

Augustinian Volunteers

General Info

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Augustinian-Volunteers/171701188956>

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Program Contacts

Contact: Joanna Bowen

Director

Affiliation: The Augustinian Friars, Roman Catholic

Goal of Program: Augustinian Volunteers are Catholic men and women who wish to serve God's people in partnership with the Augustinians and others. The service of the volunteers is with established educational, social and health programs, and varies according to the needs of the sponsoring site and the individual volunteer. The experience of the Augustinian Volunteers is designed to facilitate a person's desire to serve others. It is also focused on the volunteer's personal and spiritual development in the Augustinian tradition. By building and living in community with other volunteers and forming relationships with local Augustinian Communities, the volunteers' lives will be enriched as they enrich the lives of others.

Type of Placement: Although service site partnerships can vary slightly from year to year, most volunteers serve in well established placements in one of three main areas: Education (as teachers, teachers' aids, coaching, mentors, assisting in after school programs, etc.), Campus Ministry (high school and college) and Social Service (as case managers, program coordinators, nurses etc.). A match between volunteer and a partnering service site is made based upon the preferences and experience of the individual as well as the needs of the partnering school or organization. It is the goal of the AV program to place volunteers in service settings both where their skills and experience will be well utilized and where he or she will be able to learn and grow.

Service Area: Augustinian Volunteers serve across the United States in San Diego, CA; Ventura, CA; Chicago, IL; Lawrence, MA; and Philadelphia, PA and abroad in Chulucanas, Peru. Service opportunities vary in each location.

Service Length: Domestic volunteers serve for 10 months, beginning in mid-August and ending in late June. International volunteers serve for 11 months beginning in mid-January and ending in mid-December.

Requirements: All Augustinian Volunteers must be between the ages of 21 and 29 years of age,

unmarried and a college graduate. Because the volunteer experience is centered on service, spirituality and community, AVs must be committed to a personal spiritual life and a Christian lifestyle, dedicated to serving others, and open to living with their peers in intentional community. Volunteers are expected to have a sense of humor and a willingness to step outside of their comfort zone. The most successful AVs are open-minded, flexible, and willing to serve in a variety of capacities.

Financial Arrangement: The Augustinian Volunteer program will provide volunteers with room and board, health insurance, transportation to and from his or her service site and all necessary living costs consistent with our commitment to a simple lifestyle. In addition, each volunteer will also receive a small monthly personal stipend. Many prospective volunteers are concerned about student loans. Most lenders offer deference or other solutions for long-term volunteers. When requested, the Augustinian Volunteer staff will work directly with the individual to provide necessary documentation required by lenders.

Living Arrangements: Augustinian Volunteers live in either houses or apartments, typically with both men and women. The sizes of the communities can range from 3 to 6 people. The volunteers agree to live in an intentional community that is meant to foster growth on an individual as well as communal level.

Program Size: On average 20-25 volunteers.

Training: All domestic and international volunteers attend an eight-day orientation in late August in the Philadelphia area. The August orientation provides an introduction to Augustinian values and the volunteer experience, an opportunity to build relationships with fellow volunteers and practical tools for the year ahead. From there, those serving domestically travel directly to the city in which they will be serving. Once volunteers have arrived in their new home and begin their service experience, any necessary service site-specific training or orientation is provided by the partnering service site. Domestic volunteers will also participate in two retreat experiences together: one mid-year and one at the end of the experience. These retreats provide opportunities for personal growth, reflection and fun! All international volunteers are required to attend orientation in August. In addition, international volunteers will gather for another short orientation experience a few days prior to departure for Peru in early January. They will also participate two retreats, including a re-entry retreat, which is focused on processing the year and re-adjusting to life in the United States.

Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from November through June or until all positions have been filled. Once a prospective volunteer has completed all steps in the process?initial application, interview and secondary application?his or her application is complete and can be reviewed at the nearest advisory board meeting. The Augustinian Volunteer Advisory Board meets monthly, beginning in February and continuing throughout the spring and early summer or until all positions are filled. The domestic volunteer experience begins with Orientation at the end of August 2018 and concludes at the end of June 2019. The international experience begins in January 2019 and concludes in December 2019. To inquire about availability, contact us at osavol@gmail.com

Published on *Catholic Volunteer Network* (<https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org>)

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