

New Castle Presbytery
Gulf Coast Mission Trip Application Form
January 27 – February 3, 2008

Group Leaders: Rev. Sara Holben and Rev. Duke Dixon

Yes, I want to be part of New Castle Presbytery's Mission Trip!

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Gender: Female ___ Male ___ Age: _____

Email: _____

Church: _____

City/State: _____

Have you been on a mission team before? Yes ___ No ___

To Apply:

1. Complete this form.
2. Complete the attached Skills Assessment form.
3. Complete the attached General Release, Indemnification Agreement and Authorization for Medical Treatment.
4. Attach a check for \$220 (made out to New Castle Presbytery) to cover housing, food and transport while in New Orleans.

5. Mail it to:

Presbytery Mission Trip
Bob Schminkey
206 Woodsvie Court
Chestertown, MD 21620.

If you have questions, call Bob Schminkey, Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Coordinator, at 410-708-6463 or bobschminkey@verizon.net.

Thank you for your interest in this hands-on mission trips to the Gulf Coast!

**GENERAL RELEASE, INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT AND
AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Participant name: _____ (“Participant”)

DOB: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: (Cell) _____ (Day/Evening) _____

In consideration of the opportunity provided to me to participate in the PDA Disaster Response (as defined below) and any services, housing, food, and the like provided by PCUSA (as defined below), I, Participant, hereby understand and agree that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly, all synods, presbyteries, and local churches and their corporations and related entities, their staff, volunteers, directors, officers, agents, elders, deacons, representatives, successors, assigns and entities (hereinafter collectively referred to as "**PCUSA**") will not be responsible in any way whatsoever for loss, damage, or injury of any kind or in any manner resulting from or in connection with my participation in the program described as follows:

HURRICANE KATRINA/RITA RECOVERY

(hereinafter referred to as "**PDA Disaster Response**").

I, Participant, understand and agree that PCUSA does not and cannot guarantee my safety in connection with the PDA Disaster Response. Further, I understand and agree the activities involved with the PDA Disaster Response may include but are not limited to the following: difficult living conditions, risks concerning means of travel, food, water, diseases, pests, poor sanitation, and other health related situations, including potential injury while working. I accept and assume all responsibility for all risks which may occur during, in connection with, or result from my participation in the PDA Disaster Response including, but not limited to, potential injury while working.

RELEASE: With the above in mind and by my signature below, I fully understand, agree and hereby voluntarily release and forever discharge PCUSA. PCUSA shall not be responsible or liable in any way for any accident, loss, death, injury or damage to myself or my property, in connection with my participation in the PDA Disaster Response or any portion of the PDA Disaster Response even if said injury or action is due to the alleged negligence of PCUSA. Further, I do hereby agree to indemnify and hold PCUSA harmless against any and all liabilities, damages, claims, actions or rights of action, suits, judgments and associated costs and expenses (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees) of whatsoever kind in connection with my participation in the PDA Disaster Response or any portion of the PDA Disaster Response. Further, I make this agreement on behalf of my heirs, agents, fiduciaries, successors and assigns. I waive, knowingly and voluntarily, each and every claim or right of action I have now or may have in the future against the PCUSA related to my participation in the PDA Disaster Response, even if any such claim or right of action is caused by PCUSA's alleged negligence. This document does not release PCUSA from gross negligence.

MEDICAL COVERAGE: I understand and acknowledge that **no medical or other insurance or health care benefits will be provided to me by PCUSA** during my participation in the PDA Disaster Response, and I certify that I have sufficient health, accident and liability insurance or other benefits to

cover any bodily injury or property damage I may incur while participation in the PDA Disaster Response and to cover bodily injury or property damage caused to a third party as a result of my participation in the PDA Disaster Response, as follows:

Company _____ Policy # _____
Address _____

MEDICAL RELEASE: I hereby state that I am in good health and have all medications necessary to treat any allergic or chronic conditions, and I am able to administer such medications without assistance. If at any time during my participation in the PDA Disaster Response I need emergency medical care and am not able to give consent because of my physical or mental condition, I authorize PCUSA to make emergency medical care decisions on my behalf, and I specifically release PCUSA, in making those emergency medical care decisions, from any and all liability associated with said decisions, even if injury or death is the result of PCUSA's alleged negligence.

Person to be notified in case of injury:

Name _____
Telephone: _____ (evening) _____ (daytime)
Cell Phone: _____

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN:

My signature below indicates that I have read this entire two page document, understand it completely, and agree to be bound by its terms.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT: _____

DATE EXECUTED: _____

SIGNATURES MUST BE WITNESSED:

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: _____

DATE EXECUTED: _____

(SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN IS ALSO REQUIRED IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.)

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (if applicable) _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: _____

DATE EXECUTED: _____



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

TO: Mission Team Volunteers

FROM: Bob Schminkey, Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Coordinator
Rev. Sara Holben
Rev. Duke Dixon

Thank you for your commitment to assist in the ongoing recovery work along the gulf coast as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita over two years ago. By joining this Mission Team you are joining over 30,000 Presbyterians who have volunteered time and energy in this massive recovery effort. The work of teams is sometimes difficult and usually labor intensive. Work is currently focusing on the reconstruction of homes as there is minimal clean up work left to be done.

When Are We Going? The New Castle Presbytery Mission Team will arrive in New Orleans no later than Sunday January 27 and plan to return home on Saturday February 2.

How Will We Get There? Most people will want to fly to New Orleans, although some of us may choose to drive. Bob Schminkey will help with coordinating travel arrangements.

Where Will We Stay? Our housing during our mission trip will be at the Olive Tree Volunteer Village, about 30 minutes from downtown New Orleans. This is one of six “camps” currently run by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and is located at: 4523 Read Blvd, New Orleans, LA, in what was at one time Eastminster Presbyterian Church in east New Orleans. For several years before Katrina it served as a day care center.

At Olive Tree you will find:

- Dormitory style rooms with 15 bunk or single beds in each room. The bunks have mattresses and a pillow. Bring flat sheets or a sleeping bag. No co-ed rooms.
- There are sinks and some toilet facilities connected to the rooms. There will be a shower trailer and a toilet trailer by the dorm rooms. There will be a washer and dryer in the trailer for minimal use.
- There will be a commercial style kitchen complete with dishwasher. (no paper plates).
- There is a dining room, sanctuary room where in the future we hope to hold Sunday services for the community.
- There is a lounge with internet service and a TV.
- Mission teams are asked to be prepared to lead evening reflections on the day.
- Food is provided, but preparation is shared among the village teams.
- Parking is at a minimum at the village.
- Orientation is usually around 7:30 on Sunday night, or the day you arrive.

So, What Will This Trip Cost? The cost for this trip is \$220. Your check for \$220 (made out to New Castle Presbytery) and your completed application form reserves a place for you on the mission team. The \$220 covers housing and food at the Olive Tree Village and ground transport in New Orleans. You are responsible for your travel expenses to and from New Orleans.

In addition, many congregations will want to make contributions to the construction costs of projects. The easiest way to do this is to send gift cards for Home Depot or Lowes, in any amount of your choosing.

What Will the Mission Team Do? We won't know project details until just before departure, but you can expect everything from drywall, painting, and light carpentry to assisting skilled tradespeople in doing electrical or plumbing. Some days, you may find yourself doing interviews and helping people fill out forms, and some days you may just sit and listen as your homeowner tells their story...

What Do I Need To Bring?

Individual Volunteers should bring:

Bedding

- Sleeping bag
- Flat sheets
- Pillow
- Flashlight and extra batteries

Clothing

- Socks and undergarments
- Heavy work boots (**steel-toed shoes are highly recommended**)
- Leather or heavy duty work gloves/light cotton gloves
- Rain gear
- Hat, visor, bandana and /or sweatband
- T-shirts or work shirts
- Long-sleeve shirts
- Jeans or pants and shorts
- Pajamas
- Shower shoes and robe

Toiletries

- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Soap/shampoo
- Wet wipes
- Deodorant
- Personal medication for length of stay
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Razor/shaving cream (electricity may not be available)

Miscellaneous

- Bible
- Travel clock
- Fanny pack/backpack
- Spending money
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses

Personal Items

- Towels/washcloths
- Car chargers for electronic equipment

Pre-Departure Checklist

- Have an up-to-date tetanus shot in the event of an injury from a nail or other rusty metal.
- Review the orientation manual (to be provided) and ask that the team leader seek answers to any questions from the Call Center or the Village Manager.
- If flying, consider purchasing travel insurance in the event of a hurricane or natural disaster which you may cause you to change your plans.
- If flying, make sure your group leader is renting vehicles large enough to accommodate your team and knows your travel schedule.
- If you have experienced serious illness or have heart problems or diabetes check with a doctor to insure that you are healthy enough to volunteer. **It can be extremely hot in the Gulf, and physical labor (plus the stress of living in primitive conditions) can accelerate the onset of heatstroke or aggravate other pre-existing conditions.**

Each Volunteer Team should arrange to bring:

- First Aid Kit for your team (These are available at your local American Red Cross Chapter office.)
- Coolers for lunches/snacks at work sites. (Those who fly should be able to purchase locally.) Check with your village manager.
- Funds for incidentals.
- A “Tax Exempt” letter from the local congregation to be used for any supply purchases.
- **AND MOST IMPORTANT YOUR RELEASE FORMS.**

What Not to Bring

- RVs and campers (PDA cannot guarantee that there will be hookups, or even parking space for these large vehicles)
- Alcohol