



Some things you should know before applying...

We emphasize all 6 components of an immersion, which are **Simple living, Spirituality, Solidarity/Community, Social Justice, Service, and Sustainability**.

1. Simple living. On immersion, we will opt for the simpler, less expensive option over comfort. We do this to live in solidarity with those who must live with less and to gain a deeper perspective on relationships, time, shared experiences, connections with others, and life perspective.

Practically speaking, living simply includes no electronics (ipods, cameras, phones, etc.), eating what is provided, and a willingness to be uncomfortable at times (limited showers, limited A/C, simple beds or just sleeping bags on floors, and shared facilities). If you are open to all of the above, then this immersion is for you!

2. Solidarity and Community. These are “two sides of the same coin.” In the immersion program, we use “Solidarity” to mean connection with people in the local community. “Community” also means supporting and getting to know our internal group from O’Dowd. If you are up for building these relationships and don’t mind doing chores, getting up early, carrying things, and walking a lot, then this immersion is for you!

The preparation meetings are critical to your readiness and for building community. You need to make them a priority in your schedule, and inform us of your conflicts when applying. If you have no time in your schedule for prep meetings then you are too busy for immersion! Also, if accepted you must be present for the ENTIRE immersion. That means you can not arrive late or leave early.

Finally, the adult leaders on the trip are there to be sure you are safe and have the best possible experience. Each adult deserves respect. Furthermore, no students are allowed to go anywhere without an adult present. This is a non-negotiable rule to keep you safe for all immersions. If you leave the group or go somewhere without an adult you will be sent home and forfeit all service hours and payments.

3. Spirituality. On immersion, you will explore your own faith perspective. As a Catholic school, Catholicism will be our starting point, but we invite everyone to bring in their own understanding of God. If you like spirituality, talking about God, or doing reflection, then this immersion is for you!

4. Social Justice. This concerns how people are treated in our society, which has the potential to make us feel uncomfortable, angry, or guilty. We will not shy away from social justice issues. You should know that all opinions are welcome as long as they come with a willingness to listen and to understand. If you want to explore other worldviews and perspectives, then this immersion is for you!

5. Service. The service work might not always be fun and engaging, but we expect that you will work hard while still being safe. Our work is our gift to the local community. If you are open to the challenge of service and labor, then this immersion is for you!

This immersion experience will count for the junior/senior Anawim Project Service Learning Requirement for students who chose this option.

6. Sustainability. We are called to Kinship with Creation. It is a part of our charism. People in this area of the country suffer from extreme poverty and the health consequences of mining and mountaintop removal. If you want to deepen your connection with the environment and deepen your understanding of the intersection of environmental and economic justice, then this immersion is for you!

If you are ready to challenge yourself and do one of the most powerful experiences we offer at O'Dowd, then apply for Appalachia Immersion!

Apply here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyc3sObvIUOG6YqV5R8JfeCyEgWd31CjvDUCexGPYwGrA6OQ/viewform?usp=sf_link.

Students may be asked for an interview.