

shininglight

2013 Northeastern US Impact Tour

Service-Learning Internships

6 Core Components

June 8-30, 2013

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Duration:

The “Impact Tour” is just over 3 weeks, broken into two phases for a total of **120+ hours**

- ^ Training Phase (8 days) — 50+ hours of preparation
- ^ Travel Phase (15 days) — 70+ hours of interactive service

Location:

Unlike most projects, the “Impact Tour” involves a traveling component—more than 1,150 miles on the road. The Training Phase will take place at Colby College (Waterville, ME). In the Travel Phase, ministry locations are diverse and spread throughout Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Pennsylvania, including 8 youth or adult correctional facilities - male and female - and one rehab facility.

How Will Students Serve?

- **Prepare the Production** — Students will spend hours learning rock, hip-hop, and urban gospel music (choreography and voice parts) to be able to present a genuine message with joy and confidence. *Some students will be given the opportunity to serve with lead roles in dance, theater, voice, and spoken word, in which case more preparation will be required.*
- **Set Up/Tear Down Equipment** — Students will each serve a particular role on small teams that combine their efforts to assemble/disassemble the entire set and stage. As we travel, this process will occur at each of the 10 facilities we will visit.
- **Offer the Presentation (aka “Show Up”)** — The choice to simply *go* to these undesirable places, and then to become vulnerable and passionately express the love of Christ to an “undeserving” audience is what leaves the biggest impression. Facility residents, staff, and administration are encouraged and have a greater sense of hope for their future as a result of each student’s commitment to offer a relevant presentation of the hope found in Jesus.

What Will Students Learn?

- **Awareness of Social Issues** related to crime, poverty, and gang culture in the US, through in-depth discussions with:
 - ^ Top field professionals (*college professors, federal agents, prison wardens*)
 - ^ Facility leaders (*chaplains, corrections officers, social workers, teachers*)
 - ^ Audience members (*real people with first-hand knowledge*)
- **Awareness of Self** which affects the focus and direction of life. By engaging in this work that is so out of the box, students discover talents, interests, passions, confidence and convictions.
- **Awareness of God** in the midst of intense challenges. Students learn to rely on the presence and power of God to do what only He can do.
- **Teamwork**, as a diverse group of individuals combine their skills, personalities and backgrounds to serve one mission. Not only does each student fill a necessary role, but trust within the community is essential to overcome the various obstacles they will face.

Our intention is that students would be equipped and motivated to apply these learnings to future roles in schools, churches, workplaces, service opportunities, and public office.

The Shining Light **Impact Tour** meets the requirements of a higher education service-learning project, according to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse (www.service-learning.org).

1) PREPARE

Staff preparation – prior to Project

- On-going budget planning and administration
- Planning & preparation regarding travel, food & lodging, production, team-building, and discipleship
- Extensive planning with correctional and rehab facilities, in preparation for our arrival of equipment and personnel (primarily regarding security)
- Communication with participants in preparation for the summer event
- Communication with guest speakers regarding potential topics, meeting arrangements, etc.
- Arrangements for group recreational opportunities
- Selection of students – support cast & crew, set-up leaders, and lead performers

Group preparation – during Project’s “Training Phase”

- The “Training Phase” includes 8 days – 50+ hours – of preparation for the following aspects of the Project:
 - Teamwork, Community & Discipleship
 - Performing arts presentation – learning music, choreography & drama sketches
 - Setting up professional staging, sound, lighting & video equipment
 - Understanding our audiences – their every-day world (“inside” and “outside” the walls of prison or rehab) – and how to effectively connect & maximize impact
- Our trained and experienced staff works side-by-side with students to prepare them for the technical and artistic elements of the production. Continual communication and evaluation are integral components to this preparation.
- Structured and unstructured opportunities for team- and community-building are intentionally built into our schedule, primarily led by staff or peer leaders.
- Discipleship prepares the team directly and indirectly for the upcoming intensive ministry work. Our directors lead worship and deliver biblical teaching about such general topics as who God is and what He cares about, as well as topics specific to our goals. Staff-selected peer leaders facilitate discussion in which all students are required to actively participate.
- SL will partner with one local youth facility to offer a partial mid-week presentation. This will be instrumental in our preparation, as students will have the opportunity to experience the inside of a secure facility, meet real people who live and work in that environment, and sense the results of the work they are doing. We will spend time interacting with our host from the facility who will educate us on various aspects of the facility, his or her role, the nature/responses/daily life of the residents, etc. And we will download as a group about our observations, questions, and celebrations from the presentation and experience as a whole.

2) INVESTIGATE

- Orientation for the project will include self-reflection, where students will consider:
 - What do you hope to gain from this experience?
 - What are you most nervous/anxious about? Excited about?
 - How do you think you will best be able to contribute to the team?
 - What do you think will be the biggest personal challenge(s) for you?
- Top field professionals will engage our students in staff in discussions that will expand perspective on social concerns related to crime, poverty, gang culture, etc. The list of Impact Speakers include:
 - Warden Edmund Duffy (*Rikers Island*)
 - Pastor Tony Ortiz (*director of CA Youth Outreach, former leader of the Mexican Mafia*)
 - Theodore Heinrich (*Harvard Law professor; federal prosecutor*)
 - David M. Kennedy (*author & professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NY*)
 - Penny Sampson (*professor & chief of clinical and residential services for juvenile justice in New Hampshire*)

3) ACT

- The “Ministry Phase” of the project includes 15 days of travel and rest/recreation – 70+ hours of service.
- We will visit some of the most respected and effective correctional & rehab facilities in the US, where there is a presence of staff and programs that are focused on significant life change. Facilities include:
 - Mt. View Youth Development Center (*Charleston, ME*)
 - Maine State Prison (*Warren, ME*)
 - Metro Youth Services Center (*Dorchester, MA*)
 - MCI Framingham, women’s prison (*Framingham, MA*)
 - Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility (*Berlin, NH*)
 - Sununu Youth Services Center (*Manchester, NH*)
 - Rikers Island (*East Elmhurst, NY*)
 - Glen Mills School (*Glen Mills, PA*)
 - Teen Challenge Training Center (*Rehoboth, PA*)
- Our team will work together, in a structured, highly organized fashion, to set up the staging and technical equipment in preparation for our large-scale presentation.
- Our 60-minute production will include live music and choreography (rock, hip-hop and urban gospel), reality-based drama sketches, relevant video and personal testimony, and will be specifically designed to “bridge” with the audience, breaking down perceived walls between “us” and “them,” and ultimately guiding them to the powerful message of hope found in Jesus.
- This “bridge” allows us to engage with the audience one step further in our structured discussion time following the presentation, where not only can we hear first-hand the impact made on individuals, but often our own perspectives expand even further as we learn the realities of their world.
- After the audience is dismissed, we will spend some time with the facility host and other staff, where students have an opportunity to ask questions and receive encouragement and insight.

4) REFLECT

- At various points throughout the project, we will spend time as a whole group discussing observations, reactions, and learnings about the world, ourselves, and God. Peer-led small groups will meet more regularly, where they will have opportunities to discuss these things among themselves.
- A personal evaluation will be completed by every participant (students & staff) at the conclusion of the “Impact Tour”. Self-reflective questions will include:
 - What were the highlights of the entire event, for you personally?
 - What did you find most difficult/challenging?
 - In what way(s) was your perspective stretched through this experience?
 - How will you live differently in response to this new perspective, in the upcoming months? Upcoming years?

5) DEMONSTRATE & CELEBRATE

- Before the final day, will host a “Closing Ceremony” where we will celebrate each other, worship, reflect on what God has done/what we have learned, & resolve to follow Christ as He personally directs each one of us.
- Our final presentation will be open to the public – family and friends will be invited to observe the actions of the students and the responses of the targeted audience.

6) SUSTAIN

- For 16 years, Shining Light Ministries has been focused on providing service opportunities for students that would expand their perspective and motivate them to make a difference with their lives beyond graduation. Both service *and* learning continue to be equally important to our organization.
- We have on-going professional relationships with most of the facilities we visit, which has allowed us to facilitate unique and invaluable interactions with some of the top field specialists in the US. These relationships have also allowed us to continue to diversify our experiences, where we are able to serve (and learn) in more effective facilities across the country.
- We ask “alumni” to serve on our Student Advisory Board which provides a necessary bridge that allows us to understand all kinds of college students, so that we can create and offer an experience that will have a lasting impact on their lives. These are students who are motivated and able to carry on the learnings of their experience into their schools, churches, workplaces, and communities.