



JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS

LIFELINES: REMEMBERING, DESCRIBING, AND TELLING OUR STORIES

Remembering Our Lives

As a foundation for your service and the relationships that will develop throughout the JVC year, we invite you to reflect on significant moments of your life. Consider significant experiences, important events. Influential relationships. What people and moments were gifts and blessings; which were challenges and losses?

Describing Our Lifelines

Create a representation of your lifeline. On a sheet of paper illustrate your journey. With markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc. use symbols, lines, drawings, colors to express your life journey up until this point.

The following questions could be helpful to consider as you structure your stories.

- How would you describe your family? What does family mean to you?
- What have been the turning points in your life?
- What people and events have shaped your desire to enter into volunteer service?
- What people and events have shaped your desire to engage in spirituality, simple living, community, and social justice?
- What else would it be helpful for your community to know about you at this point so you can all start out open and strong together?

Telling Our Stories

On the third day of the orientation retreat, each community will meet together and listen to each other share their lifelines. Your representation serves as the basis for sharing your lifeline with your community members. Come ready to share your journey and to hear those of others in the welcoming space of community.

View this exercise as a starting place. You decide what and how much you would like to share. This is an opportunity to offer background about the important relationships in your life, as well as highlights and challenges that have influenced you, especially the decision to commit to a year of service. This is the beginning of the exploration and self-disclosure that will take place throughout the year within your community as you grow together.

Thank you for bringing your completed lifeline to Orientation with you.