



**JOIN**  
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## 2017 PORTLAND PLUNGE

The Portland Plunge is a weeklong opportunity for high school students to learn about homelessness and poverty in Portland. The Plunge is a safe space for students to...

- *Listen to the stories of our neighbors living on the margins*
- *Serve at organizations working for social justice*
- *See the city in new ways*
- *Meet new friends*
- *Step outside their comfort zone*
- *Experience a simpler lifestyle*
- *Engage in deep conversation and reflection*

The Plunge is a week of intense learning, hard work, and challenging experiences, but it also is full of fun and joy. For most, it becomes a rewarding and exciting experience they carry with them for the rest of their lives.

- WHAT:** The Plunge is a weeklong service-learning experience facilitated by JOIN that is designed to provide high school students exposure to issues such as homelessness, poverty, barriers preventing people from getting the support they need, and cultural differences. During the week, you will have volunteer experiences working in agencies such as St. Francis Dining Hall, Blanchet House, and many others.
- WHERE:** You will stay in a facility in Southeast Portland with 25 other youth and an adult staff. The emphasis of this community will be reflection, discussion, simple living, service, and recreation. A qualified staff will assure a safe and meaningful experience.
- WHEN:** Friday evening, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday evening, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. You must commit to the entire week experience, both the day and evening times (overnight).
- HOW MUCH:** There is no cost for this program, but personally it will be the price of a week of intense learning and confronting tough issues. If individuals would like to make a donation to support the Plunge, please make checks payable to JOIN.
- TO APPLY:** The application packet needs to be filled out and emailed or mailed back to JOIN by Friday, **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Students will be notified within 14 days if they are accepted.
- APPLICATION:** Three things are needed for a complete application: 1) a permission slip signed by you and your parents, 2) the application, and 3) **TWO** recommendations filled out by adults such as teachers, coaches, youth ministers, etc. Recommendations filled out by relatives will not be accepted. Mail completed application packets to Rich Viebrock at 1435 NE 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97213 or email a scanned copy to [immersion@joinpdx.org](mailto:immersion@joinpdx.org) by **April 28, 2017**. Questions? Email Rich at [immersion@joinpdx.org](mailto:immersion@joinpdx.org) or call (845) 222-0756



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## **2017 Portland Plunge Application**

**Deadline: April 28, 2017**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ T-SHIRT SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (as of June 23<sup>rd</sup>) GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ (this year)

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A PREVIOUS PLUNGE PARTICIPANT? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

IF NOT, HAVE YOU EVER APPLIED BEFORE? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Please type your responses to each of the following questions. Please try to have your responses fit on two pages.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Portland Plunge? What are you hoping to gain from the experience?
2. What do you expect will be the most challenging aspect of the Plunge for you?
3. What is your biggest strength in interacting and working with others? What is your biggest area for growth when it comes to interacting and working with others?
4. Do you have any experience volunteering or interacting with people experiencing homelessness or other vulnerable populations?
5. What type of issues or questions would you like to learn about during the Plunge?



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Please list any community activities that you have participated in during your high school years (sports, clubs, service activities, etc.) Please mention if you have been on a JOIN immersion.

<u>YEAR(S)</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Please return Application and Signed Agreement Form by Friday, April 28 to:**

JOIN  
Attention: Rich Viebrock  
1435 NE 81<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Suite 100  
Portland OR, 97213

**OR**

Email a scanned copy of the signed agreement form and application to [immersion@joinpdx.org](mailto:immersion@joinpdx.org)



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**Portland Plunge Agreement Form:** To be read and signed by both the student and a parent or guardian

I understand that my son/daughter has applied to participate in the Portland Plunge experience. I realize that the retreat is primarily an experience of learning from individuals experiencing homelessness and of living a simple lifestyle. Youth will be chaperoned at all times and, although there will be needed free time, youth will be on a tight schedule of service work, personal interaction with people who are experiencing homelessness, discussion of their experience and reflection in reconciling their experience with their assumptions.

Safety is a primary concern for all participants. While working in the social service agencies, youth will be divided into groups of five youth and one adult Plunge leader. The leader, along with the regular service agencies staff, will be with the youth at all times. During the evening, participants will be staying at a facility in SE Portland. Under no circumstances are the youth allowed free time away from the housing facility in the evening. Although many fun and relaxing activities are planned for the evening time, they will be conducted as a group.

I realize that my son/daughter's health will be constantly monitored; however, at times the youth will be working around five to six hours a day in the summer heat. My son/daughter is in average to good physical condition for a person his/her age. *I will record any potential health concerns and allergies on the back of this sheet.*

A qualified team made up of teachers, college students, social workers and other professionals will lead the youth throughout the week.

I understand that participation in the Portland Plunge is based upon an application process, and therefore, participation is not guaranteed upon submission of an application. Medical forms and waivers will be sent upon acceptance into the program.

There will be no smoking, drinking of alcohol, or use of other drugs allowed on this retreat, by either the participants or the leaders.

I realize that if my son/daughter breaks the established rules and is posing a serious threat to his/her safety or the success of the experience for the others, I will be called to take my son/daughter home.

I, as a participant, recognize that we will be discussing some very serious topics, and promise to be mature throughout the week, recognize that individuals will be sharing very personal stories with the group, and promise to act respectfully towards everyone.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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## Recommendation for Portland Plunge

The Portland Plunge is a weeklong experience coordinated by JOIN and devoted to service, community, and reflection. The Plunge will give 25 young people an opportunity to serve the people of downtown Portland and learn more about the reality that people living in poverty face. They will live in a facility in Southeast Portland for the week, and be supervised by competent adult staff.

**TWO** recommendation forms are due **April 28, 2017** at the address listed below. This form should not be filled out by a family member of the applicant.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON YOU ARE RECOMMENDING \_\_\_\_\_

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE APPLICANT? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the applicant's personality and interpersonal skills.

How does the applicant respond to stress and/or situations that push them outside their comfort zone?



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On the Plunge, participants will be interacting and conversing with people who are experiencing homelessness/living in poverty. How well do you believe the applicant would be able to engage with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences?

Throughout the Plunge, participants will be in a group for service and discussion. What strengths and weaknesses does the applicant bring to group work and conversation?

Topics discussed on the Plunge are very serious, and people who help out on the weekend share some very personal stories about their experiences with homelessness. How would you describe the applicant's maturity level?

Do you have any other comments or concerns about this applicant that would help us in our decision-making process?

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



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