

SMC Spring Break 2012



SPONSORED BY THE MISSION AND MINISTRY CENTER

Overview: The U.S.-Mexico border is not only the legal demarcation of the boundaries between the United States and Mexico, but it is also the center of much controversy because of the wall that started to be built along the Border States in the early 1990s. This fence continues to be built today in an effort to provide a physical deterrent for immigrants crossing from Mexico, Latin America, and the rest of the world. Because most of the wall has not yet been built in Arizona, most migrants are currently crossing through the Sonoran desert wilderness of Arizona. This immersion aims to introduce students to the complex reality of immigration as experienced on the border of Arizona-Mexico. Throughout the week students will *see* and *experience* the migrants' perspective and will be challenged to inquire further into the effects of immigration on the state of Arizona, the wilderness preserve (the desert), the residents of Tucson, and the residents of the Tohono O'Odham and the Pascua Yaqui Native American Reservations through which migrants cross daily.

Immersion Dates: Saturday, March 31 - Saturday, April 7, 2012

Application Deadline: Monday, February 13, 2012

Size: 12 students

Cost: \$170 (It is suggested you also bring \$30 for personal travel expenses)

Requirements: 4 seminars, pre-immersion commissioning, post-immersion presentation

Immersion Coordinator: Sr. Jodi Cecilia Min, O.P., jcm21@stmarys-ca.edu

Mission and Ministry Center *Border Lives* Immersion:

Immersion Objective: This immersion aims to introduce students to the complex reality of immigration, particularly as experienced in the deserts outside of Tucson, AZ. Some of the questions guiding this immersion are the following:

To what degree is the building of the fence (wall) responsible for the increase in the number of migrant deaths in the desert?

What is the long-term environmental impact of thousands of migrants crossing through the desert wilderness, especially in light of the vast amount of clothing that is left behind?

How can immigration reform adequately address the human rights issues that arise on the border?

What is the day-to-day experience of border patrol agents who work on the Arizona-Mexico border, and how does this personal experience reconcile with the goals of the Department of Homeland Security and their duties as officers?

How have communities of faith responded to immigration on the Arizona-Mexico border?

What programs are currently in place by the Catholic Diocese of Tucson and the Catholic Diocese of Hermosillo, Mexico to address the needs of migrants?

Requirements: Students accepted will be required to attend the following (see calendar for dates):

- four 90-minute seminars prior to the weeklong immersion. These seminars will each require about 20 pages of reading in order to effectively participate in the discussions.
- full participation in all activities during the week of the immersion
- a pre-immersion commissioning
- a post immersion de-briefing
- an evaluation of the experience

Fees and Expenses: The cost of this immersion is **\$150**. There is a \$50 non-refundable deposit due upon your notice of acceptance. The remaining balance is to be paid by the date listed in the calendar. This fee contributes to van rental, lodging site fees, gas, course packets, speakers, and food. Personal expenses are the responsibility of each student. Students are responsible for meals while in transit between Saint Mary's College and Tucson. \$30 should be enough to cover these meals. Limited financial aid is available. To apply for financial aid, contact Sr. Jodi Min.

Transportation, Meals, sleeping arrangements: Participants will travel by rental vans from Saint Mary's College to Tucson, AZ (850 miles). If you are SMC certified, you may be asked to drive an SMC van. While in Tucson we will be staying at Most Holy Trinity Church and will be sleeping in a common room on the floor. While in the Nogales Area, we will be staying at a retreat lodge, which also may require us to sleep in a common room on the floor. Please bring your own sleeping bag. Food will be purchased at the local supermarket and will be prepared by the students throughout the week.

Links of interest:

<http://psalm85.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.nomoredeaths.org/>

http://www.usimmigrationsupport.org/illegal_immigration.html

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/15/us/15border.html>

Calendar:

Application open:

January 9, 2012

Application closed:

February 13, 2012

Deposit due:

February 17, 2012

Total fees due:

February 29, 2012

Seminar Classes (flexible):

Sunday, February 19, 2012

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Sunday, March 11, 2012

Sunday, March 18, 2012

Commissioning service (chapel):

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Post-immersion presentation (chapel):

TBA

BORDER LIVES Immersion Application 2012

Applicant Criteria:

- Enrolled as a full time student at Saint Mary's College of California during the 2011-2012 academic year.
- Willingness to work with others, participate in all activities during the experience, an openness to reflect on the challenges the immersion presents.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name	
Birthday	
Cell Phone	
Local Phone	
Email	
Student ID	
Residence Hall/ Local Address	
Do you have a valid U.S. Passport?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <u>Date of Expiration:</u> [Passports will need to be valid 6 months past the date of the immersion]

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Class Standing	<input type="checkbox"/> First Year <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior
Graduation Year	
Age at the time of the immersion	
Varsity Athlete? If Yes, what teams?	
What other commitments do you have on or off campus?	

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name		
Relationship to Student		
Home Phone		
Cell Phone		
Address		
Health Insurance carrier		Policy#
Please list any allergies		
Please list any medications		

REFERENCE #1

Name	
Relationship to Student	
Phone	
Email	

REFERENCE #2

Name	
Relationship to Student	
Phone	
Email	

OTHER QUESTIONS

What most influenced your decision to apply?	<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> printed poster/ads <input type="checkbox"/> website <input type="checkbox"/> friend <input type="checkbox"/> faculty/advisor <input type="checkbox"/> digital signage <input type="checkbox"/> other
Are you willing to drive a van?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Do you have any special dietary needs?	
Do you have a Sodexo food plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If you answered "yes" to the above question, what kind of meal plan is it (partial, unlimited, etc.)?</i>
Will you need financial aid?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>explain</u> : <u><i>If you answered "yes" to the above question:</i></u> How much aid do you think that you'll need? Do you already receive some kind of financial aid from SMC for tuition?

RESPONSE QUESTIONS: Please answer the following questions in a few paragraphs and attach to this application.

1. Why are you interested in participating in this immersion?
2. Describe your areas of studies and/or involvement and how these areas may compliment this immersion?
3. How will your participation in this immersion compliment your future plans/goals?

RECOMMENDATION FORMS: Please have each recommender seal the completed recommendation form in an envelope and return to you. Attach recommendations to this application.

VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION: I affirm that the information which I have provided on this application form and all other application information materials for participation in the MMC Immersions are complete, accurate, and true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

**PLEASE RETURN ALL COMPLETED MATERIALS TO:
MISSION AND MINISTRY CENTER
by
Monday, February 13th, 2012**

BORDER LIVES IMMERSION 2012 RECOMMENDATION FORM:
(To be included with application in a sealed envelope)

Dear Faculty Member/Supervisor,

The following student, _____ is applying to participate in the **Border Lives Immersion** Spring Break 2012 through the Mission and Ministry Center. It is important for us to ascertain whether the above named student possesses the maturity, self-confidence and people skills necessary to work in a variety of settings that will challenge them intellectually and spiritually as they reflect on what it means to be in solidarity with others, especially those in economically challenging situations. This immersion experience is further described on the back of this sheet.

How long and in what capacity have you known the above named student?

Using the following number rating scale, please rate the applicant on the following attributes: 0= very poor, 1= below average, 2= average, 3=above average, 4=very good, 5=excellent. Please leave blank if you don't know.

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ Openness to direction in work | _____ Health (to the best of your knowledge) |
| _____ Ability to work under pressure | _____ Ability to work alone |
| _____ Ability to get along with others | _____ Ability to work with others |
| _____ Willingness to serve | _____ Tact in dealing with others |
| _____ Ability to articulate feelings | _____ Ability to make decisions |
| _____ Creativity and imagination | _____ Effective use of time |
| _____ Dependability | _____ Flexibility |
| _____ Ability to handle stress | _____ Initiative |
| _____ Common sense | _____ Emotional stability |
| _____ Sense of humor | _____ Maturity |

Please list three adjectives that best describe the applicant:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Overall, how would you rate the applicant? (please check the appropriate line)

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ Very weak, should be discouraged | _____ Good, better than many |
| _____ Might be OK, some reservations | _____ Very Good, no reservations at all |
| _____ Recommended, no strong feelings | _____ Exceptional, a real find |

MISSION AND MINISTRY CENTER IMMERSION APPLICATION

Please add any other comments you wish to make about the applicant

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Department: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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