



F.O.C.U.S.

Freshman Orientation CommUnity Service
Tufts University
Summer 2009



F.O.C.U.S., or Freshman Orientation CommUnity Service, is a pre-orientation program that offers community service trips in the greater Boston area. We understand that being an incoming freshman can be a bit overwhelming as you enter into a community with many new faces. F.O.C.U.S. places you into a group with 6-8 other freshmen, along with 2 upperclassmen leaders who will take you on a five-day, four-night trip into the vast and rewarding field of community service from August 27-September 2.

F.O.C.U.S. is completely organized and run by student volunteers, many of whom participated in F.O.C.U.S. their freshman year. This year, FOCUS is run by 3 student coordinators and nearly 50 amazing student leaders and support staff. We also have the help of our faculty advisor, Barbara Rubel.

The parent organization of F.O.C.U.S. is the Leonard Carmichael Society (LCS). LCS is the largest student-run organization at Tufts and is comprised of over 1000 volunteers who perform community service both at Tufts and in the surrounding Boston area.

Your application must be postmarked by Friday, July 17, 2009 (please note our extended deadline) to be considered. Please submit your applications as soon as possible as they will be considered on a first come, first served basis with late applications being considered only as space permits. Acceptance letters will be sent to F.O.C.U.S. participants with rolling acceptance; however all acceptances will be sent by Friday, July 17, or as soon as possible thereafter. Group placements will be sent to F.O.C.U.S. participants by Friday, July 31. The application is attached to this form and can be accessed at any time at <http://ase.tufts.edu/lcs/focus>.

The cost of F.O.C.U.S. 2009 is approximately \$225. This money provides food, lodging, and transportation for the 5-day program. Financial aid is available and your interest should be noted in the applications. Applications will be considered on a need-blind basis. More information on financial aid will be found in your acceptance packet.

Please contact us with any questions by email at TUFTSFOCUS@gmail.com at any time! Applications can be emailed to that account or mailed to:

FOCUS Coordinators
Mayer Campus Center
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155

We look forward to meeting you this summer!

F.O.C.U.S. Coordinators 2009
Julia Carlson, Joel Greenberg, Gina Sultan



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Trip Descriptions

Hunger

Hunger goes into soup kitchen, food banks, and community kitchens to feed and distribute food to those who need it. Past sites have included the Boston Rescue Mission, the Greater Boston Food Bank, and Community Servings.

Homelessness

Homelessness works in homeless shelters, helping the shelters in their day-to-day work. This may include sorting clothes, making beds, and preparing for meals. Past sites have included halfway houses, food pantries, the St. Francis house, and the Pine Street Inn.

Environment

Environment seeks to help keep Boston green and beautiful. Often, Environment has worked in parks such as the Boston Esplanade and on the Mystic Watershed. Weather permitting, the group will spend much of its time outdoors.

Kids

Kids groups work with children and organizations that benefit children throughout Boston. Past groups have worked with organizations like Cradles to Crayons, which helps Boston-area children get the school supplies they need.

Special Needs

Special Needs groups work with persons with special needs for five days, running special programming. This intensive experience includes training, and has been described as exceptionally rewarding for those who participate.

Animals

This group works with animals of all shapes and sizes, as well as organizations dedicated to animals. In the past, groups have traveled to the Heifer International Farm and a local cat shelter.

Urban Beautification

Urban Beautification works in a hands-on manner to spruce up the built environment throughout Boston. Work varies from light construction, to environmental maintenance, to restoration. Groups have previously worked with organizations like Youth Build Boston and the Stone Zoo.

Elderly

Elderly travels every year to the Somerville Home to assist in fun programming for the week, like talent shows.

Health

This brand-new group will journey to hospitals and elderly homes to interact with patients one-on-one.



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F.O.C.U.S. Application

Download and mail to or email to:
Tufts Focus 2009: TuftsFOCUS@gmail.com
Tufts FOCUS
Mayer Campus Center
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155

Do NOT send payment with application

Name _____ Birthdate: _____

Gender: Male Female Other

Tufts ID _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____

Summer Address _____

Dates at Summer Address _____

Email: _____

Trip Preference: Please rank the following trips.
(more information can be found on website)

____ Urban Beautification

____ Homelessness

____ Health

____ Special Needs

____ Environment

____ Kids

____ Hunger

____ Animal Care

____ Elderly

Financial Aid: Applying for financial aid will not affect your change for acceptance.
I would like to be considered for financial aid.

Yes No

I have been granted financial aid by the Tufts Financial Aid Office.

Yes No

Miscellaneous: Are you applying for any other pre-orientation programs (ie. Wilderness, International Orientation or FIT)? If so, which one(s) and what is your first choice?



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Personal Statement



If you could pick two words to describe yourself, what would they be?

Please answer the following in a paragraph:

1. Why do you want to participate in FOCUS?
2. What community service have you done in the past that had an impact upon you?