



Memo

TO: Incoming Volunteers
FR: The Staffs of Rostro de Cristo and Jesuit Volunteer Corps
DT: June 9, 2016
RE: 2016 JVC/RdC Summer Orientation Logistics

Greetings from Washington, DC and Boston, MA! We are excited to be able to see you in a month! As you complete final preparations for Orientation, please take some time to read the pertinent information below.

Reminder: Summer Orientation Questionnaire

By now you've received a very important [Summer Orientation Questionnaire](#) by email. Completion of this form is essential for your travel and lodging arrangements. **We ask you to arrange your travel to Orientation and complete the form as soon as possible.** For any travel questions, please contact your Program Coordinator.

This will be the 16th year that the Rostro de Cristo lay mission volunteers program and the international program of Jesuit Volunteer Corps will be collaborating for our Summer Orientation. Rostro de Cristo (RdC) rostrodecristo.org and Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) jesuitvolunteers.org are both faith-based international service and formation programs. We are drawn together by many overlapping qualities and have much to learn from each other, yet at the same time we celebrate our distinctions in a variety of ways and our diversity unites us. We welcome the 13 new volunteers who will serve with RdC and the 24 new volunteers who will serve with JVC! As a note, all of the RdC volunteers (Ecuador) and some of the JVC volunteers (Belize and Micronesia aka "Early Departures") will depart to their host country directly from Orientation. The other half of the JVC volunteers (Peru, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Chile - a.k.a. "Late Departures") will depart later in the fall.

Enclosed you will find the following:

- Purpose/ Goals of Orientation
- Guidelines for personal preparation for Orientation
- July 6th and 7th Travel Information
- Additional Logistical Information
- Additional Packing Suggestions

PURPOSE

The purpose of Summer Orientation is multi-faceted. You will have the opportunity to become more thoroughly acquainted with the philosophy, values, and operations of JVC or RdC. The structure of the two weeks is a retreat model that includes basic training sessions and focuses on personal preparation for your service. The intention is to allot time for introspection, prayer, and growth in self-awareness. It is also a time of final discernment for you and for us. Most importantly, it is a time to grow in your lived experience of simplicity, intentional community, faith, and social justice. We ask that volunteers do not make social plans with family or friends once orientation has begun in an effort to remain intentional and fully present to our limited time together. Rostro volunteers will depart for Ecuador on July 18, while JVs will conclude on July 22.

GOALS

During the two weeks of Summer Orientation we will address the following:

1. Reflection on and appropriation of the JVC or RdC tenets/values
2. Examination of motivation for service, through the lens of spirituality and faith
3. Cross-cultural immersion awareness, education, and skill building
4. Shared prayer and community building--in your own country-group, as JVC and RdC volunteers, and as a larger group of people called to build the Kingdom of God
5. Self-care and health in the field
6. *Preliminary* job training/introduction to your placement and country context.

GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL PREPARATION

BEFORE you leave:

- Begin entering into the mindset of being a volunteer. There is the temptation to say, "I'll start getting prepared once I get to orientation." Don't fall into this trap. Take time daily to pray, reflect, journal, and imagine yourself in the Summer Orientation setting.
- Please *read* material previously sent to you.
- Continue your fundraising!
- Give yourself ample time to read and reflect on the information we've sent you: for JVs - the JVC Covenant & Handbook and for RdC - the Way of Life & RdC Handbook.
- Eat well, exercise, and get enough sleep.
- Get ALL VACCINES and last minute doctor/dentist visits **BEFORE** coming to Summer Orientation at the University of Scranton (late departures excepted). There won't be time for these health visits.
- If you are preparing to leave for your host country immediately after the Summer Orientation, these final weeks can be taxing with farewells to friends and family. With all of the business and preparations, we hope you are feeling settled and at peace. Perhaps you can find some consolation knowing that the other new JVs and RdC volunteers are feeling some of the same anxieties and anticipations. We ask that if you are indeed leaving for your host country on July 18 (Rostro) or July 22 (JVs to Belize and FSM) that you please complete your goodbyes before you arrive to Scranton, as visitors are not permitted during orientation. This is a sure way to help you feel settled and begin your life as a JV or RdC volunteer.

DURING Summer Orientation:

- You may have heard the phrase "Participate, do not anticipate." While the phrase can be corny, the sentiment is quite profound. We ask that you trust the process of Summer Orientation which may mean that you are not necessarily informed of the specifics of your work placement or other aspects of your host country. We ask that you focus not on the specifics of your placement, but rather, on the spirit of being a JV or RdC volunteer in light of all of the tenets of the program.

- A popular suggestion from previous volunteers' Orientation Evaluations is to bring a journal or notebook to jot down notes from the sessions.
- You will receive resource materials. Please leave space in your suitcase to pack this with you.
- To facilitate community building, ample small group discussion time has been scheduled. When you arrive in your host country, there will be a more specific local orientation (called In-Country Orientation).
- In keeping with the spirit of our Ignatian heritage, you will have the opportunity for a silent directed retreat during Summer Orientation. For those who may feel that you are still a novice at silent prayer and meditation - fear not - it is a gentle introduction to this tradition.

JULY 6th and 7^h TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please refer to the logistics information previously sent to you by JVC or RdC

If you are flying into Newark Airport, you must arrive before 5PM on July 6. We coordinate an airport shuttle to pick-up all volunteers who arrive by this time. Meet us in the designated area, per instructions in a forthcoming confirmation email. We have made arrangements for meals for early arrivals (the first meal planned is breakfast on Thursday, July 7), but there are some places nearby the University of Scranton where you can grab a meal.

Summer Orientation Dates: Thursday, July 7 - Friday, July 22, 2016

On July 7, check-in at Scranton begins at 10:00am. Please arrive no later than 11:00am.

Travel to/from Orientation

Volunteers are financially responsible for their own travel to/from Orientation (with the exception of travel from Newark airport to Scranton on the night of the 6th); please note the listed times below for your planning purposes (for volunteers departing directly to their host country, we have already arranged your travel and purchased your airline ticket from Orientation to your host country).

Volunteer & Parents Welcome/Q&A

For those who are able, we invite your close family members to come with you on Thursday, July 7 to the University of Scranton. We will open the Orientation with a Volunteer & Parent Welcome Session/Q&A for volunteers and families as a way of introducing the programs to parents. The Welcome BBQ and Mass will follow as a way to pray and share with volunteers and families and for your families to understand a bit more about your commitment to JVC/RdC. Volunteers are asked to let the JVC/RdC Staff know (via the online Orientation Survey) how many of your family members will be in attendance.

Thursday, July 7

10:00am - 11:00 am	Check-in/ Key pick-up Move-in
11:30am	Volunteer and Parent Welcome
1:30pm	Welcome Lunch/BBQ
3:00pm	Mass
4:30pm	Goodbyes and Departure of Guests
5:30pm	Dinner in Cafeteria
6:45pm	Intro to Orientation for Volunteers

By air: We highly advise flying into Newark Airport, since this will be the only airport for which we will provide an airport pick-up. For those flying into other airports, you will be responsible for your own travel to the University of Scranton.

For late JVC departure volunteers who will travel home after orientation, a shuttle to Newark's International Airport (EWR) will be available for the **morning** of Friday, July 22. Please try to schedule flights back home in the early afternoon; do not schedule any flights before 12:00 pm.

By road: Use this address for finding directions:
University of Scranton; 800 Linden Street; Scranton, PA 18510

Volunteers are not permitted to have private vehicles in their possession for the duration of orientation.

**If you have major travel problems on July 6 or 7, please call the following number:
202-957-5845 (JVC staff) or
401-230-7002 (RdC)**

These numbers are for EMERGENCIES ONLY.

ADDITIONAL LOGISTICAL INFORMATION and EXPECTATIONS of the PARTICIPANTS

For some, Orientation happens immediately preceding your departure for your country of service while others will be returning home for up to 5 months before departing. In all cases, Orientation marks the official beginning of your life as a volunteer with JVC or RdC. Therefore, everything we ask of you and provide for you is for a purpose, and our hope is that our intentionality will help to better prepare you for life in the field. We encourage you to read the following with that in mind.

Cell Phones

We invite you to leave your cell phone at home. We believe this will help you to fully enter into the orientation process, to begin building community with your fellow volunteers and staff, and to start preparing yourself for less contact with “home.” Furthermore, in the field, you will not have many of the conveniences you are quite accustomed to, cell phones being one of them. For volunteers who do choose to bring their cell phones, we will ask that they remain in the bedrooms for the duration of Orientation.

Internet Access

There will be limited internet access in the library during Orientation.

If you are a Late-Departure JV: We ask that you do not bring your personal laptop to Orientation. If you are carrying it with you as a result of your travel plans prior or after Orientation, we ask you please do not take it out of your bag during Orientation.

All JVs: JVC encourages JVs to seriously consider the choice of bringing a laptop with them into the field. Bringing a laptop into the field has pros and cons and we ask the volunteers to be mindful of how bringing technology into the field has certain consequences with immersion, solidarity, distraction, connection with home as well as increased chance of theft. JVs in the past have survived and thrived without laptops in the field, and the office has witnessed many instances when the presence of a personal laptop has detracted from the volunteer’s immersion process and community building. Please see the JVC Handbook regarding Technology for a more in depth look.

RdC Volunteers: Please be reminded that in support of the *Way of Life*, Volunteers chose to live a simple lifestyle. This includes choosing not to bring any electronics to Ecuador, including Laptops, Cell Phones, I-Pad, I-Touch, I-Phone, I-Pod, Kindles, Nook, etc.

Mail

You are welcome to send/receive mail during orientation; however, if letters arrive after orientation ends, RdC/JVC cannot guarantee that you will receive them.

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
Campus Ministry
Attn: Your Name – JVC/RdC Orientation
University of Scranton
900 Mulberry St., DeNaples 200
Scranton PA 18510-4676

Packing for Orientation

The location is Pennsylvania in mid-July, so we can expect hot, humid weather with periods of rain. However, the daytime meeting spaces and dining facilities will be air-conditioned, so it would be wise to bring layers. In addition, there is often a 5-15 minute walk between buildings on campus, so an umbrella may also be advisable. Please pack as lightly as possible, as the space in your room, etc. is very limited. Also, remember that many of you will be departing directly from Orientation to your

international placement, so don't bring things to Orientation that you do not plan to have in-country as well.

Laundry

Expect that you will be able to wash clothes 1-2 times during orientation. Please bring a roll of quarters with you (last year laundry cost \$1.25 per load). JVC/RdC will provide detergent.

Behavioral Expectations

There will be some free time during the evenings for spending time together. The expectation is that volunteers stay on campus and recreate together in activities such as basketball, music, cards, and Frisbee rather than venturing off to local bars. The idea is to begin a more simplified and creative pattern of leisure time rather than those frequently "learned" during college in a U.S. culture. Since Summer Orientation is at the University of Scranton, it's helpful to remember that we are *at* a college but no longer *in* college.

Medical Information

If you are an early departure, please note that we will not have access to any clinics for last minute check-ups, vaccinations or vaccination boosters, so please plan ahead accordingly.

Pre-JVC Dental Care

We ask that you seek dental care prior to leaving for your country. JVC's health insurance covers some dental care, but we ask that JVs seek routine dental work before departing for their countries.

Emergency Contact information

There are several phone numbers where we can all be reached during orientation to get in contact with a JVC/RdC staff member. For Rostro de Cristo, you can call Tegan's cell phone at 401-230-7002. Alternatively, you may call the JVC Emergency number at 202-957-5845.

We look forward to welcoming you to Orientation and, if possible, meeting your family at the Welcome Mass and Dinner on Thursday, July 7th.

Peace,
The JVC Staff
The RdC Staff

TO BRING -- to Summer Orientation:

- Journal or Notebook – to jot down notes during the information sessions
- Pen(s)
- Reusable water bottle and travel coffee mug
- Roll of quarters (for laundry) – last year laundry cost \$1.25 per load.
- Linens (optional). Basic linens -- 2 flat sheets, a blanket, a pillow, and medium-size towels -- are provided by the University of Scranton. If you prefer your own linens, you are welcome to bring them. Some prefer to bring larger towels and a fitted twin size sheet.
- JVC Only
 - Passport (JVs early and late departures)
 - All necessary visa documents asked for in previous packets
 - Photo consent form
 - Completed self-care plan
 - Loan documentation (if applicable)
- RdC Only
 - Volunteer Handbook / Retreat Group Handbook (RdC only)
- SPACE in your suitcase for the information and resources provided.