

**NATIONAL PROJECT**  
**URBAN IMPACT MINISTRIES**  
**AND**  
**CASTLE ROCK**  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**



*New Orleans 2007*

September 12, 2006

Dear Youth Worker,

Greetings from New Orleans, in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This letter is to inform you of next summer's (2007) youth mission projects.

For many who have come in the past, the trip to New Orleans has been a life changing experience. Student missionaries leave with a new outlook and perspective on life and a deeper relationship with Christ. Sponsors leave with new opportunities for talking with their youth group about some real life issues and how God can use them to mold and shape us for His use.

Because of Hurricane Katrina and the breaches in the levees, those areas in New Orleans that were affected are still in dire need of help. The cleaning up process is a marathon, not a sprint. We will be cleaning up the city and people's homes for a long time. Our program this summer will include work teams to help with the clean-up, do Challenge Circle and VBS.

Enclosed you will find a planning manual with details for next summer. We fill up quickly, so if you are interested, please get your group information sheet and deposits sent in as early as possible. That is the only way that your group will be guaranteed a spot in next summers schedule.

Thanks again for your time. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 504-523-5556 or you may email us at [np2007@urbanimpact.org](mailto:np2007@urbanimpact.org) May God bless and empower you as you minister to the leaders of tomorrow.

In HIS Love,

Joan Hathaway  
National Project Registration  
and Information Coordinator

# The Mission of National Project:

- Evangelism and outreach to the Central City area of New Orleans
- To provide a cross-cultural ministry experience for senior high students and their youth workers.

## What to Expect.

Since 1989 Urban Impact has been welcoming mission teams from across the country to partner in transforming the Central City of New Orleans. Teams are invited to join us in relational ministry opportunities and possible work projects. Relational ministries **may** include *Challenge Circle*, *Vacation Bible School*, and *Recreational Opportunities*. Challenge Circle is a nightly outreach into the housing projects of New Orleans. Through games similar to the AWANA circle, but molded to the urban environment, student missionaries are given the opportunity to share their faith and the love of God with the children of New Orleans. This summer's *Work Projects* **may** consist of cleaning up streets and empty lots, some light demolition, and some light construction. This summer will be the 17<sup>th</sup> year of High School mission teams.

## When Can I Come?

### WEEK 1     June 9-16

Arrive:        Between 3 & 5 PM on June 9 (supper provided)  
Depart:        8 AM on June 16 (breakfast on your own)

### WEEK 2     June 16-23

Arrive:        Between 3 & 5 PM on June 16 (supper provided)  
Depart:        8 AM on June 23 (breakfast on your own)

### WEEK 3     June 23-30

Arrive:        Between 3 & 5 PM on June 23 (supper provided)  
Depart:        8 AM on June 30 (breakfast on your own)

### WEEK 4     July 7-14

Arrive:        Between 3 & 5 PM on July 7 (supper provided)  
Depart:        8 AM on July 14 (breakfast on your own)

### WEEK 5     July 14-21

Arrive:        Between 3 & 5 PM on July 14 (supper provided)  
Depart:        8 AM on July 21 (breakfast on your own)

### WEEK 6     July 21 – July 28

Arrive:        Between 3 & 5 PM on July 21 (supper provided)  
Depart:        8 AM on July 28 (breakfast on your own)

### WEEK 7     July 28 – August 4

Arrive:        Between 3 & 5 PM on July 28 (supper provided)  
Depart:        8 AM on August 4 (breakfast on your own)

## WHO CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN?

1. *Senior High students who have completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade by the time they come. This requirement is essential when dealing with levels of spiritual maturity.* Please respect this boundary as something essential to ministering effectively to our neighborhood.
2. All students must register through their church and be accompanied by a youth worker.
3. You may bring 1 adult youth worker for every 10 students.
4. You may bring up to 30 people **maximum** in your group.

## COSTS

*The cost is \$385/person.* This includes food, lodging, and ministry supplies. It does not cover transportation while in New Orleans. **Each group must have its own transportation to and from ministry sites in New Orleans.** Each student will need some spending money for snacks, souvenirs, etc. The amount needed will depend on individual spending habits. No major expenditures are expected upon arrival unless your group makes plans outside of our normal activities.

## REGISTRATION, PAYMENTS AND REFUND POLICY

1. A \$75 per person registration fee is due by December 15.  
*This fee is non-refundable but it may be transferred to a new participant from your church that has not already registered.*
  2. A second payment of \$155 per person is due on April 1.
  3. The balance due of \$155 per person is to be paid upon arrival.
- Note – your registration fee guarantees your spots. If you have a problem making the registration payment, please talk to us. We will try to work it out.

## PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Please send one check for the entire group before each deadline payable to **“Urban Impact Ministries.”** Place **“National Project”** in the memo section. Mail the checks to:

**Urban Impact Ministries  
National Project  
P.O. Box 50223  
New Orleans, LA 70150-0223**

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Since Urban Impact is run solely on donations we cannot afford to absorb any additional costs that may result from this project. If students cancel after their registrations are made those deposits will not be refunded but they are transferable. This insures that we will be able to plan and pay for activity costs.

## ONCE HERE

Below you will find a tentative schedule for each day of the week. Please keep in mind that this is tentative and that in inner-city ministry most plans change at least three times. Please prepare your students for that fact. At UIM, we live by the proverb ... “Blessed are the flexible for they will not be bent out of shape.”

**Note: Each group must have their own transportation while in New Orleans.**

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b><u>Day 1</u></b>    | Arrive 3-5 PM; get settled, welcome, rules, prayer  |
| <b><u>Day 2</u></b>    | Worship, Training, team building, prayer  |
| <b><u>Day 3</u></b>    | AM: Breakfast, Devotions, Worship, VBS Prep<br>Afternoon: VBS and Work Projects<br>PM: Challenge Circle, group time and free time |
| <b><u>Days 4-6</u></b> | AM: Breakfast, Devotions, Worship, VBS Prep<br>Afternoon: VBS and Work Projects<br>PM: Challenge Circle, group time and free time |
| <b><u>Day 7</u></b>    | AM: Off<br>Afternoon: VBS and Work Projects<br>PM: Challenge Circle<br>Group Celebration and Say So                               |
| <b><u>Day 8</u></b>    | Leave for home with a heart for missions.   |

## **TRAINING**

Urban Impact has a highly effective system for training your student missionaries. All training is done by UIM staff, and is designed to help your students hit the ground running.

When you arrive you will receive training in the following areas:

- Evangelism
- Safety when working and participating in activities
- How to run the Challenge Circle games
- How to handle tense situations and diffuse conflicts.
- How to keep children excited about participating in the activities
- Cross-Cultural awareness
- Prayer
- Worship

Since this is an intercultural ministry, we will also spend a great deal of time training your groups in the culture of the inner city. That is where the reading assignment plays an important part of the foundation for your group. Before your group arrives, we ask that each participant read the book **“And you call yourself a Christian”** by Dr. Robert Lupton. This will give you and your students some necessary background to prepare you for your cross-cultural experience in New Orleans.

Much of our training time will be spent in prayer. Only through prayer will anything sustaining happen during your ministry time here. We ask that each group member recruit a prayer partner.

## SAFETY

Whenever you speak of inner-city ministry in housing projects, many questions arise about safety. There are certain issues that are unique to inner city life. However, for the past 15+ years groups from all over the United States have come to New Orleans to be involved in the Challenge Circle. During those trips, nothing has happened to any member apart from a few sport injuries, which can happen anywhere.

The Challenge Circle ministry has enabled us to develop relationships throughout the entire city. We have permission from the city government to do the Challenge Circle on any city property. Once parents and other residents realize that we are from a church, we are generally received with open arms.

No person will be placed in any area of danger. We have targeted areas where we have already developed relationships with the local resident councils and the residents themselves.

## HOUSING AND FOOD

Groups will be housed in UIM's Yellow House. Bedding and towels are **not provided**. Meals will be provided at Castle Rock. **Please pack light!** You don't need a lot of different "outfits" and there is room for only a small duffel bag at the end of the bunks you will be sleeping on.

## FREE TIME

Groups may choose to see a multitude of cultural and historical sites on their own. There is no lack of things to do in New Orleans.

## DRESS

It is important for each missionary to understand that the message of Christ is shared both verbally and through their actions. Dress is one of those non-verbal ways in which the message is shared. With that in mind, we ask that all girls refrain from dressing in immodest ways. This is defined as shorts that are too short (no higher than the fingertips when the arm is extended straight down the leg), tops with spaghetti straps, halter tops, bare midriff, etc., and two-piece swim suits. Also, for males, "baggy" pants and shorts (those that reveal your underwear below the waistline) are not permitted. **Please inform your students not to bring such clothing.**

## DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

You may leave on Saturday morning after breakfast at 7 AM.

**IF** you must leave earlier, you can leave on Friday night after the closing ceremony. Your vehicles must be loaded with luggage, etc. before you come to the closing ceremony and parked by Castle Rock. ***Do not wait until after the closing ceremony to load your vehicles. You will not be allowed to come back into the Yellow House at that time!***

This procedure is for the comfort of all the groups and UIM staff so that everyone can get the sleep needed for traveling home and preparing for the next week's groups. **PLEASE DO NOT ASK US TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOUR GROUP!**

# NOW WHAT?

1. Pray! Don't think about leaving home without doing it.
2. Talk with your pastor, parents and students about it.
3. Determine any additional criteria that your students need to follow. Consider such things as group participation, past ministry involvement, pre-trip involvement in prayer, training, and additional things, which are unique to your group situation.
4. Develop a preliminary budget and fund-raising plan.
5. Put together an information sheet for parents and students. A video is available upon request.
6. Meet with parents and students to give them a clear picture of the project.
7. Go over the **Covenant of Participation** with everyone including your staff.
8. Pray for students who want to use their lives to impact others. We want students on this project who are convinced that Jesus is their Savior and who are looking for ways to serve Him in their Christian lives.
9. When you have one leader and one convinced student, make the decision to join the project.
10. Set deadlines for the students to commit to the project. Keep in mind deadlines outlined in this packet.
11. Have each participant, including youth workers, fill out a copy of the enclosed application and parents' permission slip. Make sure to keep a copy of everyone's application and parents' permission slip for yourself and mail the originals to UIM one month before your arrival.
12. **We need the T-shirt sizes for your group by April 30<sup>th</sup>. If we have not received your sizes by that date, we will have to make estimates that you will have to accept.**
13. Recruit prayer partners for each participant.

# Group Information Sheet

*Please complete and return ASAP*

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Head youth worker \_\_\_\_\_

WEEK COMING: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Coming:

Male:            Students \_\_\_\_\_    Adults \_\_\_\_\_    Total \_\_\_\_\_

Female:        Students \_\_\_\_\_    Adults \_\_\_\_\_    Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total registration fee (\$75 x total people coming)** \_\_\_\_\_

Does your group have any special talents (puppetry, drama, worship or etc.)? If so please describe.

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Have you been to UIM before?

Head Youth Worker \_\_\_\_\_ years

Youth Group \_\_\_\_\_ years

# Challenge Circle National Project Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Head Youth Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

**T-Shirt Size:**      **S**      **M**      **L**      **XL**      **XXL**

- Week Attending:       **WEEK 1**    **June 19-16**  
                                  **WEEK 2**    **June 16-23**  
                                  **WEEK 3**    **June 23-30**  
                                  **WEEK 4**    **July 7-14**  
                                  **WEEK 5**    **July 14-21**  
                                  **WEEK 6**    **July 21-28**  
                                  **WEEK 7**    **July 28-August 4**

Medical:

1. Are you currently under a doctor's care? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, for what reason? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you had any serious physical or emotional illness in the past 2 years? **Please explain**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. List medications taken regularly and give reasons. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. List allergies (food, medications, others) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have any physical limitations? **If so, please explain.**

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Give blood type. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Date of last tetanus shot: \_\_\_\_\_ **Must update if more than 5 years.**

8. Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Group number: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy number: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please share how you came to know Christ as your Savior?

10. Why do you want to come to New Orleans on this mission's project?

**Covenant of Participation**

**I agree** to obey all rules and follow the directions of the UIM staff and those of my own church leaders. **I will** refrain from any use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products. **I will not** use foul or inappropriate language. **I will**, to the best of my ability, foster group cohesiveness by refraining from behavior that may cause dissension, factions or discord. **I will** refrain from developing an exclusive relationship with a member of the opposite sex during my short-term mission in New Orleans in order to concentrate my efforts on this project. **I will** dress appropriately as defined by UIM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature (For all students regardless of age)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date