

Welcome to United Saints Recovery Project - New Orleans

We are all excited that you have chosen to spend your time with us here in Central City, New Orleans. The United Saints Recovery Project (USRP) was started by Daryl Kiesow and a small group of dedicated volunteers in 2008. Since then USRP has hosted thousands of volunteers from around the county and the world who have helped bring hundreds of New Orleans families home. We are volunteer-based and work hard to create the best experience possible because without the time, hard work, and dedication of volunteers like you we wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission.

This city and its people have a truly unique spirit. They are some of the friendliest and most gracious in the country and we certainly hope that your time and experience with us is a meaningful and fulfilling one. That being said the following are just a few tips, reminders, rules, and things you should know before you arrive here.

Arrival/Transportation/Directions

- We ask that you let us know your travel plans ahead of time; whether you are flying, driving, or traveling another way please provide us with you estimated time of arrival.
- Please keep us updated on your group's progress the day of their arrival and make sure to call your USRP contact when you are an hour out so that they can meet your group when they arrive.
- If you are flying into New Orleans, you must provide your own transportation from/to the airport.

Housing

- You will be staying in a **communal living environment**, and will be sharing your kitchen and common areas with volunteers from other backgrounds than your own, so we ask that everyone create an environment of **Mutual Understanding and Respect**. This means remaining quiet during a meal time prayer, avoid participating in open and hostel debate with those who may believe differently from yourself, and keeping any disparaging comments to yourself.
- Keeping our housing facilities clean is everyone's responsibility. While staying here you will be **expected to clean up after yourself** and do a final cleaning before you check out to ensure that the facilities are in good shape for the next group.
- There is to be absolutely **no possession/usage/consumption of alcohol or illicit drugs** while staying or working with us.
- **Smoking is not allowed** in any USRP vehicle or facility.
- **No outside guests** are allowed within USRP grounds without permission. No guests after 10pm.
- Please be respectful of those you are staying and working with, no matter where they are from or what their beliefs. Remember that while you are here you are not only representing us at USRP, but your organization and community as well, and **how you behave reflects on us and them**.
- Fighting, sexual harassment, theft, disrespect of another volunteer or USRP staff, or other **disruptive or threatening behavior will not be tolerated**. **Appropriate behavior** is expected from all volunteers no matter what age. We ask that you refrain from any **Public Displays of Affection** or other inappropriate touching, kissing, or contact while on site or at USRP.
- Please see the House Rules (provided separately) for additional requirements.

The City

- USRP is located approximately 3 blocks from the St. Charles Street Car line. We ask that you only take the route shown to you by USRP staff to insure your walk is quick and safe.
- If you do walk anywhere in the city please stay in groups of 3 or more. Remember the Buddy System.

- No matter if you are in the French Quarter, Mid City, Garden District, or Ninth Ward, please be aware of your surroundings and those around you. Leave your valuables back at USRP and just enjoy the city!
- New Orleans is not any more unsafe than any other large city so long as you use common sense and just look out for your fellow volunteers, you will be fine. Don't go anywhere on your own, don't lose anyone in the crowd, and have fun!

Work Site

- **Please pay attention to our safety orientation and any additional instructions from your team leader. You must abide by our safety rules if you want to work with us.**
- **Safety Glasses** are to be worn at all times on the work site.
- **Ear Protection** is to be worn when saws, drills or other motorized equipment is in use.
- **Respirators** are to be used while on demo sites, while using electric sanders, cutting Hardy Back materials, or while working with insulation.
- **Hard Hats** are to be worn on all demo or cleanup sites, or when any overhead work is being done.
- **Appropriate clothing** is to be worn at all times on work sites. **USRP staff has the right to make any decisions regarding volunteer attire.**
 - **Closed toe shoes or boots are mandatory on site.** No sandals, no flip flops, no slip-ons, no Crocs, no question.
 - **Long Pants and Sleeves** are recommended to be brought in case of demo work.
 - **Shorts and Tank Tops** are ok but must be an appropriate length and offer adequate coverage.
 - **Shirts are to be worn at all times.** This includes guys.

What to Bring:

Documents:

- drivers license or other government ID
- medical insurance Card
- auto insurance card (if you plan on driving at all)
- for international volunteers make sure you have your Passport, copy of birth certificate and Visa if necessary

Clothes

- long-sleeve shirts or sweatshirts for protection from sun, bugs, or construction hazards
- short sleeve shirts
- jeans (keep in mind these things may get dirty/ruined)
- sturdy, thick soled shoes (work boots or steel toes are suggested)
- hat/cap/bandana/sunglasses
- shorts or lounge pants for sleeping
- light jacket
- "good" clothes in case your group goes out somewhere
- shower shoes or flip-flops

Safety/Worksite

- sunscreen
- aloe vera or after burn lotion (in case you forget to put on your sunscreen)
- bug repellent
- water bottle
- string bag or backpack for bringing your personal belongings to site

Toiletries/Health Items

- shower stuff and a small caddy or bag for carrying them to and from the bathroom
- wash cloth/towel
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- contact solution, carrying case, and spare set

- eye glasses
- baby wipes
- hand sanitizer
- allergy medication
- any prescription medication you bring should be in original prescription bottle with correct label, and please make sure you bring enough to last your trip
- any over the counter medications you regularly take or think you might need

Comfort/Personal

- sleeping bag/bed linens and pillow
- books/magazines (a small reading light so you don't keep your roommates up)
- cell phone charger

PLEASE NOTE THAT USRP IS NOT ACCOUNTABLE OR RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEMS STOLEN, LOST, OR BROKEN ON THE WORK SITE OR AT THE HOUSING FACILITY. YOU SHOULD USE YOUR BEST JUDGMENT IN WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO BRING ON YOUR TRIP, AND YOU ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN BELONGINGS