the underlying causes of these situations; that we might be able to work towards their resolution.

Practicing Peace

We foster and build relationships with communities to promote nonviolent understanding amongst varying cultures at home and abroad, in an effort to end indifference and ignorance.

Encountering God

Rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the Gospel, we are open to finding the living God amongst those who are suffering injustices.
Proposed Schedules

**Your site or the program may have additional meetings not listed here. Committee work, fundraising and other preparations will require additional time commitments outside of the presented schedule.**

### Winter Immersions

**Information Sessions:**
- **Cleary Dining Room**
- **September 4th, 5th & 6th 12:00pm or 5:30pm**

**Applications due:**
- **Monday, September 17th, by 5:00pm**

**International Interviews:**
- **Wednesday, September 19th – Friday, September 28th**

**Applicants notified about acceptance:**
- **Friday, October 5th by 5:00pm**

**Participant Non-Refundable Deposit & Pre-travel health forms due:**
- **Friday, October 12th, by 5:00pm**

**Participant Orientation:**
- **Wednesday, October 17th, 6:30-8:00 pm**  
  *For those who have submitted all forms and fee payments*

**Wednesday Night Group Meetings:**
- **October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 28, & December 5th 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

**Send-Off Mass:**
- **Sunday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. Mass**

**Group Fundraising Deadline:**
- **Friday, November 30th by 5:00 p.m.**

**Final Payments Due:**
- **Friday, December 7th, by 5:00 p.m.**

**Winter Immersions:**
- **Saturday, January 5th - Saturday, January 12th**

**Re-Entry Gathering:**
- **Wednesday, January 16th, 23rd & 30th 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

**Re-Entry Gathering:**
- **Wednesday, March 20th, 6:30-8:00p.m.**

**Advocacy Day (on the Quad):**
- **Wednesday, April 17th, 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**
Spring Immersions

Information Sessions: September 4\textsuperscript{th}, 5\textsuperscript{th} & 6\textsuperscript{th} 12:00pm or 5:30pm
*Cleary Dining Room

Applications due: Monday, September 17\textsuperscript{th}, by 5:00pm

International Interviews: Wednesday, September 19\textsuperscript{th} – Friday, September 28\textsuperscript{th}

Applicants notified about acceptance: Friday, October 5\textsuperscript{th} by 5:00pm

Participant Non-Refundable Deposit & Pre-travel health forms due: Friday, October 12\textsuperscript{h}, by 5:00pm

Participant Orientation: Wednesday, October 17\textsuperscript{th}, 6:30-8:00 pm
*For those who have submitted all forms and fee payments

Wednesday Night Group Meetings: January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, & 27 6:30-8:00pm

Group Fundraising Deadline: Friday, February 8\textsuperscript{th} by 5:00pm

Final Payments Due: Friday, February 15\textsuperscript{th} by 5:00pm

Send-Off Mass: Sunday, February 24\textsuperscript{th} at 7:00 p.m. Mass

Spring Immersions: March 2\textsuperscript{nd} -10\textsuperscript{th}

Re-Entry Site Group Meeting: Wednesday, March 13\textsuperscript{th}, 20\textsuperscript{th}, 27\textsuperscript{th}, April 4\textsuperscript{th} 6:30-8:00 p.m

Re-Entry Gathering: Wednesday, March 20\textsuperscript{th}, 6:30-8:00p.m.

Advocacy Day (on the Quad): Wednesday, April 17\textsuperscript{th}, 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
May Immersions

Information Sessions: September 4th 5th & 6th 12:00pm or 5:30pm
* Cleary Dining Hall

Applications due: Monday, September 17th, by 5:00pm

International Interviews: Wednesday, September 19th – Friday, September 28th

Applicants notified about acceptance: Friday, October 5th by 5:00pm

Participant Non-Refundable Deposit & Pre-travel health forms due: Friday, October 12th, by 5:00pm

Participant Orientation: Wednesday, October 17th, 6:30-8:00 pm
*For those who have submitted all forms and fee payments

Wednesday Night Large Group Meetings: January 30th February 27th & March 20th 6:30-8:00pm

Wednesday Night Small Group Meetings: March 27th, April 3rd, 10th & 24th, May 1st 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Group Fundraising Deadline Friday, April 26th

Final Payments Due: Friday, May 3rd, by 5:00 p.m.

Advocacy Day (on the Quad): Wednesday, April 17th, 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Send-Off Mass: Sunday, April 28th, at 7:00 p.m. Mass

May Immersions: May 19th -26th, 2017
Requirements

Wednesday Night Meetings
All participants are required to attend meetings on Wednesday nights. If you have a class in the fall on a Wednesday night but are applying for the spring semester you are able to participate. If you are applying for a winter immersion, you must attend Wednesday night meetings and thus cannot have a class from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the fall semester. You cannot take a Wednesday night class in the spring semester if you are applying for the spring or summer programs. If you do apply for the spring or summer immersions and then take a Wednesday night class in the spring semester, you are responsible for the entire cost of your trip and will not be allowed to participate in the program.

Study Abroad Applicants
Anyone who is studying abroad in the fall semester may apply only for the H.O.P.E. Domestic spring immersions or May domestic immersions. No exceptions.

Attendance
The orientation meetings are mandatory. If you miss more than one meeting you will need to meet separately with the H.O.P.E. Program Director to discuss your commitment to the program and possible dismissal.

Application
The applications will be available on in August on the Campus Ministry website. You may apply online for either H.O.P.E. Domestic or H.O.P.E. International. You will need to fill out a travel medical release form in consultation with your doctor. Please be mindful of this as you apply and take your medical needs seriously. Your health is the most important aspect of your life!

Due Dates
The applications are due on September 17th by 5:00 p.m. The application will be online and a timestamp will be attached. You are thus unable to apply after the deadline. No exceptions.

Behavior Requiring Disciplinary Action
All students who apply for H.O.P.E. are required to abide by Stonehill College’s Student Code of Conduct. Anyone who breaches this policy will be adjudicated by the Office of Community Standards. Your posture and actions reflect the college at all times and thus a deep level of responsibility and appropriate behavior is expected prior to departure, on the immersion and after returning to campus. All students will be vetted through the Academic Services and Dean of Students Office for travel clearance before each immersion.
Trigger Warning

What Can Be Triggering through H.O.P.E.?

H.O.P.E. in and of itself will create anxiety in the most healthy of people. When thinking of applying for H.O.P.E., please remember the following scenarios are possible:

- Driving upwards of 18 hours to location
- Sharing small space with entire delegation
- Experiencing rural or urban poverty
- Limited access to showering
- Restricted communication with support networks
- Possible homestay within a different cultural context
- Testimony from people who have been through trauma
- Learning about privilege and oppression
- Not controlling food options
- Uncontrollable travel delays or changes
- Learning about justice issues and everyday struggles of others

Be Mindful

Knowing your limits is the most important aspect of living a healthy life. If you believe these types of experiences may be too much for you right now, it is best to wait until you have further developed resiliency in coping. Speak with your therapists, family and medical providers for honest reflection on your abilities to handle the stress of travel. If you are triggered on these immersions beyond your comfort level, your presence could have an impact on the group dynamic and receiving community. The staff and student leaders who travel with you will notify the H.O.P.E. Director about possible issues that come up so you can adequately get the help you may need.

Support Upon Return

If you encounter a very triggering experience, the staff or student leader will follow-up with the H.O.P.E. Director. The Campus Minister may follow-up with you directly and encourage you to avail yourself of services at the college for further care and health. In some cases, the Campus Minister may go directly to the Dean of Students to set in motion a plan of care for your well-being. Your health and well-being are of primary concern at all times.
Cell Phone Policy

“Presence is a gift that we give each other.”

Domestic Cell Phone Policy:
In solidarity with the individuals we are serving, cell phones MAY NOT be used while on site. Cell phones will be locked away in a “cell phone island” bag. Students may use their cell phones only during travel times as other times (meals, reflection, group bonding, travel to and from the worksite each day, etc.) should be spent connecting with the other students and leaders. The purpose of this guideline is for students to be present and in the moment thinking about the H.O.P.E. experience, instead of constantly focusing on engaging with friends and family back home. Family and friends may listen to the H.O.P.E hotline for updates on their students’ trip. If a student (or family) does not feel comfortable not having contact with their family (or student) for the entirety of the trip, the student SHOULD NOT apply for a H.O.P.E immersion.

International Cell Phone Policy:
Students that happen to have international service phone plans must abide by the domestic cell phone policy guidelines. If a student does not have an international service phone plan, they MAY NOT make personal phone calls to friends and family with the employee phone. Their family may listen to the H.O.P.E. hotline which will be given to the students and families before departure so family and friends can listen for updates on their students’ trip. If a student (or family) does not feel comfortable not having contact with their family (or student) for the entirety of the trip, the student SHOULD NOT apply for an international H.O.P.E immersion.

Large Group & Small Group Meetings Cell Phone Policy:
Students MAY NOT use cell phones during Large & Small Group Meetings. Leaders will have a “cell phone island” bin to collect student cell phones at the beginning of the meeting and return them at the conclusion of the meeting. This policy is to ensure active participation in the discussions and prepare for the cell phone separation during the H.O.P.E. immersion.
Costs and Finances

Costs

Domestic immersions have been funded greatly by a grant. The college does not give the Office of Campus Ministry funding for the H.O.P.E. immersions so it is your responsibility to fundraise and pay for your experience. If you are unable to pay for your immersion and still go on said trip, a hold will be placed on your account until the payment has been made in full for the trip.

Payment Due Dates

At the time of acceptance on October 5th, students will be given a time when they are to confirm their participation in the program. At the time they commit to the program, they will need to put down a non-refundable deposit toward the administrative costs of the program in the amounts of $200 for the domestic sites and $250 for international sites. If they decide not to participate in the program after payment is given, then we will fill the open space with someone from the waitlist and keep the deposit.

Fundraising Requirements

In the fall, students will work diligently to fundraise for the cost of their experience. They will work with their group to bring in money for their delegation and all collected money will be a tax write off for the giver and also will go to bring down the cost of the trip for all participants. Students will be notified of the cost per person after all the group fundraising has been completed. This remaining balance can be paid directly by the student via online payment or directly to the H.O.P.E. Director. All payments will be due prior to departure of the immersions. To make this less of a financial burden on yourself and your family, it is HIGHLY recommended you be innovative with your fundraising efforts! All winter and summer immersion students will need to pay the remaining balance by Reading Day to ensure participation in the program.

Scholarship Information

Please be prudent in your selection of sites based on the financial need you have and the cost of the experiences. You may apply for scholarships but know that there are many students who need scholarships to be able to participate in the program, and preference will be given based on need.
Important Definitions to Inform for Your H.O.P.E. Application:

**Mission Trip:** A mission trip can be domestic or international, where participants enter into a community and engage with members in hopes of using their faith and image of God to evangelize. Direct service is generally partaken in during a mission trip as well as building of churches or working in religiously affiliated schools is typical.

**Service Trip:** A service trip is a traditional experience in which a group lives in community with people they are serving, generally in an area different than their home community and provides a direct service to that group such as building, delivering food, stocking shelves, tangible outcomes of hardwork which mean a lot to the receiving communities.

**Voluntourism:** An experience which comes from pre-planned travel and includes service and tourism. Usually done more as a cultural experience for the participant and less to learn about the community or understand the structures that oppress populations. The experience can be valuable, but not engaging with the community or reflecting on the experience and the impact on both parties is unsustainable and at times more harmful than helpful. The focus is more on the experience of the traveler than on the sustainable change or cultural respect of the population encountered. **HOPE is not voluntourism.**

**Immersion Trip:** Immersion is an alternative break or course experience in which learning is the focus. One is immersed and totally engaged with a community though they may not be doing direct service. Participants on immersions have conversations, and learn from community members of a marginalized group, without a tangible outcome. Immersions focus on systemic change and understanding structures in place that create society today. The focus is less on the individual experiences of building homes or serving food, rather on sustainable change and respect of the population encountered.
Sustainability, Environmental Justice, Elder Care

Kearneysville, WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia HOPE immersion is focused on the issues of sustainability, environmental justice, poverty, and elderly care. In West Virginia, hydraulic fracturing or fracking, mountain top removal, and lack of access to food are some of the key issues that surround the area. The land is commonly exploited and the people who live there often have to suffer from this exploitation because West Virginia is rich in natural resources. The state also has an extremely high elderly population, many of whom have no caretakers near by. Participants of the West Virginia immersion will work with the Appalachian Institute at Wheeling Jesuit University to learn about these issues and the true value of community. Additionally, they will give their services to a variety of programs such as a community run garden, food pantries, soup kitchens, elderly care facilities and many others.

“The experience was very inclusive and engaging. Every person in our group had strengths that helped everyone succeed with helping the people of West Virginia! I wouldn’t change anything about my experience because I know we all put in our best effort and commitment into the sole purpose of helping others! We also learned a lot about each other, as well as ourselves, through teamwork and reflections!”

– Kevin Dudley, Class of 2019

FAST FACTS:

- Spring Break
- Trip size: 10
- Direct Service & Immersion elements
- Actual cost: $700, Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 deposit ONLY
- Website: www.wju.edu/ai/immersion.asp
Community Center, Home Repair, Rural Poverty
Cosby, TENNESSEE

HOPE Tennessee participants will have the opportunity of serving communities surrounding the Sunset Gap Community Center. They will be assisting in home reconstruction for underprivileged families that would not be able to finance or execute repairs otherwise. Many people living in the part of Tennessee are stricken by poverty. Participants learn about the locals’ situations and their appreciated land. Other services and programs that the Sunset Gap Community Center offers include, but certainly are not limited to, food pantries, thrift shops, and bible camps.

“The Tennessee HOPE experience to Sunset Gap Community Center is such a wholesome experience. It truly enhances both your body and soul because of the people you meet there and the beautiful place itself, right in the middle of the mountains. The experience was truly unforgettable on so many levels.”
– Mike Everett, Class of 2019

FAST FACTS:

• Spring Break
• Direct Service
• Trip size: 10
• Actual cost: $1500 Stonehill Cost With Grant: $200 Deposit ONLY
• Website: www.sunsetgap.com
Civil Rights, Race, Political Advocacy

Atlanta, GEORGIA

HOPE Georgia participants have a truly immersive and educational experience working with Lydia’s House in Atlanta. Groups learn a great deal about the life and the nonviolence principles Dr. King in addition to the Civil Rights Movement. Based on King’s beliefs, nonviolence was the driving force behind the Montgomery Bus Boycotts, Nashville sit-ins, and the Selma to Montgomery marches. The experience walks in the footsteps of Dr. King and will be run in collaboration with the Office of Intercultural Affairs.

“The Atlanta experience was overall rewarding. I say rewarding because it was a learning experience for all of us – emotionally, mentally, & physically. We got a chance to come together and spend a week learning about how the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s still has a connection to our world today in 2018 and how we can use some of MLK’s teachings towards our everyday life.”

–Cris DePina, Class of 2018

FAST FACTS:

- Winter Break
- Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $1500 Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 deposit and $500 Travel Fee
- Website: http://www.lydiashouse.net/
Hunger, Homelessness, Poverty
Phoenix, ARIZONA

HOPE Arizona participants travel to the city of Phoenix where they have the opportunity to experience the mission of the Andre House of Hospitality. This organization, which provides a wide variety of services to the population of Phoenix experiencing homelessness, was established through the Congregation of Holy Cross and grew out of the Catholic Worker Movement. During their time at the Andre House, the group assists the staff as they serve meals and provide services including access to laundry, showers and other necessities that their guests might otherwise have to do without.

"I find it quite difficult to come up with the right words to describe my HOPE experience in Phoenix. The relationships I developed with peers, volunteer staff, and guests will be cherished in my heart forever. I am blessed to have experienced the beauty of the Andre House and will continue to carry out its mission of love and hospitality throughout my lifetime."

– Colleen Pekrul, Class of 2020

FAST FACTS:

- Spring Break
- Direct Service & Immersion
- Trip size: 7
- Actual cost: $1700; Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 Deposit and $500 Travel Fee
- Website: http://andrehouse.org/
Human Trafficking
Miami, FLORIDA

The HOPE Miami group works with the Life of Freedom Center, which is a community center that provides free support and restorative programs for female survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. This HOPE group takes part in an immersion which prepares students to effectively mobilize and respond to domestic sex trafficking and serve survivors, along with children and young adults at risk of being enslaved. The multi-day immersion includes workshops lead by experienced trainers and hours of field practice opportunities such as visits to the law enforcement officer, service project with local organizations, daytime street outreach, phone outreach, and stories from a survivor.

“...It was truly an eye opening and enlightening experience to be able to learn and to become exposed to so much about human trafficking, a subject that many individuals are unaware occurs in our country. One quote from our host that has stuck with me ever since stated that ‘no one can do everything, but everyone can do something’. I truly feel as though this applies to the principles and goals of the HOPE program itself and empowers all to make a positive change in social justice issues affecting the world.”

– Katie Konieczy, Class of 2018

FAST FACTS:
- Winter Break
- Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $1700; Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 Deposit and $500 Travel Fee
- Website: https://www.lofcenter.org
Indigenous Community, Environmental
Santa Fe, NEW MEXICO

This HOPE group travels to Santa Fe, NM and focuses on Native American and immigration injustices. While there, participants work in partnership with the Community Learning Network in a variety of ways, such as food service and pantries and construction work. This experience involves learning about ancient Native traditions through both immersion and service. Additionally, participants hear about day laborers’ individual immigration stories and struggles. Sustainability and the connection of people to nature are topics of interest that are encountered every day in New Mexico.

“On my experience this past winter to New Mexico, we were able to focus on indigenous people’s rights and poverty in the area. We worked on a Native American farm, did restoration on a Catholic convent, and took in the awesome culture New Mexico has to offer. One of my favorite parts of the experience was being able to interact with many different cultures yet see how we are all still alike in so many ways. NM definitely provided me with new perspectives and I think we left a little piece of Stonehill in the Southwest as well.”

–Ian Vescera, Class of 2019

FAST FACTS:
- Winter Break
- Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $2000; Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 Deposit and $500 Travel Fee
- Website: http://www.communitylearningnetwork.org/
Urban Poverty
Washington, D.C.

At the Steinbruck Center in Washington, D.C., participants tackle the social justice issue of urban poverty and other social justice issues that intersect. The Steinbruck Center provides an urban immersion experience that consists of not only education but also, direct service, experiential learning and critical analysis/reflection. The HOPE group gains awareness, reflects and is inspired to return as agents of change to address root causes of poverty in their home communities. The HOPE group explores the city of Washington, D.C and learns about the history, participates in workshops, direct service work and much more.

“Being the very first group to travel to DC with the HOPE Program we had no idea what to expect, but when we left we all agreed that we could not have asked for a more transformative experience. HOPE DC taught us to believe and respect the inherent dignity of each person. It gave us not only the passion, but also the tools to be individuals who always act with compassion. It reminded us that above all, we are all human beings, a fact that is so often overlooked, but made a lasting impact on each of us as we left DC.”

– Samantha Miller, Class of 2018

FAST FACTS:
- Winter Break
- Direct Service & Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $1500; **Stonehill Cost with Grant:** $200 Deposit ONLY
- Website: https://www.steinbruckcenter.org
Hunger, Homelessness, Poverty, Mental Health

Portland, OREGON

This immersion focuses on the social justice issues of hunger and homelessness as well as community healthcare and mental health. Volunteers mainly serve with the hospitality ministry at St. Andre Bessette Church in downtown Portland. Some of the community programs run by St. Andre include an art program, a foot care program, a food pantry, and fellowship groups. Participants also engage in service with the following organizations: Operation Nightwatch, Central City Concern, and L'Arche Portland. During the week long service immersion, students learn about poverty in the Portland area and build community with those who are hungry, homeless, mentally ill, recovering from drug addiction and abuse, and living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“...Truly changed many of my perspectives on the issue of homelessness in the United States...HOPE Portland will expose you to the real-life trials faced by those suffering from homelessness, and will provide you with a much clearer understanding on how you can make a difference...upon returning home...We engaged in different direct service experiences and immersed ourselves in the economic and housing problems facing Portland.”

–Tyler Howley, Class of 2019

FAST FACTS:

- Spring Break
- Direct Service & Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $1800; **Stonehill Cost with Grant:** $200 Deposit and $500 Travel Fee
- Website: http://saintandrechurch.org/
The HOPE Ware experience travels to the Agape Community. While there, participants immerse themselves into a life centered around sustainability and non-violence. They learn about different ways to live in an environmentally sustainable manner and about the value of a reflective retreat-like lifestyle that abstains from violence. The community operates solely off donations and requires upkeep for those visiting. Therefore, participants on this immersion take part in a variety of services that keep the community going. Together they reflect on their service, lifestyle, and the value of community.

“HOPE Ware was such a peaceful learning and working experience. What resonated with me the most from this experience was how much faith is implemented in the lives of those of the Agape community through their relationship with nature. I learned so much about sustainability and how I can change my life at home, even in some simple ways, from this experience. It opened my eyes to the fast pace of life and the focus on material things – a way of life that might not always be so fulfilling.”

– Rachel Riani, Class of 2019

FAST FACTS:

- Summer Break
- Direct Service
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $400; **Stonehill Cost with Grant:** $200 Deposit ONLY
- Website: agapecommunity.org
Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
Haverhill, MASSACHUSETTS

In Haverhill HOPE participants work with the L’Arche Community and encounter social justice issues pertaining to intellectual and developmental disabilities. L’Arche is made up of multiple houses, each with “core members” or people with disabilities and full time volunteers. HOPE Haverhill spends time with the core members and assists the care takers in cooking and cleaning the homes and other services based on needs of the community. The delegation immerses themselves in the L’Arche community and learns about the social exclusion barriers faced by people with various disabilities. More than anything, participants take an adventure in learning

“"Being in a welcoming community of assistants and core members taught me the true meaning of love and faith. Sharing time and being present with people in community is so important, not only in L'Arche, but in your day-to-day life.”

– Kristen Grip, Class of 2018

FAST FACTS:

- Winter Break
- Direct Service with Immersion Elements
- Trip size: 6
- Actual cost: $500; **Stonehill Cost with Grant:** $200 Deposit ONLY
- Website: https://www.larcheusa.org/who-we-are/communities/bostonmassachusetts/
Migrant Work, Farmworker Rights & Immigration

Apopka, FLORIDA

HOPE Florida participants are truly immersed in a migrant worker lifestyle working alongside clients of the Hope CommUnity Center. Volunteers live with host families, work in produce fields, and understand the injustices that happen within our immigration system. The service portion of this immersion is spent working alongside the community in the nursery, planting, cleaning and other needed tasks. In the afternoons, the groups come together for learning modules to explore issues surrounding immigration in the United States. First hand testimony and experience is shared from people who are undocumented thus leaving participants transformed forever.

“Going on my first HOPE experience to Apopka, Florida was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. Learning about immigration and farm workers rights was eye opening and this trip also sparked my passion for other areas of social justice. I learned that as individuals we have the opportunity to use our voice and make a change and that’s what I plan to do.”

– Erin Flanagan, Class of 2020

FAST FACTS:

- Summer Break
- Direct Service & Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $1500; Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 Deposit and $500 Travel Fee
- Website: http://hcc-offm.org/
Hurricane Relief Work
New Orleans, LOUISIANA

This HOPE experience works with the SBP in New Orleans. The effects of Hurricane Katrina are still being felt today by thousands of people even 13 years after it occurred. Participants on this immersion experience social justice issues surrounding homelessness, poverty and disparity with relief work. The group takes part in construction work in an effort to serve those still suffering from the impact of the hurricane. Participants have the opportunity to meet the families they serve and hear their stories. The delegation is hosted by Camp Hope, a housing ministry to volunteers in New Orleans full of love and support.

“...going to New Orleans on a H.O.P.E. service immersion experience gives you the eyes (and ears) to discover how much light shines within people despite their suffering. Working with SBP, H.O.P.E. participants become part of the homeowner/s story; whether it is by putting up drywall in a soon-to-be children’s room or hanging siding, everyone works towards building a fresh start for an individual. The community of New Orleans teaches what hope truly means to someone who is challenged by adversity on a daily basis; hope gives those in the city the strength to move forward and see the good in a tragic event. Although there may be moments of being uncomfortable, each H.O.P.E. participant comes back with an urge to use their privilege to disseminate hope by advocating for justice in New Orleans.”

– Briana Lamari, Class of 2020

FAST FACTS:
- Winter Break
- Direct Service Elements
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $2000; Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 Deposit and $500 Travel Fee
- Website: http://sbpusa.org/
Indigenous Community, Land Rights, Immigration

Acadia National Park, Bangor, MAINE

This HOPE group travels to Maine and explores the topic of land rights, water rights, and the history of the Indigenous community in Maine working with International Partners in Mission. Additionally, the group learns about the and the injustices of Native Americans, specifically the Wabanaki tribe. The delegation meets and learns from the Latino immigrant community and delves into questions regarding justice for immigrants and refugees along with the rights of those whose land Maine was prior to the “founding” of America.

“ My HOPE experience in March was my first trip with the HOPE program, and I can say this opportunity was one of my favorite and most fulfilling experiences I have had at Stonehill. This experience really hit home as we met with the Wabanaki Native American tribe in Maine and realized Native peoples so close to home are struggling with claiming their rights. I was challenged on this trip to open up to different perspectives of Native American history such as learning the true owners of our land and the history of colonization. This trip was really important as in order to understand the struggles of Native peoples in our country and advocate for them, we must hear their story directly from them. It was very powerful learning that just by being there, we helped enable this healing process of overcoming the trauma of the past (and even present) and moving forward.”

– Caroline Grady, Class of 2018

FAST FACTS:

- Spring Break
- Immersion
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $500; Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 Deposit ONLY
- Website: https://www.ipmconnect.org/the-ipm-immersion-model
Immigration, Community Development, Civil Rights
San Diego, CALIFORNIA

Working with Via International, this HOPE delegation travels to the most highly trafficked border in the entire world and explores the topic of immigration. At the U.S./Mexico border, students learn from the Chicano community, an identity that makes up one third of the city’s population and that has been highly underrepresented politically. This group compares immigration stereotypes in the media with real-life stories. Students hear from community activists who bring reform to this large humanitarian issue. The group participates in community building workshops and learns the first-hand highlighted differences between life on both sides of the wall. Altogether, this delegation learns how those living only 15 miles from a border of two different societies work to counter the media’s stereotypes and continue to build a just and compassionate shared world.

“"I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to have visited Via International in San Diego and to have learned so much more about the misunderstood immigration issues that are affecting so much of the country. Through the experience I learned so much from the incredible Chicano community and I am so lucky to have since built a relationship with them! Everything about Barrio Logan and its community is inspiring.”

-Shannon Mutty, Class of 2019

FAST FACTS:
- Summer Break
- Immersion and Service
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $500; Stonehill Cost with Grant: $200 Deposit ONLY
- Website: http://www.viainternational.org/locations/san-diego
Working with the Holy Cross Mission, participants encounter a variety of social justice issues including poverty, education, and access to natural resources. HOPE Peru works with two apostolates of Holy Cross: a school called Fe y Alegria and a center for children with physical and intellectual disabilities founded by the Holy Cross Congregation called Yancana Huasy. Participants offer their time and presence while learning about the life of those they serve. The experience as a whole is largely focused on gaining an understanding of the immense poverty Peru. Close relationships developed with locals also provides participants with the opportunity to see past the poverty and be exposed to the generosity, compassion, and love that is inherent within the community of Canto Grande.

“My group and I put so much into learning about Peruvian culture, language, and the social justice issues in Canto Grande regarding disability, education, poverty, and access to resources. The best part of the experience was the connections we made to the community...serving in Peru was one of the most rewarding experiences of my Stonehill career, and I continue to be inspired by my time and the connections we've made to continue to strive towards a more just and compassionate world.”

-Charlotte Potter, Class of 2019

**FAST FACTS:**

- Spring Break
- Direct Service/ Immersion Elements
- Trip size: 10
- Actual cost: $2500
- Website: http://www.centropeyton.org/index.php
Women’s Empowerment, Education, Health & Nutrition, Micro-Finance
El Cercado, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This group travels to the El Cercado, Dominican Republic and explores Community Development & Micro Finance with Women’s groups. They visit the colonial Zone, historical sites in the downtown area of Santo Domingo. Then they travel to Hondo Valle, a community which closely borders Haiti and meet with IPM nutrition Project Partners. The group also meet women workers and learn about their work with the courts and certificates of live births, tour home gardens and greenhouses, visit health centers, hospital, etc. Not only does this immersion allow the group to learn about the history of the DR and the culture but it also looks into injustices in DR, such as access to clean water, health and nutrition as well as women’s empowerment and education.

“\nThe opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic provided me with both lifelong memories, and lifelong friends. You don’t realize how similar you are to someone halfway across the world, until you experience firsthand the privilege of communicating not with words, but with expressions. Thanks to organizations like H.O.P.E., I have been exposed to life changing experiences, such as this site in the D.R.\”

–Nancy Aleid, Class of 2020

FAST FACTS:
• Spring Break
• Direct Immersion Elements
• Trip size: 10
• Actual cost: $2500
• Website: https://www.ipmconnect.org/the-ipm-immersion-model