

Passionist Volunteers International

Mandeville, JAMAICA

SITE INFORMATION

Site Description

Passionist Volunteers International appeals to a cross section of people - age, gender and background - inviting them to share their gifts and talents while walking with the poor and accompanying the suffering in a cross-cultural setting. The Volunteers have the opportunity to enrich their lives and enable their service by living in community, sharing spirituality and faith. They serve in collaboration with the Passionist Community with its focus on the Passion of Jesus as found in those suffering among us today.

Mission - Accompaniment of the poor and suffering: as community's needs are revealed and volunteers' interests, abilities and talents are determined, appropriate service ventures and projects emerge. Needs are abundant; possibilities are endless, e.g. classroom/school needs for children and remedial educational needs for adults; clinic-based caring for the sick, visiting the home-bound; training in hygiene and preventive care; youth ministry - organizing, coaching, mentoring; housing - building and repair. We work with the Diocese of Mandeville and the Passionist Community of Jamaica, who work in 120+ missions. You will always find a job and a mission that you are passionate about!

Student Responsibilities

Volunteers live in a faith-based community with the other Passionist Volunteers. They are expected to share in the joys and the difficulties of cross-cultural service with one another, as well as put a full day of service into the sites which they are placed. Students must be adaptable with a sense of humor, and have an ability and willingness to walk with the suffering of today.

The volunteers work under the supervision of a Site Supervisor, and the CUA short term volunteers will assist in the mission and work of our long-term volunteers who have been in country for 10 months (by the time of arrival). When the CUA student is comfortable, PVI will offer a secondary site that meets the needs, skills and gifts of the CUA student to start serving.

Please see the website for more details on what previous volunteers have done, and the day to day life.

Site Interaction

The life of a Passionist Volunteer, whether on the job or off, is deeply rooted in the Passionist charism of accompaniment. Rather than attempt to improve the lives of those we encounter with monetary contributions or donations, the Volunteers seek first to enter into the lives of the individuals and communities that they work with. In working alongside them to experience their joys, struggles, stress and triumphs our Volunteers are then better able to ascertain how their unique gifts and talents might service a need. In approaching their service through this lens a mutual exchange is often fostered and a profound mark is left on both the Volunteers and the communities. Making central to their service the mission of walking with the crucified and suffering of today, our PVI's are afforded the foundation for genuine relationships through accompaniment. That said, the work that the volunteers take part in, their "missions", is as varied as the landscapes they traverse. From working with youth, down to newborns all the way to the elderly, a Passionist Volunteer walks with all of life's stages.

Student Orientation

CUA students will receive a comprehensive, intensive, minimum 10-day Orientation led by our current volunteers, our Site Supervisor, the Director of the program, and local Jamaicans on our PVI Support Team. The Orientation will highlight the local culture, church, and mission, while shadowing the current group of volunteers at their sites to learn the local dos and don'ts.

Site Dates

May 29 – Aug 7

Housing

Passionist Volunteers provides housing and meals for student volunteers. Students will live in an apartment style retreat house with one another located on the same property of the Passionist Volunteers, and the Passionist priests and Cathedral. The students will live in community with one another, and although only a 2 min walk away, they will not live with the Passionists. The students will have the option to have their own room, or share with one another. There is a common living area, multiple bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, etc.

Transportation to the site from student housing

Students will travel with the current Passionist Volunteers to their sites that they share using either the Volunteers car, or taxis. Our volunteers take route taxis most days of the week.

Site Hours

Volunteers are given one day off a week, whichever day of their choosing excluding Sunday. Sunday they are expected to be with the Church community attending mass and visiting the community. Two Sundays a month they stay in Mandeville, the city in which we live, and the other two Sundays are spent at a rural church and community. The volunteers are expected to give roughly 8 hours a day, but the 8 hours include transportation to/from, as well as any prep work it entails. In total, we look for roughly 40 hours a week.

Recreation

Passionist Volunteers International is located in Jamaica, West Indies, home of some of the greatest beaches and hiking mountains in the world.

Support

The Passionist Volunteers program, including the Director, Site Supervisor in Jamaica, current volunteers, Passionist priests and religious, as well as local Jamaicans making up our PVI Support Team Board, have each committed to support CUA students on a day to day basis.

CUA Connection to Passionist Volunteers International

Ross Boyle, CUA Class of 2015 is the Director of the Passionist Volunteers International.

Katherine Lemanski, CUA Class of 2019 is currently doing a year of service with Passionist Volunteers.

Courtney Gosse, CUA Class of 2019 is currently doing a year of service with Passionist Volunteers.

STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS

Language Requirements

English is the National Language of Jamaica.

Background Check Required

A national background check is not required. A local background check from hometown police may be requested.

Does the site require a driver's license in order to transport guests/clients or use a vehicle during work?

License not required.

Student Attributes

Flexibility! With Passionist Volunteers and the mission of accompaniment, you may find yourself doing something that you never imagined you would be doing that day. Visiting an orphanage could mean anything from playing sports with the kids, tending to a farm, or sitting in a meeting with a social worker.

Dress Code

No shorts above the knees, and no tank tops. Jeans and a tee shirt are the norm.

ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Site Address

78 Manchester Rd
Mandeville, JAMAICA

Office

565 Pennsylvania Ave NW #1207
Washington, DC 20001

Website

www.passionistvolunteers.org