

Lebanon Valley College

OVERVIEW OF SERVICE TRIP TO NORTHERN IRELAND

July 25 – August 1, 2020

OVERVIEW

This trip will provide the opportunity for 10-15 LVC students, staff and faculty to take part in a 7-day service-learning experience that will focus on issues related to peace, reconciliation and youth work in Belfast. Coordinated by the staff of Amizade, a Global Service-Learning Group with over 25 years of experience, the trip will provide participants with a first-hand look at the history of the Troubles as they meet with ex-combatants, politicians and youth workers with experience in both the conflict and peace processes. The hands-on service component of the trip will involve working with YouthWorks, an organization that provides young people the opportunity to “grow up, develop social and life skills in a safe and secure environment, take on responsibility and make decisions on their own lifestyles based on sound information and support.” The need for strong youth centers emerged during the Troubles, and these organizations continue to play a vital role in helping youth from low income neighborhoods develop lives of choice. More detailed information about the trip may be found in the attached proposal. Jen Liedtka, Service and Volunteerism Coordinator, will serve as the LVC staff leader of the trip.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- Participate in meaningful service
- Grow understanding of diverse cultures and communities, as well as the importance of global engagement
- Develop team-work skills, particularly in the areas of communication, collaboration and leadership
- Enhance knowledge regarding root issues associated with the Troubles conflict and the impact it had and continues to have in Belfast and beyond.
- Critically examine issues of social justice, particularly as they relate to education and poverty
- Fulfill the residential project requirement for the LVC Service Gold Award as well as one immersive experience requirement

TENTATIVE APPLICATION AND PLANNING SCHEDULE

- Mon, Dec 2: Applications due
- Mon, Dec 16: Applicants notified regarding selection
- Tue, Jan 14: Following are due:
 - \$500 non-refundable deposit
 - Trip forms and copy of health insurance card
- Fri, Mar 27:
 - Remaining payment due
- Mandatory three group planning meetings during the 2020 spring semester
- Mandatory two-page reflection exercise due in August, 2020
- Mandatory campus sharing session in September, 2020 (for all participants who have not graduated)

LODGING

Participants will likely stay at the Premier Inn Belfast City Centre, or a similar modest hotel, and will share a double room.

**BASIC
ITINERARY**

The majority of our hands-on service will take place each evening at various youth centers. During the day, participants will take part in various tours and talks such as those outlined in the attached tentative schedule.

**PROPOSED
BUDGET**

The estimated total cost per participant is \$2,300-\$2,500 (includes all program fees, lodging, food, and airfare).