



Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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CAPERNAUM PROJECT

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Organizational Profile

Young Life Capernaum Project (YLCP) is one of the few outreach organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life for young people with disabilities. Teens with disabilities have the same needs and dreams as their able-bodied peers, yet often their most basic longing for social interaction and acceptance is left unfulfilled. Adolescents with disabilities face the same fears and risks as other teens, but often do not have anyone with whom they can share their struggles. Many disabled youth and young adults are isolated in special homes and programs without opportunities to build friendships or participate in social activities outside of school. The YLCP was created to give every kid with a disability—physical and/or developmental--the same chance to hear the gospel and experience the gift of life as his/her able-bodied peers. The program fills kids' lives with weekly club meetings, parties and special events, camping trips...and with experiences never thought possible such as snow-skiing, horseback riding and mountain climbing. The folks at the Capernaum Project also spend countless hours just being with kids and young adults to help them navigate adolescence and adulthood. Trained leaders model Christ's unconditional love and acceptance by coming into kids' lives and meeting them at their point of need. Volunteers and staff communicate with disabled youth and young adults at their level, in a casual and fun atmosphere. The results are meaningful, long-term friendships.

SCU Student's Role

SCU students will join either the weekly high school club on Wednesdays or the night club program on Thursday evenings. The high school club serves an average of 22 teenagers and the night club program serves an average of 35 (post high school) young adults. SCU students will also have opportunities, if desired, to participate in other events as club leaders. Club leaders may be asked to help partake in skits, set-up for club, clean-up after club, help push participants in wheelchairs, assist participants with feeding (staff will work with student's comfort level), encourage participants to engage in the various activities, etc. Most importantly, SCU students will **socialize** with the youth and establish that priceless gift known as human connection. SCU students are encouraged to share their special talents and skills with club members. The primary requirement for SCU students is to make friendships and have **FUN!**

Please note the Thursday evening club is for our friends who are 22 and above. The club is a more defined club with worship music, skits and bible message. It serves as their 'church' community as well as a social outlet with their peers. Don't be fooled by the church word – there is still an abundance of **FUN and adventure at this club and most important: **friendship**.

To Do Before Orientation

- Visit the website listed above to learn more about your placement or the umbrella organization with which it is affiliated.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.