

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



## Who is the “School of Urban Missions”?

The School of Urban Missions (S.U.M.) is a two year Christian College equipping the next generation to be the urban leaders of the church and community. We have two campuses, one here in New Orleans and a new campus located in Oakland California. S.U.M. is Christ centered, affordable and practical in teaching you how to be a leader. To learn more about S.U.M.’s two year accredited program, please contact Mark Tilton, Vice President at [mtilton@sumonline.org](mailto:mtilton@sumonline.org) or 1-888-567-6174.

## What does the daily schedule look like?

- **Daily Schedule**

## What are the sleeping arrangements like?

Volunteers sleep in the SUM dorms. The men’s ward is located on the 1st floor and the women’s ward is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. All volunteers wanting to visit with a friend of the opposite sex are to do so in common areas such as the lounge, café etc. At midnight all men are to be on the men’s ward and women on the women’s ward until morning wake up.



## Will I need to bring my own bedding?

Yes, you will need to bring your own sleeping bag, sheets, pillow, etc.

## Will I need to bring my own towels?

Yes, please bring your own towels. They are not to be left in the shower area. They are to be taken to your room each night after use.



## What can I expect in regards to food and lodging?

SUM provides three meals per day. Breakfast is continental: cold cereal, toast, oatmeal etc. There are teams who volunteer to prepare a hot breakfast such as eggs, toast etc. Teams generally work this out among themselves. When a team prepares breakfast they prepare enough to feed all the volunteers at SUM. You are welcome to pick a morning to prepare breakfast. For lunch teams take an MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) with them when they leave for their job assignments. They generally eat lunch at the job site. Dinner is provided in the third floor cafeteria at SUM upon return to the facility.



## What will I be doing?

There are three main areas of ministry in which volunteers with SUM/Katrina Relief participate.

- **Chainsaw Crew** – Cleaning up the trees that were damage during the hurricane.
- **Mud-Outs** – Removing all contents from the home and placing them on the curb in the different piles the city has requested.
- **Gut-Outs** – Removing sheet rock, cabinets, etc. Getting the home ready for reconstruction.



## What is transportation like?

Parking at SUM is limited. We do not provide transportation for teams of 5 or more. We ask that teams rent their own vehicle for their transportation needs. You will also use the vehicle to get back and forth from the job sites you are assigned to during the day. If you fly to New Orleans, rental vans are available at the airport and along Airline Drive. There is a shuttle that can transport you to and from the car rental agency. You will need to check availability with the airport and car rental agencies.

## What supplies can I bring to help?

If you know how to operate a chainsaw you are encouraged to bring one along with you, but only if you are driving to S.U.M. Most supplies are purchased by field command. If you are flying only bring the items you will personally need during your stay at S.U.M.

If you wish to donate to the supplies, you can request that a monetary donation be made to the hurricane relief effort.



## What safety equipment do I bring?

Please know that the necessary safety equipment is provided by SUM. However, you will want to bring work boots with you. We have some available, but the sizes are limited. Please bring your own work boots to ensure you have your size. Also bring thick industrial strength rubber gloves to protect your hands. Masks are provided for you on site.

## What type of clothing should I pack?

Be sure to pack clothing that you will not mind getting dirty. Be sure you pack enough clothes to wear during your stay here. You will want to bring a large trash bag with you and place the clothes in the trash bag for transport back home when you depart. Work boots are not to be worn inside the S.U.M. dorms. You will want to be sure that you have shoes you can wear while not working and clothes you will feel comfortable in. Please keep in mind modesty regarding clothing style and fit. You can preview your stay at the following website: <http://www.weather.com/>, enter 70053 into the zip code field and preview what the weather will be like during stay.



## **Do you offer worship services?**

Yes, we have chapel services every morning at 7:30AM. This service is mandatory. We sing praises to our Lord and greet the day in prayer. After chapel the field commander distributes job assignments for the day. We also have mandatory chapel in the evenings on the following days: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. At evening chapel volunteers are invited to share testimonies from the day with the group before the evening message.

On Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays we do not have mandatory evening chapel. After the work day teams are free. You are also welcome to attend a church service in the community on Wednesday evenings and Sundays. We will make directions available to you at your orientation upon arrival at SUM.

## **How can I donate to the hurricane relief effort at SUM?**

If you feel led to make a donation to the hurricane relief effort, please send your check to the following address:

***School of Urban Missions***

***511 Westbank Expwy***

***Gretna, LA 70053***

***(Please be sure to write hurricane relief in the memo line.)***