

Saint Meinrad Day of Service FAQ

What is the Saint Meinrad Day of Service?

The Alumni Association Board of Directors, in collaboration with the Alumni Office, started the Saint Meinrad Day of Service in an effort to develop more creative ways for alumni to live out the mission of Saint Meinrad in their communities with their fellow classmates and friends.

For over 50 years, students at Saint Meinrad have volunteered in various capacities through the Cooperative Action for Community Development (CACD) program. The Saint Meinrad Day of Service is an opportunity for our alumni and friends to continue this tradition of service – a chance to pray together, socialize together, and encourage one another in order to strengthen their local communities and the Body of Christ.

The third annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service will be held **Saturday, March 11, 2017**, with the goal that alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad around the country will come together to serve their communities. Whether the project is big or small, at the local Catholic parish or in partnership with a local agency, it is an opportunity to make known the importance of service in the life and legacy of those connected with Saint Meinrad.

Who is involved in the Saint Meinrad Day of Service?

The Saint Meinrad Day of Service is open to anyone connected to Saint Meinrad, not just alumni. Service projects are regionally based. If there is one happening in your area, the local site coordinator and the Alumni Office will be in touch with you to encourage your participation. Every service project is open to anyone connected to Saint Meinrad in any way.

What will happen on the Saint Meinrad Day of Service?

In addition to the actual service activities (which can vary from a few hours to an all-day project), we encourage volunteers to come together and pray in some way before or after their service project, by celebrating Mass and/or praying the Liturgy of the Hours proper to the time in the day. The theme of the Saint Meinrad Day of Service is *ora et labora*, or prayer and work, and praying together is a great way to support each other and other volunteers across the country.

What are some considerations in selecting our service site or sites?

The Alumni Office is happy to consult with you as you consider a potential site for the Saint Meinrad Day of Service. Aspects to consider include the number of participants you expect to be involved; the range of activities available for diverse skill and activity levels (be sure to think about projects that are kid friendly as well as those that are less physical for older alumni); and logistics such as ease of transportation and parking at the site. If possible, we encourage you to focus on projects which involve relationship building (such as serving food at a shelter) as opposed to those which are primarily physical in nature. The reputation of the organization you select to work with can be important, and often you can find a site where an alum is actively involved as a staff member or volunteer. This can be a wonderful way to identify a great service opportunity. Also, remember when searching for sites in your area that weather in March can be unpredictable in most regions. It is highly encouraged to have a plan for inclement weather.

What if we cannot do the Saint Meinrad Day of Service on Saturday, March 11, 2017?

While we highly encourage planning Saint Meinrad Day of Service activities for March 11, 2017, we recognize that this might not always be possible due to local considerations or the nature of the volunteer project which may need to take place during the work week. We hope that these projects can be planned as close to March 11th as possible.

How will the Saint Meinrad Day of Service be promoted?

The Alumni Office will partner with local site coordinators and the Alumni Association Board of Directors in promoting the Saint Meinrad Day of Service. The Alumni Office will reach out through the *On the Hill* quarterly newsletter, the monthly e-newsletter, and emails to all alumni. We will also send out region specific emails with project details to all alumni and friends in an area where a project is being held. Your local planning effort should also include a communications and promotion effort to reach out to alumni and friends locally to recruit their involvement.

How will the Saint Meinrad Day of Service volunteer registration process work?

The Alumni Office manages a Saint Meinrad Day of Service webpage which provides information on projects around the country. This is also where volunteers will register. Each site coordinator will work with the Alumni Office on developing a schedule and brief description of their service site that will be included on the web page, as well as contact information for the local site coordinator. When alumni and friends register, their contact information is forwarded on to the local site coordinator. It will be the final responsibility of the site coordinator (or their committee) to be in contact with the volunteers to confirm additional details such as specific timing, logistical information, and other relevant information.

Who should we contact with questions about the Saint Meinrad Day of Service?

The Alumni Office coordinates the Saint Meinrad Day of Service. If you have any questions or would like to be a site coordinator, contact Christian Mocek, Director of Alumni Relations, at cmoczek@saintmeinrad.edu or (800) 682-0988.